



ATHICA

Athens Institute for Contemporary Art

ATHICA: Athens Institute for Contemporary Art is an independent, non-profit gallery promoting and supporting innovative contemporary art and artists through exhibitions, education, and events.

MOOD is sponsored in part by The James E. and Betty J. Huffer Foundation, The Georgia Council for the Arts, and The National Endowment for the Arts.

Exhibition Gallery Guide

October 15, 2022 – November 20, 2022

Juror Liz Andrews
Executive Director
Spelman College Museum of Fine Art
Atlanta, Georgia

ATHICA is delighted to announce MOOD, our 2022 juried exhibition featuring the work of 37 contemporary artists from across the United States and Canada. Their work in all media explores or references MOOD, a term that has taken on a unique connotation on social media through its use thousands of times a day by individuals to express their temporal emotions with imagery, memes, and an ever-changing collage of the media culture that surrounds us. #Mood is happy, sad, reflective, angstful, urgent, chill, colorful, somber, hungry, sleepy, angry, hopeful and more. The work on display was juried by Liz Andrews, Executive Director of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art.

About the Juror:



Liz Andrews is an artist, curator, museum professional, and leader who is dedicated to the arts and social justice. She has worked with arts organizations across the nation. Since August 2021, she has served as the Executive Director of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, the only museum in the nation dedicated to uplifting art by and about women of the African diaspora. Andrews holds a B.A. in American Studies from Wesleyan University, a M.A. in Arts Politics from the NYU Tisch School of Arts, and a Ph.D in Cultural Studies from George Mason University. Her dissertation was entitled *Envisioning President Barack Obama*.

Prior to joining Spelman College, Liz Andrews was Executive Administrator in the Director's Office of LACMA where she expanded her role to collaborate on projects and priorities across museum departments, including diversity and inclusion efforts and curating exhibitions. Her curatorial projects at LACMA included *The Obama Portraits Tour* and a companion exhibition *Black American Portraits*, and she commissioned an augmented reality (AR) monument dedicated to Biddu Mason by the artist Ada Pinkston, among other projects. Liz's career is also defined by a long-standing commitment to engaging undergraduate students through research and the arts through teaching at George Mason University and serving as an advisor and organizing public programming at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Liz was born and raised in Denver, Colorado and attributes her commitment to justice from her father, attorney Irving P. Andrews.

Press Release: <https://mailchi.mp/a4272c1d6318/mood>

Exhibition Artists

Chanell Angeli - Atlanta, GA
Eliza Aviña - Rome, GA
Alexia Benavent-River - Peachtree City, GA
Anita Arliss - Atlanta, GA (Winner, Exhibition Committee Award)
AD Kaya Clark - Conyers, GA (Winner, Donald Keyes Founder's Award)
Aaron Collier - New Orleans, LA
Abigail Cook - Athens, GA
Erin Drakeford - Athens, GA (Winner, Community Choice Award)
Broderick Flanigan - Athens, GA
Jamie Hildreth - Winder, GA
Noel Holston - Athens, GA
Allie Jackson - Loganville, GA
Dana Johns - Bogart, GA
Joseph Kameen - Graniteville, SC
Katie Kameen - Graniteville, SC
Carson Keller - Marietta, GA
Kim L Kennedy - Athens, GA
Caitlin Kilpatrick - Duncan, SC
Shelby Little - Athens, GA
Motivated Manslayer - Athens, GA
Christine Olmstead - Athens, GA (Winner, Future Show Award)
Kate Hooray Osmond - Charleston, SC
Rich Panico - Athens, GA
Jason Rafferty - Loganville, GA
Laneigh Ramirez - Toronto, Canada
Jeff Rivers - Columbia, SC
Kristan Ryan - Athens, GA
Faa Stevens - Atlanta, GA
Acquaetta Williams - Bowie, MD
Rosemary Woodel - Athens, GA
Amy Wraga - Bogart, GA
Juleah X - Decatur, GA

Chanell Angeli**Atlanta, GA**

Please Wait Blooming in Progress, 24"x36", mixed media, 2020, NFS \$7700

The Conversation, 3"6x48", mixed media, 2021, \$4400

Chanell Angelique Skyers (b. 1988) (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist of Caribbean descent, based in Atlanta, GA. Chanell's mixed-media practice centers around the woven energies of diasporic religions, the flora representative of her childhood, and her Caribbean heritage. Her work creates an immersive and textured experience by using collage, sculpture, photography, and poetry. Chanell's most recent body of work weaves together saturated colors and figurative archival images that illustrate narratives of growth and rebirth. The work was recently on view in her solo show, *Portals in the Matrix* at the Jennifer Balcos Gallery. Chanell is currently working on a research study of black men in the south to inform new works. Chanell has shown work in the group exhibitions: *Soul of Music* (2022) the National Museum of African American Music, *Mother Nature* (2022), *The Core Club*, *One Hundred Years Later* (2021,) the Cultural Arts Center of Atlanta and *So We Begin* (2021,) a public mural at Atlanta Contemporary. Additionally, Chanell was the winner of the MvVO Art Ad Show (2022) displayed inside of the Oculus, Westfield World Trade Center, NY and walked away with top honors and a specialty Clio Award

