



## LA Guest Artist Series Report No 1 2020

The LA Guest Artist Series Newsletter has been branded as the *LA Guest Artist Series Report*. New artists have joined our team and another high school Art program has graciously allowed us to present to its students. Thanks to all of our participating artists and teachers during 2018 and 2019 who gave so much to Art students throughout the LA area. Also, special thanks to our donors whose generously supported our first public high school mural project in 2019.

David A Valentine, Founder  
LA Guest Artist Series

## Fall 2018

### View Park Preparatory High School

Crenshaw District | Los Angeles, CA

The newest school to join the LA Guest Artist Series (LAGA) was View Park Preparatory High School, an ICEP public charter school in the Crenshaw District. It was also the site of our first guest artist visit of the academic year. Art teacher Chloe Palmer welcomed landscape painter, Jeanne Dunn into her AP Art class. Jeanne uses depictions of California forests to draw us into an interior world of wonder and discovery. She showed slides of her career work, then she engaged student inquiries about her early figure work and the path it took her into meditative paintings of trees. Jeanne brought with her an evocative work sample, "Admonition" (below) which appears to create a portal into a woodland brimming with enchantment.



(Left to right) Art teacher, Chloe Palmer, Artist Jeanne Dunn and LA Guest Artist Series founder, David A Valentine.



“Admonition” from the Three Trees Series by Jeanne Dunn on display during her visit to View Park HS AP Art class.

LAGA returned to View Park HS in late September with multimedia artist, [Maija Beeton](#). She spoke to students about the importance of collaboration and the ability to share ideas in constructive endeavors like classroom Art projects. As a real life example, Maija brought in an artwork created by a group of people with little to no art background who worked under her supervision. The participants were divided into independent working groups who built their designs on previous completed sections of the piece. Maija encouraged students to step out of the comfort of solitary work and try collaborating on a drawing or painting.



Artist, Maija Beeton

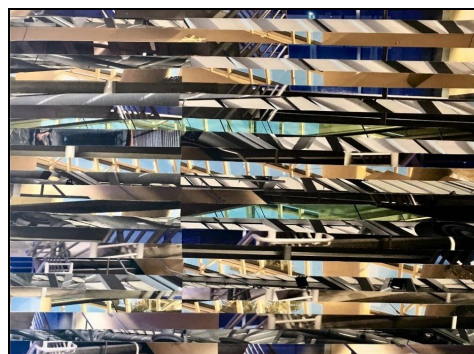


Artwork completed by a various participants

[David A Valentine](#), As impresario of LAGA, I usually don't present to students, but my opportunity came on Halloween in Chloe Palmer's early morning, 2nd Period Art class. I began with a slide survey of my paintings, digital art, and occasional graphic animation. I brought a sample artwork "Jacob's Ladder" that blends different images of staircases and escalators in a photo paper strip collage. I also showed a short experimental animation combining graffiti art with animated still images of subway cars in a virtual 3D environment entitled, "[Subways](#)". Afterwards, I gave advice about career opportunities in LA-based 4 year fine arts degree programs and certificate programs in art related fields for motion pictures. Below left, the title slide from my presentation and "Jacob's Ladder", photo paper strip collage on canvas, 22"x28" .

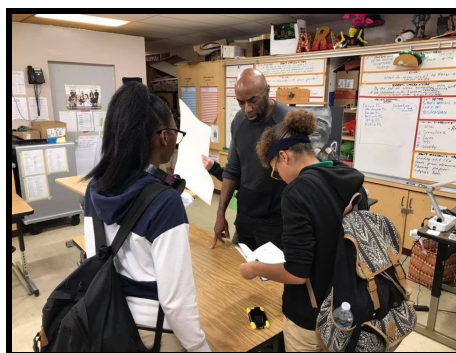
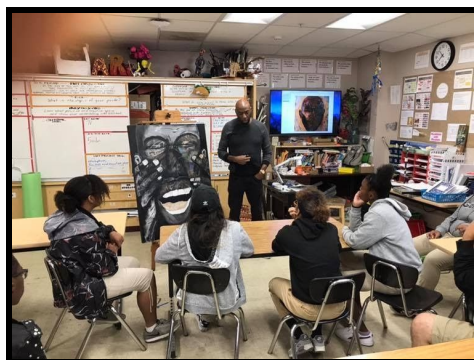


