



John Biggers Seed Project

Mid-Career and Emerging Artists

(Photos by Stephanie D. Morris)

Mica Lee Anders is an artist and arts educator who was born and raised in Iowa City. She received BA's in both studio arts and Spanish from the University of Iowa in 2005 and a MFA from the University of Minnesota in 2009. Her

work focuses primarily on the mixed-race experience and is based on her perspectives as a biracial woman.

Mica has shown her work locally at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery and the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota, the Minneapolis Foundation, and the Soap Factory. She has also exhibited internationally in Anji, China.

Mica has presented her work in various venues across the Midwest, including at a panel discussion at the Loving Decision Conference in Chicago.



Jeremiah Bey is a visual artist and storyteller. He was 2013 Loft Mentor Series finalist, and the recipient of an Intermedia Arts Creative Community Leadership Institute fellowship. He works as an independent artist, and a Juxtaposition Arts roster artist.

Jeremiah was born and raised in North Minneapolis as one of four children. He credits growing up in a full house with teaching him the value of multiple perspectives, and the importance of other voices in the creative thought process. He sees the root of art as parallel to that of science. Art is observation—internal and external. Complex systems arise from a collection of relatively simple interactions: Movement, community, culture.

Jeremiah's public mural work can be seen in various neighborhoods around North and South Minneapolis, including the Central neighborhood, Cedar-Riverside, and Near North. He currently lives with his girlfriend where stacks of canvases work as stand-ins until they get real furniture.

Chrys Carroll attended Howard University, where she studied jazz and photography. As an artist and photographer she has conducted residencies and lectures, and curated shows. She has shown extensively in Wisconsin, Washington D.C. and Minneapolis, including in the *Six to See-Up & Coming Twin Cities Photographers Journal Project* at pART's Gallery. In 2000, she was awarded a grant from the Sumasil Foundation to travel the United States photographing and chronicling African American men's stories and viewing the black male from a different perspective. Chrys also founded *Women of Color Artist Gathering*.



Roger Cummings is influenced by architecture, urban design, and planning. Through art, design, entrepreneurship, and collective wealth-building activity, he pushes the direction of urban visual expression and the relationship between people and place

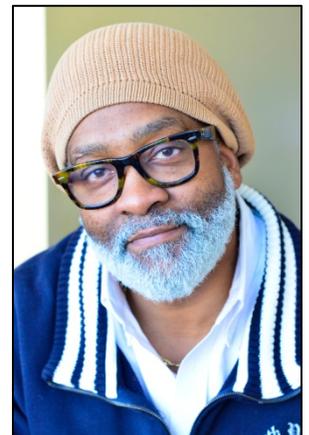


Roger has produced large scale sculptures, pocket parks and functional enhancements to public spaces. He places great value on creating works of art that civically engage urban people and provide them with meaningful interactions--works in which they can see themselves and works that come to establish the visual identities of their neighborhoods. He is currently investigating how public art, murals, and large scale painting act as cooperative models of community engagement to enliven social interactions.

Roger is a founder of Juxtaposition Arts, a visual art and cultural social enterprise center that mentors youth and engages community members in the inner city. He has lectured and conducted workshops at the Walker Art Center, Weisman Art Museum, Lincoln Land Institute, and the University of Minnesota.

As a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University Graduate School of Design, he explored new ways of reenergizing neglected urban neighborhoods through artistic interventions, people-centric design, and creative models of cooperative housing and business development.

Patrick Cunningham believes in the capacity of arts expression to promote change, empowerment, and innovatively involve communities. He combines public art with school and therapeutic art projects that focus on the well-being of low income, at-risk children and families. Patrick provides people who are having difficult experiences around trauma, neglect, and abuse with a positive outlet and opportunity to communicate their inner wealth through ongoing interventions, relationship building, and engaging them in the creative process.



Patrick has a BFA from Central State University in Wilberforce, OH, where he studied with Willis Bing Davis. He also has a MSW from the University of St. Thomas/University of St. Catherine in Clinical Social Work. For over 20 years he has worked in the fields of social services and education, including with the Saint Paul Public Schools in a specialized EBD program, the Minority Encouragement Program, the Alternative Learning Center's Focus on Five Transitional Program, and at Highland Jr. High School, as well as through the Wilder Foundation's Project Kofi. At Alder College, he has taught art to students majoring in Marriage and Family Therapy and Art Therapy.



Angela Davis was raised in North Minneapolis. She paints in semi-abstract style, with a bright color palette, and loves creating local scenes and culturally-based paintings. She is always learning and discovering new mediums in which to express herself. Angela's subject matter often focuses on African-American experiences. She is currently working on a series of Negro League-influenced paintings and a series on African American children.

Angela has studied graphic design at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Her works has been exhibited at FLOW, the West Broadway Farmers Market, Homewood Studios and Juneteenth.

Loretta Day is an illustrator, designer and painter and a native of Norfolk, Virginia. She studied fine arts at Norfolk State University and commercial arts in the Twin Cities. She has taught art to children and young adults in various afterschool and parks programs throughout the metro area.



For Loretta being part of the *Celebration of Life Mural* team was a pivotal moment in her career. It led her to explore other art opportunities, including

designing and building floats for the May Day Parade, Rondo Days, and Juneteenth Parade.