Statement: The works I have submitted for consideration are all heavy laden with mood. Mines, of course, but also those of the community I represent. For example, *Please Wait Blooming in Progress*, developed out of my feelings of being split open by the impact of isolation during quarantine and finding new purpose and meaning bloom from that still period. This is a mood felt by the entire planet. Even nature seemed to reset and bloom during that time of traumatic quiet. Similarly, *The Conversation* was birthed through my frustration with race relations in this country. Watching the George Floyd riots and not being able to participate because of the looming pandemic and having children at home, I longed to sit down and have a conversation with an ancestor for guidance. I used a hummingbird to symbolize the hope that I envisioned my guides would instill in me. I create in a 'mood', I create to uplift my mood and sometimes I create because I can do nothing else when darker moods cloud over me.

Web: <https://www.chanellangeli.com/>

Instagram: @chanellangeli_

Anita Arliss**Atlanta, GA**

Moodle 207, 18" x 24", Drawing, inkjet print and acrylic on canvas wrapped wood panel, 2022 \$2100.

Anita Arliss has an MA in Creative Arts from Hunter College, CUNY, NY. After graduating, Arliss painted movie sets for films and commercials. She has been combining painting, digital media and photography in her art since 2000. Twice a winner of New American Paintings (Southern Competition), Arliss has exhibited in numerous galleries, museums and art fairs in Chelsea, NY, Los Angeles, CA, Bergen, NJ, Detroit, MI, Miami Basel and Atlanta, GA. In 2009, she created *Propulsion*, a 20 foot hand-cut smalti

glass tile permanent installation, in Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, on Concourse B. Her art works are in many public and private art collections in the US, and are published in Hyperallergic.com, Huffington Post, Burnaway, ArtsATL and ecoartspace.org.

Statement: My artworks "Moodles" are extrapolated from my daily moods to automatic digital drawings.

Web: <http://www.anitaarliss.com>

Instagram: @anita_arliss @anitaarliss_moodles

Eliza Aviña

Rome, GA

The Forum, 20"x30", Archival Inkjet Print, 2022, \$600

Eliza Aviña is an Atlanta-based artist, they received their BFA at Georgia State University with a photography concentration. Eliza is a second-generation immigrant in the U.S. She aims to expand Latine representation through her photo practice.

Statement: The work relates to MOOD in the form of relating to emotions of euphoria to relaxation and the narrative of spectatorship.

Web: <https://vimeo.com/user138308847>

Instagram: @painting_dana

Alexia Benavent-Rivera

Peachtree City, GA

Through a Glass Darkly, 8"x10", Digital Print, 08/10/2022, \$150,

I'm Alexia Benavent-Rivera, a Puerto Rican, Panamanian, and Ukrainian artist based in Georgia, and a soon to be graduate with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies in Art & Design from the University of Georgia. My work tries to capture specific slices of memories from my life.

Statement: Each of my works is an acute rendering of a mood I've experienced in the past few years. From a mood of quiet introspection, to suffering from self-imposed isolation, or the fierce indignation of being wronged, each mood is represented through color, movement or lack thereof, and carefully weighted tone. I believe each of my pieces are a window into a universal human experience we've all felt at some time.

Web: <https://catterbee.art/>

Instagram: @catterbee.art

Aaron Collier

New Orleans, LA

Murmurs, 40" x 30", Flashe on canvas, 2020, \$3400

Aaron Collier is a visual artist living in New Orleans. He teaches drawing and painting at Tulane University as an Associate Professor. Solo exhibitions of his work have occurred at the New Gallery,

Octavia Gallery, Cole Pratt Gallery, and Staple Goods, an artist-run gallery in the St. Claude Avenue Arts District of New Orleans where he is a member. Aaron has participated in group exhibitions at the Contemporary Arts Center and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans. Additionally, his work has been featured in New American Paintings and is represented in such collections as the New Orleans Museum of Art, Iberia Bank, and the Boston Medical Center. He has been awarded artist residencies by the Ragdale Foundation, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, ISCP in Brooklyn, and Open Ateliers Zuidoost in Amsterdam.

Statement: The unspeakable racial injustices of the summer of 2020 seized my heart and mind, and commanded the consideration of subject matter in my studio practice. For three years prior, I had been arranging shapes on canvas that were intentional references to architectural or anthropological ruins and fragments. But this summer, these shapes started to drift towards resembling letters from the English alphabet, and I arranged them in horizontal bands akin to written communication. Rather than assembling into legible words or phrases, the resulting "murmur" and indecipherable "language" felt like the most articulate (or truest) expression of my heart and mind at that moment. These broken groans and fitful starts were truly indicators of the "mood" of that summer's studio production, shattered as it was in sorrow.

