



Artists Roster | Fall 2019

David A Valentine, Founder

About the LA Guest Artist Series

The LA Guest Artist Series connects emerging and established LA Contemporary Artists with LA area high school Art teachers to expose students to Contemporary Art issues and practices.

We are an all volunteer program. There are no membership fees or annual subscriptions.

This Artist Roster is an interactive tool to help familiarize you with the diverse styles and media our artists bring to their practice.

Use it as a guide to read artist statements and examine their portfolios to get a richer understanding of who the artist is and how their work can provide the enrichment experience you want for your class.

David A Valentine, Founder
LA Guest Artist Series

Dori Atlantis | On-Site Installations | Sculpture

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While mourning my mother's death, I began stripping the bark off branches and bending these branches into forms. These early pieces were allowed to weather, dry, crack, mold and finally fall apart. I found myself drawn to natural processes and natural material, using installation as the structure.

I aim for layers of meaning in my work, while retaining some of the unique characteristics of the materials I use. Ultimately, I am addressing both physical and emotional transformation and using opposing natural phenomenon such as wind, stillness, shadow, and light. Underlying it all is a sense of the transitory nature of life.



Maija Beeton | Animation | Public Art | Visual Art

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Maija Beeton designs and produces art, animation and visual effects for emerging technologies, broadcast, internet media, video games and public venues. She is the recipient of a 2008 Emmy Award for outstanding achievement in graphic design and the winner of the 2015 Wonder Women Tech Hackathon. Her fine art has utilized media such as painting, nanotechnology, video, animation, theatre, music, programming, text, and landscaping. She is a former American Film Institute Digital Media Filmmaker-In-Residence, Advanced Technology Programs Director and 3-D software Manager of Training. Beeton is a graduate of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, an art, architecture and engineering school in New York City.



“Housewives and Dinosaurs” From the mixed media installation of the same name

Lili Bernard | Visual Artist | Actress

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My work exposes the post-colonial paradigm of suffering and resilience, through a collision of cruelty against compassion. The generational struggle of my Afro-Cuban immigrant family and Caribbean ancestors, coupled with my personal experiences as a rape survivor, informs my exploration of the impact of trauma and the unconquerable nature of the human spirit.



“Maceo y Martí: La Mejorana”, 2017. Oil on Canvas, 28” x 44”

Jodi Bonassi | Visual Artist

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I am a Southern California artist, into people and places. As an art maker, drawing informs my painting and vice versa. I draw into my paintings as I work, using live sketches I create while I go out and about in the city (I like to sketch on buses and trains). I use my cell phone to take impulse reference photos of the urban environment. I also like to use old family photos, plus stream of consciousness drawing.



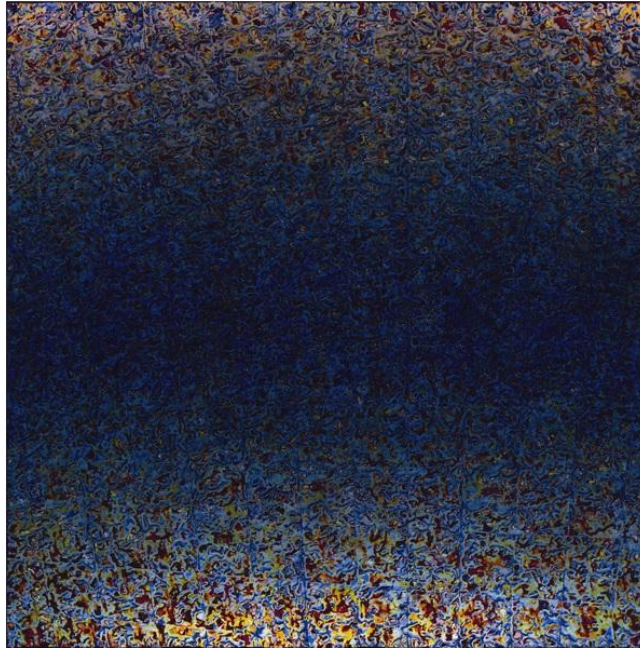
“Instadream” 2018 mixed media on canvas 30”x40”

Richard Bruland | Visual Artist

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I am interested in making paintings that refer to landscape in a non-specific way. They are not about 'that' mountain or 'this' tree; instead they suggest the effects of nature and the real world.

Atmosphere, light, color and shadow are elements of nature experienced by people everywhere. By eliminating the specific, my paintings help to reconnect the viewer to his or her own memories, emotions, and experiences.



