

# The Many Colors of Us:

## Master List of Artists

### Abney, Nina Chanel



“Combining representation and abstraction, Nina Chanel Abney’s paintings capture the frenetic pace of contemporary culture. Broaching subjects as diverse as race, celebrity, religion, politics, sex, and art history, her works eschew linear storytelling in lieu of disjointed narratives. The effect is information overload, balanced with a kind of spontaneous order, where time and space are compressed and identity is interchangeable. Her distinctively bold style harnesses the flux and simultaneity that has come to define life in the 21st century.” -[Website](#)

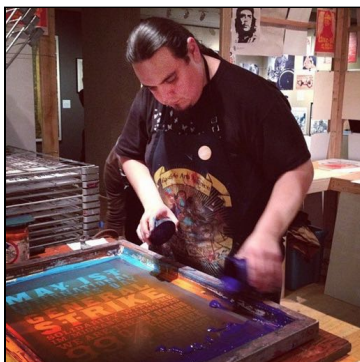
### Baca, Judy



“One of America’s leading visual artists, Dr. Judith F. Baca has been creating public art for four decades. Powerful in size and subject matter, Baca’s murals bring art to where people live and work. In 1974, Baca founded the City of Los Angeles’ first mural program, which produced over 400 murals and employed thousands of local participants, and evolved into an arts organization known as the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC). (...) She is an emeritus Professor of the University of

California Los Angeles.” -[Website](#)

### Barraza, Jesús



“Jesus Barraza is an interdisciplinary artist with a MFA in Social Practice and a Masters in Visual Critical Studies from California College of the Arts. He holds a BA in Raza Studies from San Francisco State University. He is a co-founder of Dignidad Rebelde a graphic arts collaboration that produces screen prints, political posters and multimedia projects and a member of JustSeeds Artists Cooperative a decentralized group of political artists based in Canada, the United States and Mexico. (...) He is currently a lecturer in the Ethnic Studies department at UC Berkeley”. -[Website](#)

## Basquiat, Jean-Michel



“Jean-Michel Basquiat, (born December 22, 1960, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.—died August 12, 1988, New York City), American painter known for his raw gestural style of painting with graffiti-like images and scrawled text. . . . Lacking any formal training, Basquiat created highly expressionistic work that mixed graffiti and signs with the gestural and intuitive approach of Abstract Expressionist painting. Although much of his work addressed his personal angst in highly stylized self-portraits, he also alluded to African American historical figures, including jazz musicians, sports personalities, and writers. He appropriated and freely mixed motifs from African, Caribbean, Aztec, and Hispanic cultures and mixed “high art” references with images from popular culture, especially cartoons.” – [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) (Basquiat photo and additional artist info can be found at [Sothebys.com](#).)

## Bearden, Romare



“Romare Howard Bearden was born on September 2, 1911, to (Richard) Howard and Bessye Bearden in Charlotte, North Carolina, and died in New York City on March 12, 1988, at the age of 76. His life and art are marked by exceptional talent, encompassing a broad range of intellectual and scholarly interests, including music, performing arts, history, literature and world art. Bearden was also a celebrated humanist, as demonstrated by his lifelong support of young, emerging artists. . . . Recognized as one of the most creative and original visual artists of the twentieth century, Romare Bearden had a prolific and distinguished career. He experimented with many different mediums and artistic styles, but is best known for his richly textured collages, two of which appeared on the covers of Fortune and Time magazines, in 1968. An innovative artist with diverse interests, Bearden also designed costumes and sets for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and programs, sets and designs for Nanette Bearden's Contemporary Dance Theatre.” – [Romare Bearden Foundation](#)

## Bradford, Mark



“Mark Bradford is widely considered one of the most important and influential artists in America today. His abstract canvases, which often deal with complex social and political issues, hang in major museums around the world, and on the walls of big collectors and some small ones, like me. Bradford's art may look like paintings, but there's hardly any paint on them. They're made out of layers and layers of paper, which he tears, glues, power washes and sands in a style all his own.” – [60 Minutes Interview](#)

## Butler, Bisa



“In my work I am telling the story— this African American side—of the American life. History is the story of men and women, but the narrative is controlled by those who hold the pen. My community has been marginalized for hundreds of years. . . . My subjects are African Americans from ordinary walks of life who may have sat for a formal family portrait or may have been documented by a passing photographer. Like the builders of the White House, they have no names or captions to tell us who they were.” – [artist's website](#)