Web: <http://www.aaronrcollier.com/work/2020>

Instagram: @acolliernola

Abigail Cook

Athens, GA

Chewed, 24" X 36", Print, 08/07/2022, \$100

Abigail Cook, 21, is an activist and artist from Atlanta, Georgia. Her work has been published by Tuft's University in the ReSentencing Journal as well as exhibited at Agnes Scott's Revolutionary Art Exhibit. Through her art, she hopes to create a space for open dialogue.

Statement: This work relates to MOOD in the context of emotions regarding love. While social media has created a vast space to share and explore, it seems that people have become more guarded and closed-off.

Web: <https://www.abigailecook.com/>

Instagram: @GooseForArt

Erin Drakeford

Athens, GA

Bounce, 48"X48", oil on canvas, 2022 \$3,300

Erin Drakeford is a painter and mixed media artist living and working in Atlanta, GA. Her paintings are vibrant and colorful; the figures and landscapes expressive manifestations filled with joy, pain, and sarcasm. She received her BFA in painting and drawing from the University of Georgia in 2003. Erin has had numerous shows in the Atlanta area and is currently working as a studio artist at MINT gallery. Her work has been featured in Create! Magazine, VoyageATL, Candyfloss, and I Like Your Work. She is a resident at Arts Beacon Studios, where she teaches expressive painting community classes, leads a feminist art critique group, and facilitates an artist book club.

Statement: My quest for self-love and human connection is expressed through my paintings. On the surface, I want you to see the pleasure and beauty mixed with chaotic mark making. The prominent smiling figures, comedic gestures, and explosions of color celebrate all the emotions of our human existence. When I begin my paintings, I harness all sorts of feelings: joy, sadness, fear, anxiety, and vulnerability are each iterated through haphazard brushstrokes in bright neons or muddy remnants of the excess paint from leftover palettes. I want part of the initial chaos to be seen, some of the underbelly exposed. From this free radical energy, I begin manipulating the composition, adding figures, and focusing on the expressions taking care that they are adequately expressive but still elusive. Each toothy grin, neon peek-a-boo, vibrant color, and bold pattern lean toward the obnoxious, like the feelings rumbling about in my head.

Web:<http://erindrakeford.com>
Instagram: [@erindrakefordart](https://www.instagram.com/erindrakefordart)

Broderick Flanigan
Athens, GA

Unbothered 2, 36" x 48", Oil on canvas, 2022, 2,600

Figurative artist working in oil and acrylic examining the tension between nature and nurture as it relates to the Black aesthetic in America. At times serving as a bridge from the past to the present. I explore similarities within systems and patterns in nature compared to systems and patterns in society and how these systems interact with culture directly or indirectly.

Statement: MOOD in the context of social media memes emerged on Black Twitter in 2015 and gained popularity in 2018 as a way to redefine emotional states of being. My work dialogues with the narrative most directly in the emotions subjects show in my paintings with real or imagined environments. Their presence and demeanor exudes "MOOD" from their lived experiences in these moments captured in oil paintings.

Instagram:[@flanigans_portrait_studio](https://www.instagram.com/flanigans_portrait_studio)

Jamie Hildreth
Winder, GA

Loss & Rage, 8"x10", Traditional media (Watercolor & Marker), 8/31/2022. \$60

Jamie is a 20-year-old high school graduate who has had a love for all things fine art since grade school. He enjoys working traditionally with brush markers, watercolor, & colored pencils. Outside of fan art, what drives him are themes of equality, community, emotion, gender expression, & representation. He loves alternative music, animation, collecting pins & figurines, & video games. He hopes to exhibit his art in more galleries, community events, & local conventions.

Statement: This piece is a reflection of my own moods themselves, emotions, highs & lows, self identity, & expression. The colors, the expressions in body language, the textures, & brush work. It all can tell you a lot, & I love outside interpretation. Mood is truly a range.

Instagram: [@mushycholy](https://www.instagram.com/mushycholy)

Noel Holston**Athens, GA**

Rapture, 8"x10", digital photo, 2021, \$75

Sadness, 8"x10", digital photo, 2021, \$75.

Delight, 8"x10", digital photo, 2022, \$90.

Noel Holston is a journalist, writer, storyteller, composer and photographer. He took up the latter more seriously after he suffered a catastrophic hearing loss in 2010, an experience chronicled in his critically acclaimed memoir, "Life After Deaf." Images are his music now. He lives in Athens with his wife, singer-songwriter Marty Winkler.

Statement: What I choose to photograph is for me largely a matter of what story it seems to suggest. And every story has a mood.