“Sombracito” 2018 acrylics on panel 18”x18”

Jeanne Dunn | Visual Artist

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Nature has lured me to the uncertain and the ominous. Anticipation, dogged persistence, foreboding, bewilderment, and discovery are all present in a journey over a twisting, seldom-used road. This series began when I took an unfamiliar shrouded path to a distant village while visiting a foreign place. The serpentine passage suggested a dark mystery, simultaneously pulling me forward and holding me back. The surprises in that secluded quest resulted in my desire to make paintings that could point to such places and experiences and conjure up a parallel intensity.



"Defiance" Tangled Tree Series: 2014 Oils on canvas, 28"x36"

S P Harper | Mixed Media Artist

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Eliciting desire. What is it?

Harper answers with images of cut gems on recycled materials. What begins as a bit of refuse is repurposed to become something of value, and therefore desirable. Transforming base materials into noble objects, the artist becomes an alchemist, questioning the ontology of art. Desire is predicated on making choices. Choice is made by identification and understanding.

S. P. Harper studied art at the American University in Paris, France, University of Southern California (BFA) and Art Center in Pasadena, California. After spending 12 years in New York, Harper returned to Los Angeles to teach art and concentrate on *Ecocentric Art*.

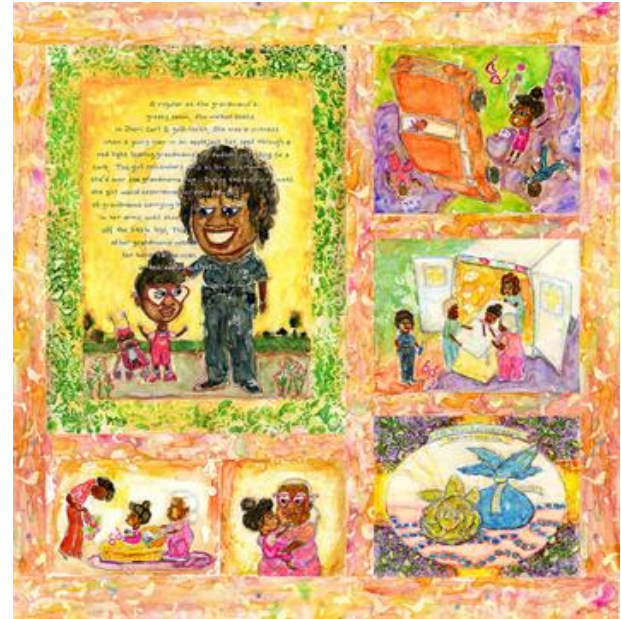


'Amaterasu' Cushion-cut Diamond, 2018 *Acrylic on bandana, 58 x 58"*

Zeal Harris | Visual Artist | Narrative Genre Art

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My work is about experimental storytelling. It's about collecting, telling, and revealing characters on journeys through space and time. Whether the work is a micro-narrative or an epic, linear or non-linear, or whether it is a recognizable or an obscure narrative, the characters in my paintings are vehicles whose stories serve to complexify grand narratives of black lives. Currently, I'm making whimsical, colorful, narrative paintings that can be described as urban vernacular, folksy, political cartoons. My materials are experimental and I use fabric, panels, paper, canvas, digital processing, and water based and oil-based mediums.



"Parable of Black Governance" 2017 Dye sublimation on fabric 32"x31"

Natasha June | Visual Art

Contact: natashajune@mac.com email | <http://globalvirtualgallery.com/natasha-june/> portfolio

Growing up in Johannesburg, South Africa, during times of immense social and political change, shaped Natasha's view on the wider world and how she reflects it in her art. Her work aims to draw a visceral response, educating, challenging and engaging the viewer on issues overlooked or intentionally avoided, while at the same using its beauty to uplift the spirits.

I enjoy the uncompromising mark of the charcoal and yet the ability to manipulate the particles. Thinned out oils create an additional dimension to the work, the inability for correction. Having a general idea of what I want to produce, at the beginning, the way I work always leaves me pleasantly amazed at completion. Everyday encounters inspired me- the story in someone's eyes, the telling wrinkles, a simple smile.



Sandra Lauterbach | Fiber Artist | Quilter

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The challenge for me in creating my current series of freeform abstract pieces is in taking diverse patterned fabric pieces and creating a dialogue between them that results in a harmonious whole. I start by putting one piece and then another on my design wall and see if they communicate. Is there a dialogue between one piece and another? A spark? Color, shape, pattern print, and scale are all factors I consider in addition to other design elements. I seek to create depth and movement in my pieces. I view fabric pieces as my paint. The stitching helps to interconnect the forms by creating texture and marks on my "canvas"--similar to a painter using brush strokes to create marks in their paintings. My work marries the traditional and historical technique of stitching with contemporary abstract art.