Title slide of my career presentation



"Jacob's Ladder" paper strip collage

[Lyle E Rushing](#) is an artist who uses avatars of himself as subjects to explore black masculinity and vulnerability in a society frequently hostile to African American men. His solo figures bring a range of painting materials together to create compelling compositions that command empathy from the viewer. Lyle brought one of his signature paintings from 2018 to share with AP Art students in Chloe Palmer's class two weeks before Thanksgiving. Students also shared selections of their finished classroom drawings and paintings with Lyle and listened to his critiques of their efforts.



Lyle Rushing presenting, and later critiquing a student's drawing from her journal.

Natasha June, internationally acknowledged visual artist rounded out the Fall 2018 program at View Park High School with a very lively discussion of her drawing techniques, especially her preference for charcoal sticks on large rolls of paper. Most students expressed a dislike for charcoal as a “messy” medium difficult to control. Natasha pointed out how the medium’s flaws were turned to her advantage by brushing away particles to reveal patterns which she manipulated with diluted oil paint. Many girl students strongly identified with Natasha’s investigations of self- image, beauty and owning one’s own power.



A charcoal and oils drawing and Natasha presenting to Chloe Palmer’s AP Art class.

## Winter/Spring 2019

### Maywood Center for Enriched Studies

Maywood, California

Our first artist/teacher meeting took place in early February between NBCT Art teacher, Sonia Hanson and artist, [Susan C Price](#). The brainstorming centered around the Abstract painting units Sonia intended to introduce in the Spring and how Susan’s *Creative Destructive* approach to painting might coincide. Susan suggested a two session visit beginning in March with a color mixing and basic abstract painting exercise. In April, Susan would follow up with another painting exercise using student work from the previous session.



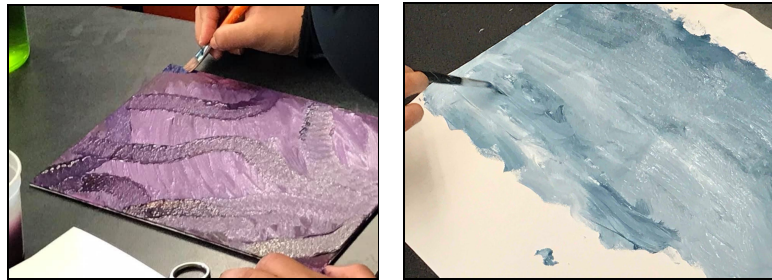
Susan C Price conferring with Sonia Hanson,



“Motel 1” Susan Price, acrylic on paper, 40”x40”



On March 6, 2019 Susan introduced the class to her *Creative Destruction* Abstract painting style where she alternately obscures and reveals different elements in her work like color fields, figure contours and patterns. To demonstrate, she tasked each student to mix and apply two acrylic colors together and apply them to a section of a canvas panel. The only caveat was one of the colors in the mix had to be an unfamiliar or “ugly” color. They repeated the process with a second pair of colors until the canvas was completely painted.



Student examples of painting with mixed combinations on the same canvas.

At her follow up visit in April, Susan asked students to retrieve their previous paintings and selectively paint over them with patterns and contours using the same color mixing strategies as before. At first, students were reluctant to “mess up” their earlier efforts, but as the exercise continued they began to embrace the process with enthusiasm and unexpected results.



Examples of color patterns and figure contours applied over previously painted panels.

## Los Angeles Senior High School

Mid-City | Los Angeles, California

National Board Certified Teacher, Carrie Hoff is the Art teacher at LA High. She wanted to initiate a multi-session student led mural project on several public area campus walls. She asked if LAGA had an experienced Public Art Artist. I sent her links to [Maija Beeton's](#) projects with Culver City High School and UCLA students.

On February 21, Maija Beeton met for a brainstorming session with Carrie and her teaching assistant about a plan to have a series of artist-supervised, student designed murals. Maija made a case for allowing students to use original stencil designs to be



embedded into each mural theme. Carrie intended to introduce Expressionism in March and wondered if Maija had any samples of Expressionist influenced work. Maija said she would bring in a piece from her *Housewives and Dinosaurs Series* as an example of a contemporary response to Expressionist style. They agreed on a time table for the murals and Maija would introduce multiple messaging through stencils during her initial visit. The project would begin in March and continue through May.