Web: <https://noelholston.com/>

Instagram: @noel_wesley_holston

Kate Hooray Osmond**Charleston, SC**

Obvious Child, 60" X 24", acrylic and vinyl on panel, 2021, \$7000

Kate Hooray Osmond is an American painter and installation artist based in Charleston, SC, whose work circles around the curious experience of consciousness. Kate's artwork has been featured in *Introspective Magazine*, *Hyperallergic*, *Art and Cake LA*, *Shoutout Atlanta*, *ArtMag*, and *Charleston Magazine*. She curated her first exhibition, *Prototype for a Landscape*, at the City Gallery (SC '21). She has been named the State Fellow for South Carolina (SouthArts Commission), and Lowcountry Artist of the Year (Griffith Reyburn Award), and the Piccolo Spoleto Poster Commissioned Artist. She exhibited her first solo museum show at the Franklin Burroughs/Simeon Chapin Art Museum.

Recently, her paintings have been included in the Biennial by the Center for Contemporary Art of South Carolina, the LaGrange Southeast Regional, and Hope (University North Carolina Pembroke), among others.

Her residencies include The Arctic Circle Residency (Norway '22) and CRISIS Art Residency (founder). She currently serves on the Studio Art Faculty at the College of Charleston. Kate Hooray earned her MFA in Studio Art from Maryland Institute College of Art and her BA from Saint Mary's College of Maryland.

Statement: My work is experiential and is influenced by the study of molecular structures and consciousness. Each piece is very individual in its story.

Web: <http://www.katehoorayosmond.com>

Instagram: @katehoorayosmond

Allie Jackson
Loganville, GA

The Calm Amidst the Storm, 18" x 11 7/8", Oil on Wood Panel, August 2022, \$250
Cozy Mountain Views, 10" x 20", Oil on gallery-wrapped Canvas, March 2022, \$250

I am a self-taught oil paint artist. I started painting late in life following a divorce, and it has opened up another world for me. I paint mainly landscapes, seascapes, and cityscapes, and do most of my work in my home studio. Many of my paintings are inspired by photos I take, literature I have read, music I love, or film. My paintings have been shown in museums, galleries, juried exhibitions, and art shows across Montana and Georgia including at the Lyndon House Arts Center, the Art of Georgia Exhibit at the State Capitol, ATHICA, WaterWorks Art Museum, MT; The Gallery in Glendive, MT; MonDack Heritage Center, MT; Schoolhouse History and Art Center, MT; O'Fallon Museum in Baker, MT; Ekalaka Public Library, MT; The Henry A Malley Memorial Library, MT; and the Garfield County Library, MT. I work full-time as a marketing coordinator at the law firm Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C. in Athens and reside in Loganville with my youngest son and our cat, Anakin.

Statement: "The Calm Amidst the Storm" may evoke a range of emotions. Tornadoes are chaotic. They're loud, aggressive, angry, and powerful. You never know when they're going to hit or how much damage they're going to cause. Despite this, we are fascinated by them. They can look beautiful and graceful from afar, while still causing complete panic, terror, excitement -- they can even paralyze you from fear, which is what happened to me when I was a little girl. In this painting I wanted to portray a sort of calming, chaotic beauty amidst a terrifying and destructive storm. Something I think we can all relate to, but not quite put our finger on why.

"Tranquility Achieved" depicts something I think most people strive for - peaceful and calm moments. I almost always associate the mountains and water with tranquility, so for this painting, I wanted to illustrate a feeling of quietness -- of calmness. I used soft, pastel colors such as lavenders, pinks, and turquoise to create a sense of tranquility while looking across the water at the soft mountains in the distance and pink sky. All of the colors nearly blend together to create a sense of oneness with nature.

"Cozy Mountain Views" was inspired by a trip we took to Colorado in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. There's just something about being inside a warm room, on a cozy chair, while looking out to the snow-capped mountains. It feels safe inside, somehow. Safe from the frigid temperatures and unforgiving wind. Safe from the wild animals and jagged rocks. (Safe from COVID). The painting presents a clear dichotomy between the harsh world outside and the comfort found inside. Outside the mountains are large, rigid, and covered in snow. The sky is a cool blue, a little gray, and foggy. Inside is a soft chair with a blanket draped over the top, warm lighting, and soft curtains. I imagine there's a lit fireplace opposite the window. Probably a cat curled up on a rug in front of it.

Web: <https://alliejacksonart.com/>
Instagram: @alliejacksonart

Dana Johns
Bogart, GA

Flint River Mood, 8"x10", oil on canvas, August 2022, \$175

"I grew up on a river in Southwest Georgia, where the waters slow down and settle, and much of my childhood was spent on, in, and around this water. I think that the beauty and mystery of this place were revealing something that was beyond the material, something spiritual...my first notions of joy? Whatever it was, whatever it is...that is what I am striving to communicate in my painting."