“Color Collage #1” fabric collage 18”x20”

Daniel Leighton | Augmented Reality Visual Artist

Contact: dalart@danielleighton.com | email <http://www.danielleighton.com> | portfolio

My art is focused on the importance of identifying, expressing and acknowledging emotions. We all feel emotions and they impact us greatly, but they often go unacknowledged. To create my work, I combine my four primary areas of study: art, technology, film and the human condition. Synthesizing the old and new, I depict raw emotions using imagery, color, video, sound, animation and interactivity with high tech mediums like iPad and Augmented Reality. While many people see technology as an obstacle to connecting to their emotions. I see it as a gateway.



"On Trial" 2014 Acrylics on canvas 48"x35
with Augmented Reality app

Taylor Marie Lockett | Visual Artist

Contact: Taylorlockett7@gmail.com email

I am Taylor Marie, born in Mid City Los Angeles, CA. Painting allows me to trust myself completely; whatever comes it just flows and I do not question it; I do not over think it. When I step back to look at my work I have so much fun seeing what comes to fruition.

I believe to be an Artist is to be a leader. I find inspiration from all over. I love to learn and I love music, those are my two major inspirations. I approach my art as if I am a rapper spitting a freestyle. My paintings are my music

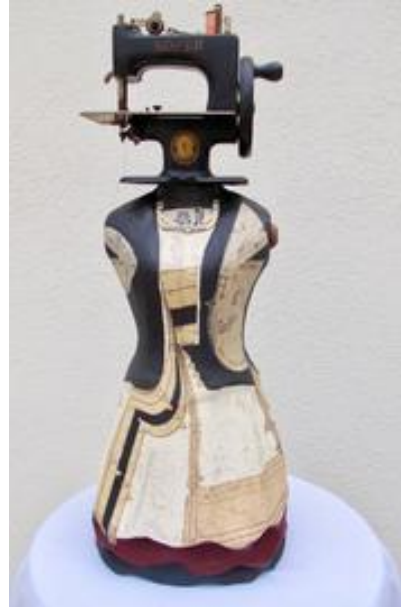


“Untitled” 2019 Acrylics on canvas

Susan Melly | Mixed Media Artist

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My work examines dynamic relationships between female identity, fashion, machines, sexuality and power. Expressionist influences are evident as each piece evolves with adjustments in color, perspective and architectural structure. Intrigued by the discovery of vintage dress patterns, sewing notions and industrial machines used by my seamstress mother during the Great Depression, I explore aspects of the sewing industry as metaphors for a changing society and feminist critique.



"The Singer" 2018 Mixed media with vintage 1940's Singer sewing machine and sound component that sings in Gaelic

Stu Needman | Assemblage Artist | Sculptor

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The daily hunt is ongoing for objects that call out to me. Booty from dumpsters, treasures left on the side of the road, salvage yards, out of the way swap meets, odd little shops scattered about. The possibilities swirling around the recesses of my mind to assemble these puzzles. The disparate artifacts gel into a concept, then my concept takes form as a sculpture.

My artistic goals include making art that provokes an interaction and thought without being heavy handed.



"Getting Ahead" 2018 Mixed media assemblage 52" X 31" X 48"

Susan C Price | Visual Artist | Wearable Art Designer

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I see ...something...I want to make a picture of it. This has been a part of who I am since early childhood.

I work from human models or people in photographs. I search for forms that interest my eye, sometimes related to the topic of the photograph. My attention is focused on aging beauty, odd shapes, and my family. I love bright, intense color and frequently start with that. Then, stuff happens... I try different colors, tones, lines, and try again...and again. Until some resulting pattern of shape and color pleases my eye: being (in some weird way) "balanced", with large to small and dark to light parts, intense ...but not all over



“Hurricane Maria” 2019 Acrylics on canvas 37”x36”

Lyle Everett Rushing | Visual Artist

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I create pieces that are reflective, contemplative snapshots of human experiences and natural elements. They celebrate the universality of the human experience while also investigating the ways in which black men are regarded while navigating through everyday life and emotions. They give visibility to the emotions often overlooked and not associated with masculinity at large and black male masculinity in particular. I like using rudimentary tools like charcoal and pastels. The connection of hand-to-tool-to-paper is very personal. Equally, I love the fluidity of acrylics and metallics. With many of the recent canvas pieces I have incorporated the spreading of gesso onto the canvas. I apply it in purely random strokes and allow the raised surfaces and patterns to incorporate themselves into the pieces. I create pieces with passion and with purpose. Sharing them is nonpareil!