## Cave, Nick



“Nick Cave (...) lives and works in Chicago, IL as an artist, educator and foremost a messenger, working between the visual and performing arts through a wide range of mediums including sculpture, installation, video, sound and performance. Cave is well known for his Soundsuits, sculptural forms based on the scale of his body, initially created in direct response to the police beating of Rodney King in 1991. Soundsuits camouflage the body, masking and creating a second skin that conceals race, gender and class, forcing the viewer to look without judgment. They serve as a visual embodiment of social justice that represent both brutality and empowerment.” -[Gallery](#)

## Cervantes, Melanie



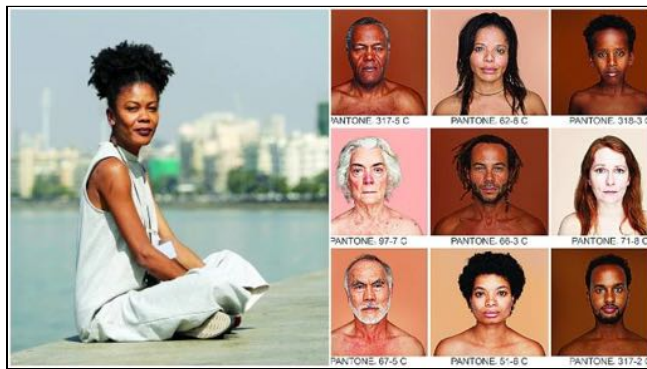
“Melanie Cervantes (Xicanx) has never lived far from the California Coast. Born in Harbor City, California and raised in a small city in the South Bay of Los Angeles Melanie now makes her home in the San Francisco Bay Area where she creates visual art that is inspired by the people around her and her communities' desire for radical social transformation. Melanie's intention is to create a visual lexicon of resistance to multiple oppressions that will inspire curiosity, raise consciousness and inspire solidarities among communities of struggle.” -[Website](#)

## Coke, Danielle



“Danielle Coke’s work is joyful (...) she uses light-hearted graphics to break down thorny issues of racial justice, microaggressions, and criminal justice reform, making them accessible to a wide audience. Her illustration style brings in elements of energy, abundance, and surprise — and the result is art that disarms and delights, inviting people to shift their perspective and deepen their commitment to making the world a better place.” -[Article at aestheticsofjoy](#) & [Website](#)

## Daas, Angelica



“Angélica Dass is an award-winning photographer born in Brazil and based in Spain. Her practice combines photography with sociological research and public participation in global defense of human rights. She is the creator of the internationally acclaimed Humanæ project—a collection of portraits that reveal the diverse beauty of humanity.” -[Website](#)

## de Los Angeles, Maria



“Maria de Los Angeles is a New York City based artist, raised in California, Mexican born, whose imagery focuses on issues of migration, displacement, identity and otherness, working primarily in drawing, painting, installation, performance, fashion, and sculpture.” – [Shiva Gallery](#)

## do Amaral, Tarsila



“‘I want to be the painter of my country,’ wrote Tarsila do Amaral (1886–1973) in 1923. Born at the end of the 19th century to a family of coffee plantation owners in São Paulo, Tarsila—as she is affectionately known in Brazil—studied piano, sculpture, and drawing before leaving for Paris in 1920 to attend the Académie Julian, the famous art school that drew many international students. During subsequent

sojourns in the French capital, she studied with André Lhote, Albert Gleizes, and Fernand Léger, fulfilling what she called her 'military service in Cubism,' ultimately arriving at her signature style of sensuous, vibrant landscapes and everyday scenes." – [MOMA](#)

## Douglas, Aaron



"Aaron Douglas, widely acknowledged as one of the most accomplished and influential visual artists of the Harlem Renaissance, was born in Topeka, Kansas, on May 26, 1899. . . . In his illustrations . . . and later in paintings and murals, Douglas drew upon his study of African art and his understanding of the intersection of cubism and art deco to create a style that soon became the visual signature of the Harlem Renaissance. . . . Douglas died in Nashville in 1979 at age 80." – [National Gallery of Art](#)