Statement: Usually people describe my work as moody. These particular ones are especially so. I tend to express my mood through my treatment of my landscape paintings. Or maybe I should say that my paintings tend to be a response to the way nature affects my mood, usually for the best. My inspiration changes with each season as I observe my natural surroundings. These paintings feel like a fall mood to me.

Web: <http://danagjohnspainter.com/>

Instagram: @painting_dana

Joseph Kameen

Graniteville, SC

Glow, 29" x 20.5", Oil on panel, 2021, \$2200

Joseph Kameen lives in South Carolina, where he is an assistant professor of art at the University of South Carolina Aiken. Originally from Pittsburgh, he received his BFA in painting and sculpture from Boston University, and his MFA in painting from Indiana University Bloomington. Kameen has exhibited his work nationally and internationally at venues such as The Painting Center and Site: Brooklyn in New York, Torstraße 111 in Berlin, and Donopoulos IFA in Thessaloniki, Greece. Kameen's work has also been featured in a variety of publications, including *Friend of the Artist*, *Emboss Magazine* and *PIKCHUR Magazine*.

Statement: I am interested in the ways that routine events play a role in my self-awareness and identity. Memories of benign objects, actions, and spaces—devoid of meaning on their own—can become entangled with the feelings that dominated my thoughts at that time. My paintings focus on domestic subjects, showing the moments just before or after an event, and the emotions that become saturated into a space. Evocative colors and dramatic lighting highlight the exaggerated staging of memory. I invite my viewers to find reflections of their own thoughts and concerns in these scenes, similar to searching for meaning while recalling a dream.

Web: <http://josephkameen.com>

Instagram: @joekameen

Katie Kameen

Graniteville, SC

Precipitate (Brooch), 7.5" x 4" x 1.5", Found plastics, steel pins, 2022, \$500

Katie Kameen creates wearable art and sculptures by playfully experimenting with used plastic objects. Katie received her BFA in 3D Studio Art from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois, and her MFA in Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. She exhibits nationally and internationally and has been published in *American Craft Magazine*, *Friend of the Artist*, and *Uppercase Magazine*.

Statement: I make playful wearable sculpture from secondhand plastic objects to speak about my personal experiences and daily life. My studio process involves inventive play through material boundaries and through cutting, deconstructing, and rearranging plastic forms. I'm attracted to certain found objects for their colors and unique shapes. By combining high saturation, patterns, and relief forms, I aim to make pieces that are fun to touch and wear, drawing the viewer into my world. Each wearable sculpture I make communicates a feeling, an action, or a setting, culminating in a piece of self-portraiture.

Web: <http://katiekameen.com/>

Instagram: @katiekameen

Kim L Kennedy

Athens, GA

Moonrise over Bald Head, 8"x14", pastels on sanded paper, August 2022, \$200

Kim has been making art in some form or another most of her life. Retirement and an at-home studio has allowed her to fully explore lots of styles and mediums and be more productive. Favorite mediums are pastel and watercolor.

Statement: The phases of the moon are like the many moods in all of us. This full moonrise is bright and luminous and lifts the mood of all who see it.

Instagram: @kimmiekmilkyway57 @kimkennedyart_

Carson Keller

Marietta, GA

It's okay, I'm okay, 41" x 43," Pieced and Quilted Fabric, 2020, \$250

I am from Marietta, Georgia. I earned my BA in Studio Art from Georgia State University in 2011. I also studied studio art at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Atlanta College of Art. I primarily make my art in fabrics or oil paint.

Statement: I made this quilt in a particularly anxious mood. I stitched together the mantra on the quilt to remind myself that I am not my anxious thoughts, and I am in fact okay. I picked the medium of quilting because a quilt is something you can wrap yourself in for comfort. Web:

Instagram: @carson_s_keller

Caitlin Kilpatrick

Duncan, SC

Cloudy with a Chance of..., 15" x 22", Lithograph and screen print, May 2022, Price: \$500

Caitlin Kilpatrick is a printmaker and illustrator currently residing in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She is enrolled at Converse University and is working toward earning a BFA in Studio Art, with a concentration in printmaking. Kilpatrick's art has been heavily influenced by both her early childhood and more recent experiences that have shaped who she is as a person. Her current body of work explores the relationship between her early childhood and her young adult life and uses both literal photographs and conceptual

imagery to tie parallels between the two. Through this, Kilpatrick aims to invoke emotions in the viewer as they uncover the layers in her work and apply the imagery and symbolism to their own lives.

Statement: My current body of work references mood in a very literal sense. Through the use of collage, I create pieces that embody the emotions that I constantly relive from my childhood and early adulthood. Using personal photos, illustrations from my sketchbook, and large brightly colored shapes, I take the sour and painful memories from my past and illustrate them into playful and visually complex prints that are meant to invoke happiness and curiosity in the viewer. The darker side of these happy appearing prints is much more subtle, usually being found in one small element within the collage. This is on purpose, as for most of my current body of work is focusing on the happy, almost manic at times, mood I consistently use to overcome the negative times in my past and how I can pass that mood onto the viewers of my prints.