Loretta has had solo exhibitions at Pillsbury House, Augsburg College, Honeywell and 3M. She has been part of a number of Obsidian Arts projects, including *Umbrella Project*, *Black Sand Project*, *Sister Stories* and *Shoe Project*, as well as the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center's *Lee Family Memorial*. She is a member and coordinator of the local arts group TAWU (The Art Within Us) and has participated in TAWU displays at the Soap Factory, Minneapolis Foundation, UROC, Emerge, Hennepin Gallery, WorkAround, Flow, General Mills, the Basilica of St. Mary, and Arts on Chicago.



Christopher Aaron Deanes is an artist and educator whose oil paintings ask us to examine our perceptions about educational and religious systems and consider how these systems define our culture, both positively and negatively. Christopher Aaron hopes his works will cultivate conversations that challenge our assumptions. He explains, "The cultivation of culture is much like the cultivation of rice. Rice was a major component of the Middle Passage during the first three centuries of the settlement of the United States. The Deanes family came through slavery, lower Mississippi and settled as field slaves in West Point. They were eventually freed and inherited land. Rice is embedded in the foundation of each of my paintings. This acts as a reminder that while all nations and all people consume rice, it is also a staple created from the foundation of slavery in the Americas."

Christopher Aaron has a BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and an MED from the University of St. Thomas. His works have been exhibited at FLOW, Arts on Chicago, University of Saint Mary's, Basilica of Saint Mary Gallery, Normandale College, Homewood Studios, Hennepin County Government Center, UROC, Franklin Art Works, General Mills Gallery, and the Soap Factory. He has exhibited internationally at the Ghetto Biennale, in Haiti.

Adrienne Doyle works predominantly in the mediums of print making and graphic design. She has a history of participation in community collaborations and public art through with the SPEAK Project and Juxtaposition Arts. She is currently enrolled in Minneapolis Community and Technical College's Associate in Fine Arts program. Themes of fluid identities and fluctuating realities are explored in her work as she investigates what it means to call oneself an artist, an African American, a woman, and the responsibilities and expectations attached to each persona. The works of Carrie Mae Weems and Jean-Michel Basquiat have greatly influenced Adrienne's worldviews and art-making processes.



Christopher E. Harrison is an Ohio-born fine artist, illustrator and graphic designer who has lived in the Minneapolis area for over 20 years. He is employed as a Production Artist for the *MN Spokesman-Recorder* and at the Walker Art Center. He also does freelance design work and exhibits his two- and three-dimensional artworks at art venues locally, nationally and internationally.

Christopher is honored to participate in this revitalization and fulfillment of Dr. Biggers' artistic vision to celebrate the heritage of the people of North Minneapolis. He feels that the Seed Project will be a visual reminder of the positive contributions that North Siders have made to the fabric of Minneapolis and will stand as a beacon of pride to pass on to generations to come.

Jordan Malcolm Hamilton is a multi-media artist, who has worked as a muralist, painter, art educator, and sculptor. He was trained in community organizing through Sustainable Progress through Engaging Active Citizens (SPEAC), a group of which he was a founding member. He strives to build community using art as a tool for communication, expression and collaboration. He has created and led a number of community mural projects in the Phillips West Bank neighborhoods. He is also on a team working to incorporate art into a holistic healing environment at Hennepin County Medical Center.



In his personal artwork, Jordan draws influence from countless things, including the surrounding environment and public art, murals, paintings and sculptures. He is influenced by African and African American, including Twin Cities artists. Internationally, Jordan has been a visiting artist at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi.



Esther Osayande is one of the original emerging artists who worked with Dr. Biggers on the *Celebration of Life* mural. She is once again thrilled to be part of a group which includes some of the most talented Twin Cities artists. Her art career has involved many exciting projects, including several public commissions. She was recently selected to be part of the design team to re-create a new playground for Martin Luther King Jr. Park in 2014. She is honored to be part of the Seed project, which will bring pride to a community that so deserves to be lifted, and also very excited to be adding new skills to her repertoire which will prepare her to achieve higher goals. Esther says, “I am ready to launch!”



Chris Scott was raised in the Midway neighborhood of St. Paul and is a member of the Cunningham-Hill family, the oldest black family in Minnesota. Chris has developed her craft as a photographer and as ceramic artist. She says, “Photography allows me to capture the human condition, while the hands-on approach of ceramics allows me to have more personal and physical interaction with my subject. Photography allows me to remember a moment in time; while the use of clay allows me to tell the story as I want it told.”

Chris’ work is driven by themes that relate to the universal African American experience and those that are viewed through a personal lens. Her current interests lie in marrying both mediums together to explore the relationships between African Americans and mental illness. For eight years she has been employed in the social service field working with people who struggle with severe and persistent mental illness. Chris plans to create works that address mental illness as an expression of trauma. She sees the subject of mental illness as being taboo in the African American community, which often means people go their entire lives without treatment, living a reduced quality of life. The purpose of this next body of work is to expose the effects of society’s indifference to the trauma of African American life, as well as the African American community’s inability to acknowledge this epidemic.



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