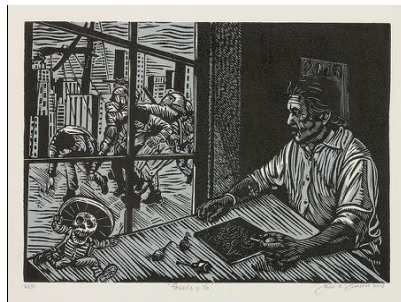
## Edwards, Jamea Richmond



"Jamea Richmond-Edwards (American, born 1982) creates mixed media collages utilizing a variety of papers and hand-drawn elements. Her paintings examine Black Americana and the intersection of Indigenous American identity. Born and raised in Detroit Michigan, Richmond-Edwards graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Jackson State University in 2004 where she studied painting and drawing and went on to earn an MFA in painting from Howard University in 2012. She is a recipient of the 2019 Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Award and a

2020 Joan Mitchell Artist in Residence. Jamea has exhibited her artwork nationally and internationally including the California African American Museum, Charles Wright Museum in Detroit MI and Kravets Wehby Gallery in New York. Her work is included in the collections of the Studio Museum of Harlem and Rubell Family Collection. She currently resides in Maryland with her husband and three sons." – [South Bend Museum of Art](#) ([click here for artist's website](#))

## Fuentes, Juan R.



"I am a Chicano Artist living in San Francisco, California, a long time cultural worker, art teacher and social activist/poster maker and print maker. My goal has always been to portray our people in a very positive, beautiful and dignified manner in contrast to the continual negative portrayal of us in the media." – [artist's website](#)

## Garza, Carmen Lomas



“At the age of thirteen I decided to become a visual artist and pursue every opportunity to advance my knowledge of art in institutions of higher education. The Chicano Movement of the late 1960s inspired the dedication of my creativity to the depiction of special and everyday events in the lives of Mexican Americans based on my memories and experiences in South Texas. I saw the need to create images that would elicit recognition and appreciation among Mexican Americans, both adults and children, while at the same time serve as a source of education for others not familiar with our culture. It has been my objective since 1969 to make paintings, prints, installations for Day of the Dead, paper and metal cutouts that instill pride in our history and culture in American society.” – [artist’s website](#)

## Garza, Jorge



“Jorge Garza, (aka Qetza) is an artist from Northwest Indiana, best known as a t-shirt designer for various bands and brands. Jorge also has his own online shop selling his original designs. Currently he is working on an art book (Aztec/Pop Culture Series) and recently finished his horror comic book , ‘Wrath of the Giver.’ Jorge’s work starts from pencil sketches that are scanned and reworked in Photoshop using a drawing tablet and his work ranges from simple to highly detailed pen and ink.” – [artist’s website](#)

## Gonzalez, Beatriz



“Beatriz González is a Colombian painter, associated with the Pop Art movement. She grew up in Colombia in the 40s and 50s, during an era of political unrest known as La Violencia (The Violence). Initially González was a traditional painter, inspired by Vermeer and Velazquez, but later began to refer to the mass media as a source of inspiration instead. She used bold colours and flat figures to represent images taken from magazines and newspapers as a means of documenting the political and social climate of her homeland. With characteristic tongue-in-cheek humour, González calls these her ‘underdeveloped painting[s] for underdeveloped countries.’” – [Tate](#)

## Gorman, Amanda (poet)



“Wordsmith. Change-maker. . . . Amanda Gorman is the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, as well as an award-winning writer and cum laude graduate of Harvard University, where she studied Sociology. She has written for the New York Times and has three books forthcoming with Penguin Random House.” – [poet’s website](#)

## Gustafson, Nick



“I like to paint wildlife and nature with acrylics and watercolors and draw with prisma color pencils, and with pen and ink. I also like to do nature and wildlife photography. My family is a major source of inspiration and encouragement for my artwork. I could not do it without them. I have had the privilege to have shown my art work in Oregon, Washington, California, and Arizona. I have also donated artwork to the Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue, Triple ‘L’ Horse Rescue, and to the Save the Frogs! Organization.” – [The Art of Autism: “Art Was My Voice”](#) ([click here for artist’s website](#))

## Hinojosa, Juan



“Juan Hinojosa is a mixed-media artist who currently lives and works in New York. Constructed from found objects, his complex collage-drawings intimately challenge greed, obsessive consumption, and the social stratification of American culture. Hinojosa received his BFA from Parsons School of Design and was awarded residencies at Material for the Arts (New York), the Vermont Studio Center (Vermont), and LMCC (Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s Governors Island COVID-19 Response Residency program). His work has been featured in The New York Times, the Woodside Herald, and Open House New York. Hinojosa’s solo exhibitions include ‘Blonde Ambition’ at Materials for the Arts (New York), ‘Ready for Their Stones’ at the Allegra LaViola Gallery (New York), ‘All Mine’, Union College, Schenectady, New York and he was part of the Biennial at El Museo del Barrio (New York).”