Web: <https://cakilpatrick001.wixsite.com/website>

Instagram: @caitlindoesartystuff

Shelby Little

Athens, GA

Sa Sartiglia, 28" x 36", acrylic on canvas, 2022, \$1,500

Shelby Little is an artist from New Orleans living in Athens, Georgia. She graduated from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) in 2009. After studying at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) in Boston for a year and spending an exchange semester at Queens College in New York, Shelby returned home where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of New Orleans in 2014. She moved to Athens, Georgia in May 2022 where she now lives and works. Shelby has exhibited at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and is a member of Where Y'Art Works and Art in Res. She has been an artist-in-residence at Azule in Hot Springs, North Carolina and at Nocefresca in Sardinia, Italy.

Statement: My paintings usually depict one or more characters that emote feelings inspired by a combination of personal memories, mythological stories, and inspiration from my surroundings. The mood of these characters set the tone in my paintings, giving them an otherworldly quality.

In "Sa Sartiglia" I was inspired by the tradition of masking during carnival, something that is common in New Orleans, where I am from, and in Oristano, Sardinia, where I was an artist-in-residence at the time of creating this painting. Masking allows a wearer to hide behind another face, giving them an anonymity that can be perceived anywhere from fun and festive to truly disturbing.

Web: <http://www.shelbylittle.com>

Instagram: @shelby.little.studio

Motivated Manslayer

Athens, GA

For Mary, 4" x 9," found object mixed media, 2021, NFS, \$200 insurance value

She/her. Masshole > Georgia 🍑. Recovering from an MFA, late-diagnosis ADHD, and diet culture.

Statement: I regularly post my #moods to social media. Everything these days is based on my moods and dreams. These past three years have been a #mood for sure.

Web: <https://linktr.ee/motivatedmanslayer>

Instagram: @motivatedmanslayer

Christine Olmstead

Athens, GA

I'm fine, it's fine, everything is fine, 30" x 40", mixed media collage, March 2022, \$2640

Christine Olmstead is a conceptual and abstract mixed-media artist based in Northern Virginia. Her works have been widely exhibited across the United States since she released her first collection in 2015. Olmstead describes her paintings as "internal landscapes" that attempt to give tangible form to inner emotions and universal experiences that include unbridled joy, grief, and heartbreak. She produces her works through a meditative process and devotes particular attention to movement, light, color, and sound. Olmstead views her paintings as restorative icons that remind viewers to seek peace and promote healing in their lives. Olmstead was named a 2022 Repaint History winner and recognized by Gillian Jason gallery for her professional achievements. She recently completed her first international residency in Orquevaux, France and looks forward to sharing the works she produced while abroad.

Statement: I took this self portrait when I was hospitalized due to the Covid-19 Vaccine. I'm allergic to the vaccine and blood clots were all over my body shutting down major functions and causing severe pain. Neurologists were worried one was going to travel to my brain, but there was nothing they could do to stop that except thin my blood but there were no guarantees. This piece represents "MOOD" because even when you play by the rules and do everything right, life does not give a shit and will still try and kill you. This "mood" is the exhaustion of trying to be a human in this world and you can see it in my eyes.

Web: <https://christineolmstead.com/>

Instagram: @christineolmstead

Rich Panico

Athens, GA

Graphite portrait #1, 8" x 5", August 2022, \$200

Rich Panico's drawing habit began in childhood. He is recently retired from a 50 year career in medicine, practicing primarily with underserved populations but has had a parallel vocation in art, focusing on drawing and clay. He has had several solo exhibits and been included in numerous group shows over the years. He has studied drawing extensively with Stuart Shils and considers Robert Liberace to be a strong influence. In his mis-spent youth he did a 2 year apprenticeship in studio pottery with Rick Berman and has course work towards an MFA in ceramics. Rich draws every day.

Statement: I am fascinated with the moods of others and how they are expressed in posture and facial expression. We live in a time when fixed affective cognitions (moods) and attendant afflictive ideology are common and seemingly expressed without forethought towards consequences. I hope these drawings

depict “mood” in such a way that awareness and reflection are elicited in the service of transcending those afflictive patterns.

Web: <http://www.richpanico.com>

Instagram: @rpanico

Jason Rafferty

Loganville, GA

Climate Change and Cat Memes, 16” x 20”, oil and tape on canvas, 2021, \$450

Jason Rafferty is an artist based in Athens, GA. He is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Georgia, and holds a BFA degree in painting from UNC Asheville. Jason is an AXA Art Prize Finalist and recipient of the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant. Recent exhibits include AXA Art Prize in New York, NY, MINT Gallery in Atlanta, GA and Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, OH. His recent work explores climate change and the transition to sustainability through drawings, paintings, prints, photography and assemblage.