“O wise One” 2018 acrylics on canvas,
36”x36”

Seda Saar | Visual Art | Sculpture Design

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Seda Saar is a Los Angeles-based artist and designer who has been working and exhibiting her work in US & overseas for almost three decades. Saar produces work in diverse media including painting, sculpture, as well as environmental design. Saar completed her undergraduate degree with honors in Interior Architecture from London Metropolitan University, in London, UK, where she grew up. Following opportunities and her love of visual storytelling, she relocated to the States, working as a production designer on award winning themed attractions, for major Hollywood studios. Saar's current work explores the physics of light and dimensional form, as well as interactive experiential design.



PRISM Solo Exhibit 2017 LA Artcore Los Angeles

Art Sims | CEO & Founder, 11:24 Design

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From the outside it looks easy: Art Sims skipped a couple of grades in elementary school, attended the prestigious Cass Technical High School in Detroit, earned a full ride to college, immediately scored a job in New York, then flew to LA, where, while still in his 20s, he bought a Mercedes, started his own company and gained the attention of directors such as Steven Spielberg and Spike Lee while crafting a unique identity in a big city. And the dynamic Sims encourages this perception—talking fast, listing upcoming projects, detailing personal goals and announcing what's wrong with America today. He's a whirlwind, a dynamo, a man of action.

And maybe a miracle. Dig deeper, and you find that Sims, an African American, worked very hard for to get where he is today as the founder and CEO of his own firm, [11:24 Design Advertising](http://www.1124design.com). Based in Los Angeles, the company is dedicated to promoting African-American art and culture as part of a larger mandate Sims dubs “urbanization,” which refers to the recognition and melding of disparate cultural and creative histories.



From the **Black Panther** theater lobby poster ad campaign

Young Yun Summers | Collage Artist

Contact: youngyunsummers@att.net email | [Visit Online portfolio](#)

I am known for the large collage works (as shown here), but I also draw and paint.

Human figures, faces, rocks, trees and clouds are some of my favorite subjects. Lately, mixed media abstract art has become an important part of my art making.

I believe in recycling. Often my ideas come from things that others consider trash.

I am a founding member of the Urban Crop Circle, the collaborative public art initiative. We have engaged the public to draw at various outdoors events, from streets to schools.



Hannibal Tabu | Comic Book Writer | Designer

Contact: hannibal@operative.net email | <http://hannibaltabu.com> | <http://operative.net> websites

With a strong politically aware undercurrent and a quest to balance storytelling with spectacle, the comic book work of Hannibal Tabu is grounded in developing the craft of writing and the fundamentals of characters. Working in superhero fiction, science fiction, speculative fiction, magical realism and fantasy, Hannibal has been published by Image Comics (makers of The Walking Dead), Aspen Comics (makers of Fathom and Soulfire), Stranger Comics (makers of Niobe: She Is Life) and New Paradigm Studios (Watson and Holmes). Hannibal's work emphasizes personal responsibility and (in the words of Stevie Wonder), to "keep hatred from the mighty, and the mighty from the small."

With two new free web comics available in 2017 (attached images), these themes get more room to shine. Hannibal emphasizes the struggle of accepting a plurality of beliefs in modern society in Menthu: The Anger of Angels (<http://tinyurl.com/theangerofangels>). Based in Los Angeles, it addresses the challenges of celebrity culture alongside the problems with an overly fundamentalist approach to faith. As well, Project Wildfire: Street Justice questions the superhero paradigm, questioning "saving" the world while injustice exists in the streets of a fictional southern city based on Memphis, TN (Hannibal's home town).



Vincent Tomczyk | Paper Sculpture

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Vincent Tomczyk has sought to alter the context of viewing by making paper reproductions of known objects. He engages the viewer by presenting biographies and intangible concepts via convincingly hyperreal sculptures. His work is not intended as a simple demonstration of skill, but to convey an intimate emotional experience.



“Denim Jacket” 2016 Paper Sculpture - although this sculpture is made out of paper it is a full size object

David A Valentine | Visual Artist

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For 30 years my work has blended digital and natural techniques to produce paintings, drawings and experimental animations about race, culture and gender.

Recently I began using mixed media on paper to make visual narratives about life in Los Angeles. My current work explores impressions of California wildfires.



"Burning Truck" 2019, from the Paradise Lost Series, Color pencils and inks on paper 13"x19"



If you are new to the LA Guest Artist Series and would like to program a contemporary artist to visit your classroom please, contact me to discuss your class schedule and curriculum goals.

David A Valentine

LA Guest Artist Series, founder

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