– [artist’s website](#)

## Huffman, David



“In grad school Huffman became interested in space — specifically the Apollo missions and the NASA program. Early in his career he was best known for his ‘traumanaut’ series, described as ‘futuristic land- and space-scapes populated by African American astronauts.’ He is an artist who is driven by his passion for art and his ability to assign it concept and meaning. . . . He was drawn toward African American iconography, working with stereotypical imagery from the 18th and 19th centuries: minstrels, blackface, and more modern pejorative depictions such as the Aunt Jemima character. . . . His new work, he says, is about ‘beauty and affliction, a weaving of the many strategies that I have employed in the last eight years, utilizing real

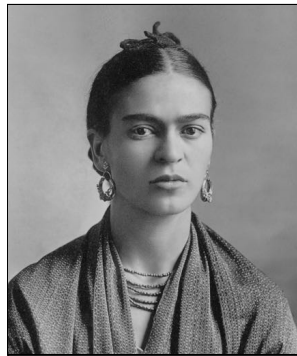
basketball hoop netting, handmade basketball stamping, chains, text, drawing, and more to create social abstract paintings.” – [California College of the Arts](#) ([click here for artist’s website](#))

## Jones, Atiya



“Atiya Jones is an autodidact creator of abstract organic accumulations. Her work serves as an abstracted representation of human migration, and more specifically the modern diaspora known as gentrification. Her work occupies the realm of mixed media, and incorporates ink-drawings, photography, collage, graphic design, and fiber. . . . By creating art, Jones creates value. As a woman of color, this is an act of defiance, empowerment and visibility. Her work is about human connection. It is a visual depiction of healing, finding one’s tribe and building a life as a unit. It is about the magic permeating beneath the surface of self, and the search to find it.” – [artist’s website](#)

## Kahlo, Frida



“The artist Frida Kahlo (Mexican, 1907–1954) is today an iconic figure, known as much for her path-breaking artwork as for her striking appearance. Kahlo began to paint while recovering from a near-fatal bus accident in 1925, which left her with lasting medical complications, disabilities, and chronic pain. Kahlo famously married the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera (1886–1957) in 1929. Their union was unconventional and tumultuous—they divorced in 1939 and remarried thirteen months later in San Francisco. Throughout, they shared a deep devotion to art, to Mexico and its multifaceted cultures, and to revolutionary politics.” -[Exhibition at the deYoung](#)

## Lomanto, Loretta



“Colombian-born artist Loretta Lomanto has a BA in Philosophy from Universidad de Antioquia, a BFA degree from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellin as well as an MFA from Parsons The New School, New York. (...) She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.”  
See her Q&A with A.R.T.S. students at Flowery Elementary [here](#). [Website](#)

## Lopez, Vanessa



Artist. Graphic Designer. Activist. [Instagram](#)



## Lozano, Diana Sofia



“Diana Lozano (b. 1992, Cali, Colombia) received her BFA from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 2013. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn. She has shown at La Mama Galleria, Fisher Parrish Gallery and Company Gallery in New York, Casa Prado in Colombia, Guerrero Gallery in San Francisco and Open Space in Baltimore.” [Website](#)

## Maar, Dora



“Dora Maar, born Henrietta Théodora Markovitch in Tours, was the daughter of a French mother and Croatian father. Her father was an architect, and she lived with him for many years in Argentina before returning to France. She briefly participated in the surrealist movement with her photographs in the 1930s.” [Bio](#)

## Marquez, Ruben



“Collage artist & photographer using inspiration from nature his work is heavily influenced by botanical elements and classic color palettes to find balance. His work could be seen as melding the past in present through his use of color, shape and subject matter.” [Website](#)