Statement: These works portray an emotional portrait of the sociopolitical discourse surrounding climate change. The collective dialogue around climate and the transition to sustainability vacillates between feelings of utopian possibility and dystopian despair and angst. My paintings explore metaphorical portrayals of these various emotional states regarding our climate across varying conceptual spaces, from the internet, to post-disaster landscapes, to a school / classroom setting. The pieces mix gravity and whimsy, inviting contemplation of our complex moment of transition and instilling a sense of hopeful possibility.

Web: <http://www.jasonrafferty.com>

Instagram: @jasonraffertyart

Laneigh Ramirez

Toronto, Canada

Cyanne, 16” x 20”, Oil on Canvas, 2020, \$5000

Laneigh Ramirez is a Canadian artist based in Toronto Ontario with a current focus on oil painting and airbrushing. Her art is a breakthrough from her childhood in Sarnia Ontario, a place far removed from Black people and culture. In earlier works, she explores her identity through colorful self-portraits, and honors inspiring famous Black creatives. More recently, she uses her art to give credit to impactful relationships, Black media and personal spiritual lessons that continue to guide her through healing childhood trauma of alienation. With saturated color, impressionistic vision and extreme detail, she creates immersive and visually healing experiences for herself and relating audiences.

Ramirez finds inspiration from present-day images of authentic Black joy and expression, while her main muses are herself and people in her immediate surroundings. Additionally, she is a filmmaker and considers cinematic angles in her work. As she explores figuration and movement, she uses storytelling to emphasize themes of growth and community in her work.

Ramirez has exhibited oil paintings in Canada and the US, including Future Fair in New York City, NY and “The Fact of Blackness” hosted by the Dominique Gallery in Los Angeles, CA.

Statement: During a visit to Toronto, it's customary to take selfies within the lights and the tall buildings while embodying a feeling of the city life fantasy. "Cyanne" is a portrait of my friend who moved from a small city to Toronto for university; we spent our first year of school exploring the city, taking photos, building our potential and finding our circle. In the frame, her skin tone matched with the sparkling shades that stand out from the blue buildings behind, she feels like a star! However, she still belongs in the environment, as her dark hair matches the dark blues, and the building lights shine with her to create a dynamic harmony. My trips to Toronto were a necessary break from Sarnia, my hometown which lacks Blackness, ambition and inspiration. This particular two week visit put me in an elevated mood which allowed me to find the style, confidence and drive to get through my final year of high school. The Toronto mood stuck with me and helped me survive. The power I felt is seen through the strong color scheme and intense clouds; the hoop earrings are a symbol of the way fashion played a part in this transformation.

Web:<http://artbyneigh.ca/>
Instagram: @neighramirez

Jeff Rivers
Columbia, SC

Man Sleeping on SEPTA, 48" x 74", acrylic, oil stick, chalk pastel, fabric on paper_2022_Price: \$2000

JEFF's visual art practice lies primarily in mixed-media painting. His work consists of constructed images and narratives based upon family photographs and African-American visual media. In his work JEFF is discussing issues of identity, the growth and change of African American culture and how the individual has impacted the collective identity of culture. JEFF's paintings explicate middle class African American experiences of family life and trials and tribulations in these experiences such as domestic disputes and mental and physical trauma.

JEFF uses fabric in my paintings to 'dress' the figure to create life-size representations of people documented from his daily experience. Memory and a sense of place are conjured through these figures. The texture of the fabric invites the viewer to engage with the work in close physical touch and intimacy, however the anonymity of the figures accentuates a sense of isolation and emotional detachment.

Statement: My work depicts the flux of power that exists within social relationships. I illustrate the extremes of power exchanges in relationships through scenes of paternalism and violence. The state of repose of my figures represents the MOOD of rest after the emotional zenith or aftermath of an experience. My paintings explicate a moment of uncertainty that wavers between safety and violence. The viewer is forced to investigate and project their emotions onto my anonymous figures. MOOD is represented in the viewer's experience of investigating the emotional state of my anonymous figures and the lifestyle that lead to their malaised figuration.

Web: <http://ludemore.com>
Instagram: @jeff.isblond

Kristan Ryan
Athens, GA

Angry Sorrowful Sue Done Swallowing Her Words, 30" x 30", Acrylic, 7/05/2021, \$1000.

I am a self-taught artist whose work here represents women whose desperation needs to be heard. This art is part of an ongoing project and is titled *Angry Females Done Swallowing Our Words*. I stand up with my art and as the famous Afghanistan woman, Malala Yousafzai says: "I raise my voice--not so that I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard." For me, I would say, "I raise my art--not so that my art can be considered as bravery, but so my art can represent the voices that beg to be heard. I came to America with American parents at the age of ten, and this is when my self-taught art goals began.

Statement: My work represents all females, children or women, and men whose moods represent their desperation to be heard. My Project #1 is ongoing and is titled *Angry Females Done Swallowing Our Words*. I stand up with my art as the famous Malala Yousafzai says: "I raise my voice--not so that I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard." For me, I would say, "I raise my art--not so that my art can be considered as my bravery, but so my art can represent the voices that beg to be heard.

Web: Kristan Ryan (Facebook) & Kristan Ryan Art (also on Facebook)
Instagram: @kristan_lee_ryan

Faa Stevens
Atlanta, GA

Summer & Symmetry II, 16" X 20", Acrylic, 2021, \$575

Faatimah Stevens is an experienced bipoc painter and illustrator, with over 10 years within the design industry. From visual branding to curation, being involved in the creative process is her true purpose. The primary motivation for her work is to provide a universal articulation shared through a visual language. A signature style with a line quality that contours iconic features, figures, and landscapes

Statement: I invoked color and abstract imagery referencing the Rorschach test method (a projective psychological test in which subjects' perceptions are perceived through inkblots). I find the results to be fascinating within my exploration of Art Therapy and its effects to uplift mood, behavior, and release trauma.

Web: <https://www.wescover.com/creator/dappher>
Instagram: @thepainterbae

Amy Wraga
Bogart, GA

Meditation Meadow, 13" x 10.5", Acrylic Pencil Pastel and Watercolor, 2022, \$225

I am a self-taught artist that started taking lessons in 2018. My paintings convey the feeling of a carefree summer day. My mixed media work has many layers that take shape over the course of days or longer. I finish the work with oil pastels, pencil or charcoal. My pieces have been in local art shows in the Athens Georgia area. Learn more at amywraga.com.

Statement: Happiness of walking through a meadow of flowers.

Web: <http://amywraga.com>

Instagram: #amywraga

Acquaetta Williams

Bowie, MD

Etage, 24" x 24", acrylic, pastels, paper and vinyl, (collage Painting), 2020, \$1200.00

Acquaetta Williams is an interdisciplinary artist. She began her creative career as a glass artist. Her work is featured in private and permanent collections including the Museum of Arts and Design (NY), the ATT learning Center, and the National Afro-American Museum, Racine Art Museum, Corning Glass Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio. Notable exhibitions include *Uncommon Beauty in Common Objects: The Legacy of African-American Craft* at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery and "A Woman's View: Equality, Development and Peace" at the World Bank, Washington, DC. Williams has lectured across the U.S., served as an Associate Member of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ibaden in Nigeria and was an artist-in-residence at the New York Experimental Glass Workshop. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Glass Art Society and was a founding member of Glass Axis in Columbus, Ohio. Her work as sculptor and painter has been acknowledged...

My work as an artist has been a lifelong journey from glassblower to sculpture and now collage painter sharing my thoughts and emotions, different from my family and friends. I search for individuality even today, it informs my decision and motivations as an artist. Influence by academic training and references to traditions and sensibilities evolved from the vision of African Images. I tell a story in a sense of relevance in a complexity of my feelings, thoughts and memories. I reflect on my past to form an identity to build intimacy between the viewer and myself.

Statement: Balanced repetitive curves reveal more physical form, gritty textures and sharp bold colors, while speaking to us with compassion and love. There are also the stories that emerge from these environments: stories about identity, sensitivity and being human.

Web: <http://acquaetta.com/>

Instagram: @acquaetta_lelee

Rosemary Woodel

Athens, GA

Hope, 23 1/2 x 19, Digital Photography, May 2022, \$120.

Disdain, 23 1/2 x 19, Digital Photography, Dec 2021, \$120.

I am so glad to live in the Athens area where many artists have been my role models and teachers. As I've gotten older, whimsy plays a more important part of my life and work. Photos and movies are my brain's external hard drive.

Statement: The titles depict the mood I felt while creating or witnessing the work.

Juleah X

Decatur, GA

Blue Ridge Howl, 30" x 40", Acrylic paint, 2022, \$3,500.

Rocky Roads, 30" x 40", Acrylic paint, 2021, \$3,500.

Juleah is an emerging, visual artist currently working around Atlanta, Georgia. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Art Marketing from The University of North Georgia with a concentration in Painting and Photography. Her paintings actively reference her memory and photographs combined with imagination to tell stories of her annual camping road trips through the United States. While creating and camping all over the U.S, Juleah has been teaching paint classes independently at local studios since 2016 while exhibiting work across the U.S in states such as Oregon, Missouri, Arizona, and her home state of Georgia.

Statement: My paintings relate to the theme of 'MOOD' by connecting to the feeling of wonder that you get from experiencing new places and microcultures when traveling.

Web: <https://www.welcometomymind.net/>

Instagram: @juleahxart