## Martinez, Maria



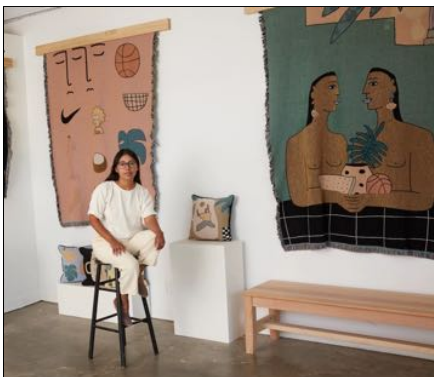
“Maria Montoya Martinez, a Tewa [woman], learned to make pottery as a young girl. When Kenneth M. Chapman, an associate of Edgar L. Hewett, encouraged local potters to recreate the shapes of ancient pots excavated near the pueblo from 1907 to 1909, Maria and her husband, Julian, began a decade of experimentation that led to their first black-on-black pieces in 1918.” [Bio](#)

## Martinez, Narsiso



“I was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and currently live in Long Beach, California. I attended Evans Community Adult School and completed high school in 2006 at the age of 29. I earned an Associate of Arts in 2009 from Los Angeles City College. In fall of 2012, I graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from California State University Long Beach. Currently, I'm a Masters of Fine Arts candidate at the same institution.”  
-[Website](#) & [Article in LA Times](#)

## Martinez, Lilian



“Lilian Martinez lives and works between Yucca Valley and Los Angeles, CA. She earned a BFA in Photography from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Martinez is the founder of BFGF, an art brand working with digitally printed and woven versions of her artwork”. [Instagram](#) & [Article](#)

## Mayhew, Richard



“Richard Mayhew’s life and career are intertwined with a rich expanse of American history. Born in 1924, during the Harlem Renaissance, in the bayside town of Amityville, New York on Long Island, Mayhew celebrated his 96th birthday this April, during a global pandemic. In between, he’s had more than 40 solo exhibitions, taught for nearly 30 years, and been a tireless arts advocate and activist.”

-[Article KQED Spark](#)

## Mehretu, Julie



“Mehretu’s paintings have been seen as analogues for our globalized domain, its information networks and dispersive political, social, and cultural economies. They may also carry the imprint of her own life history: Mehretu was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1970, to an Ethiopian father and an American mother. Her family fled to the United States in 1977, when the military leadership began a campaign of terror. Her experience of migration and diaspora lends perspective to how politics create world currents. She has spoken of her paintings in this way as “psychogeographies,” touching on issues of memory across time, space, and place.” [MOMA](#)

## Molina, Blanca



“I am a graphic designer and illustrator based in Santa Rosa, CA. I was born in Jalisco, Mexico and moved to California at the age of five and I have been living here ever since. Growing up in Sonoma County has made me appreciate fresh produce from our local farmers' markets, music, wine, and the great culinary flavors.

I graduated from Sacramento State University and I gained skills in brand identity, motion graphics, layout, typography, and web design. One of my focuses is researching solutions for creative problems that are beautiful and effective. I always look at the brighter side of things and apply it to everything that I do.” -[Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

## Murillo, Oscar



“Born in Colombia and based in various locations, Oscar Murillo (b. 1986) is known for an inventive and itinerant practice that encompasses paintings, works on paper, sculptures, installations, actions, live events, collaborative projects, and videos. Taken as a whole, his body of work demonstrates a sustained emphasis on the notion of cultural exchange and the multiple ways in which ideas, languages, and even everyday items are displaced, circulated, and increasingly intermingled. Murillo's work conveys a nuanced understanding of the specific conditions of globalization and its attendant state of flux, while maintaining the universality of human experience.” -[Gallery](#)

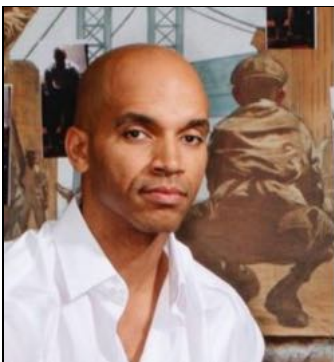
## Murtaza, Mehreen



“Born in Saudi Arabia, artist Mehreen Murtaza's work explores broad themes of human existence and the progresses of modern of civilization. In her digital art, Murtaza dissects consumption patterns, and attempts to understand the intersecting worlds of technology and nature. In series such as *Nuero York* and *Nenha*, Murtaza examines the delicate balance between the existence of life and the necessary consumption of food, while remaining loyal to an appreciation for design and beauty. Murtaza works to examine iconography over many levels of discourse, including religion, technology, and myth.”

[Website](#)

## Nelson, Kadir



“Kadir Nelson (b. 1974) is an award-winning American author and artist based in Los Angeles, California. (...) Nelson received a BFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, (...) He is the recipient of multiple awards from the Society of Illustrators in New York, including the prestigious Hamilton King Award as well the 2020 recipient of the Caldecott Medal and Coretta Scott King Award for illustration. (...) Nelson's primarily figurative paintings and sculptures focus on historical narratives and heroic subjects in American culture.” [Website](#)

## Nisenbaum, Aliza



“Aliza Nisenbaum was born in 1977 in Mexico City and grew up there with her Scandinavian American artist mother, her Russian Jewish father who ran a leather goods business, and her younger sister. The family travelled widely, including to the UK and New York, visiting sights and exhibitions. Nisenbaum found early artistic inspiration in London and decided she eventually wanted to live in New York City. She studied psychology for two years in Mexico before taking up a place at the Art Institute of Chicago. Following her time as a student there, she stayed on to teach before finally moving to New York. Now resident in Harlem, she is a professor at Columbia University’s School of the Arts.” -[Interview](#)

## Ojih Odutola, Toyin



“Toyin Ojih Odutola (b.1985 in Ile-Ife, Nigeria; lives and works in New York, NY) is best known for her multimedia drawings and works on paper, which explore the malleability of identity and the possibilities in visual story-telling. Interested in the topography of skin, Ojih Odutola has a distinctive style of mark-making using only basic drawing materials, such as ballpoint pens, pencils, pastels and charcoal. This signature technique involves building up of layers on the page, through blending and shading with the highest level of detail, creating compositions that reinvent and reinterpret the traditions of portraiture.”-[Gallery](#) & [PBS](#)

## Ringgold, Faith



“As an artist, activist and children’s author Ringgold (b. 1930, Harlem, New York) has challenged perceptions of African American identity and gender inequality for over five decades. Growing up in the creative and intellectual context of the Harlem Renaissance and inspired by her contemporaries including writers James Baldwin and Amiri Baraka, she is widely recognised for her painted story quilts combining personal narratives, history and politics ‘to tell my story, or, more to the point, my side of the story’, as an African American woman.” – [Serpentine Galleries](#) ([click here for artist’s website](#))

## Rivera, Diego



“Diego Rivera, a memorable figure in 20th-century art, actively painted during the 50 years from 1907 to 1957. Mexican by birth, Rivera spent a good portion of his adult life in Europe and the United States as well as in his home in Mexico City. Early in his career, he dabbled in Cubism and later embraced Post-Impressionism, but his unique style and perspective are immediately recognizable as his own. He was involved in the world of politics as a dedicated Marxist and . . . has become a countercultural symbol of [the] 20th century and created a legacy in the art[s] that continues to inspire the imagination and mind.”

– [DiegoRivera.org](http://DiegoRivera.org)

## Roberts, Deborah



“Deborah Roberts (American, b. 1962) is a mixed media artist whose work challenges the notion of ideal beauty. Her work has been exhibited internationally across the USA and Europe. Roberts' work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York; Brooklyn Museum, New York, New York; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York; LACMA, Los Angeles, California; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia and the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas, among several other institutions. She was selected to participate in the Robert Rauschenberg Residency (2019) and was a finalist for the 2019 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition, as well as the recipient of the Anonymous Was A Woman Grant (2018), and

the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant (2016). Roberts received her MFA from Syracuse University, New York. She lives and works in Austin, Texas.” – [artist's website](http://artist's website)

## Rodriguez, Favianna



“Favianna Rodriguez is an interdisciplinary artist, cultural strategist, and social justice activist based in Oakland, California. Her art and praxis address migration, gender justice, climate change, racial equity, and . . . freedom. Her practice boldly reshapes the myths, stories, and cultural practices of the present, while healing from the wounds of the past. Favianna's projects include Ben & Jerry's Pecan Resist, two large scale public art commissions with the City of San Francisco, a partnership with Joey Soloway to create

5050by2020.com, and an upcoming storytelling initiative at the US Mexico border.” – [artist's website](http://artist's website)

## Rowe, Nellie Mae



“Nellie Mae Rowe (1900-1982) . . . A creative and resourceful self-taught artist, Nellie Mae Rowe gained national recognition for her work during the last decade of her life. Long before her wider success, Rowe was well known locally in Vinings[, Georgia] by visitors who came to her exuberantly embellished home, which contained her drawings, stuffed dolls, and recycled objects. After the death of her second husband, Rowe turned their home into her personal playhouse, decorating all available space, inside and out, with her fanciful creations. A devout Christian, she attributed her talent to God. Rowe's multifaceted work illustrates her personal mythology, her response to current events and popular culture, and an

assimilation of African American spiritual and narrative traditions.” – [New Georgia Encyclopedia](#)

## Sherald, Amy



“Born in 1973 in Columbus, GA, and now based in Baltimore MD, Amy Sherald documents contemporary African-American experience in the United States through arresting, otherworldly portraits. Sherald subverts the medium of portraiture to tease out unexpected narratives, inviting viewers to engage in a more complex debate about accepted notions of race and representation, and to situate black heritage centrally in the story of American art. . . . Sherald was the first woman and first African-American ever to receive first prize in the 2016 Outwin Boochever

Portrait Competition from the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C.; in February 2018, the museum unveiled her portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama. Sherald has also received the 2018 David C. Driskell Prize from the High Museum of Art in Atlanta GA. Alongside her painterly practice, Sherald has worked for almost two decades along-side socially committed creative initiatives, including teaching art in prisons and art projects with teenagers.” – [Hauser & Wirth](#) ([click here for artist's website](#))

## Shimomura, Roger



“Roger Shimomura's paintings, prints, and theatre pieces address sociopolitical issues of ethnicity. He was born in Seattle, Washington and spent two early years of his childhood in Minidoka (Idaho), one of 10 concentration camps for Japanese Americans during WWII.”

-[Website/Biography](#) In 2013, a collection of Shimomura's paintings and lithographs were exhibited at SVMA and formed the basis of the Art Rewards the Student Program. [SVMA Exhibition](#)

## Tamayo, Rufino



“Rufino Tamayo (August 25, 1899 – June 24, 1991) was a Mexican painter of Zapotec heritage, born in Oaxaca de Juárez, Mexico. Tamayo was active in the mid-20th century in Mexico and New York, painting figurative abstraction with surrealist influences.” [Bio](#)

## Thomas, Alma Woodsey



“Alma Thomas began to paint seriously in 1960, when she retired from her thirty-eight year career as an art teacher in the public schools of Washington, D.C. In the years that followed she would come to be regarded as a major painter of the Washington Color Field School.”  
“Man's highest aspirations come from nature. A world without color would seem dead. Color is life. Light is the mother of color. Light reveals to us the spirit and living soul of the world through colors.” -Alma Thomas [Biography](#)

## Thomas, Mickelene



“Mickalene Thomas lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. (...) Blurring the distinction between object and subject, concrete and abstract, real and imaginary, Thomas constructs complex portraits, landscapes, and interiors in order to examine how identity, gender, and sense-of-self are informed by the ways women (and “feminine” spaces) are represented in art and popular culture.” -[Website](#)



## Valdez, Vincent



“Vincent Valdez is recognized for his monumental portrayal of the contemporary figure. His drawn and painted subjects remark on a universal struggle within various socio-political arenas and eras. He states, “My aim is to incite public remembrance and to impede distorted realities that I witness, like the social amnesia that surrounds me.” Valdez was born in 1977 in San Antonio, Texas. He received a full scholarship to study at the Rhode Island School of Design, and earned his BFA in 2000. (...) Valdez currently lives and works in Houston.”

-[Website](#)

## Wiley, Kehinde



“Los Angeles native and New York based visual artist, Kehinde Wiley has firmly situated himself within art history’s portrait painting tradition. As a contemporary descendent of a long line of portraitists, including Reynolds, Gainsborough, Titian, Ingres, among others, Wiley, engages the signs and visual rhetoric of the heroic, powerful, majestic and the sublime in his representation of urban, black and brown men found throughout the world.” -[Website](#)