Maija Beeton (left) conferring with teacher assistant, Emma (center) and Art teacher, Carrie Hoff (right) on ideas about the mural project, stencils and Expressionism.



One of four public area campus walls to be painted. Maija Beeton's "Housewives and Dinosaurs"

At her initial class visit on March 25th, Maija showed samples of her multimedia career work before introducing artwork exposing messages within messages through stencils. This prompted student discussion about how they might incorporate embedded messaging ideas with stencils in hypothetical mural designs. For her follow up visit Maija challenged students to come up with four mutually agreed upon mural concepts. In the interim Carrie would introduce her stencil design unit and examples of public art traditions in Los Angeles.



On April 23rd, Maija Beeton returned to Carrie Hoff's, Introduction to Art class where she guided students in paint mixing and stencil techniques.

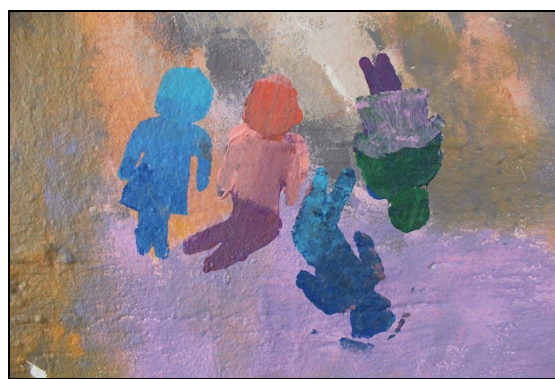
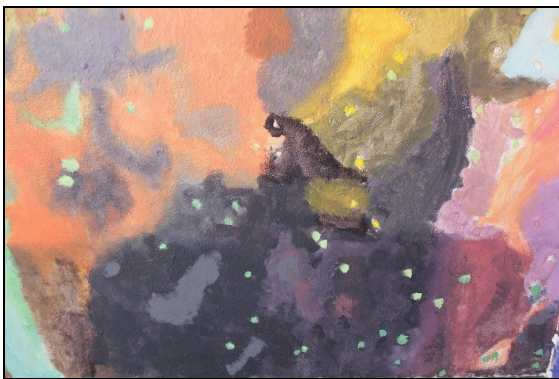
Students settled on four mural ideas. Under Carrie's supervision, they formed into four design and four painting teams to execute the murals. Maija supervised overall painting progress and student divisions of labor.



A May 3rd progress report on a mural pair taking shape. Maija holds an illustration of the digitally painted design for the left wall.



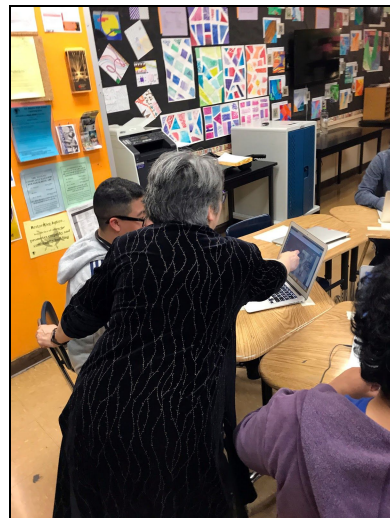
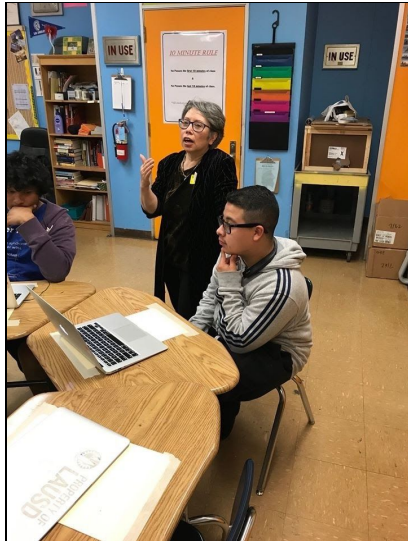
Just before finals, *Speak Your Mind* nears completion with extensive stencil work.



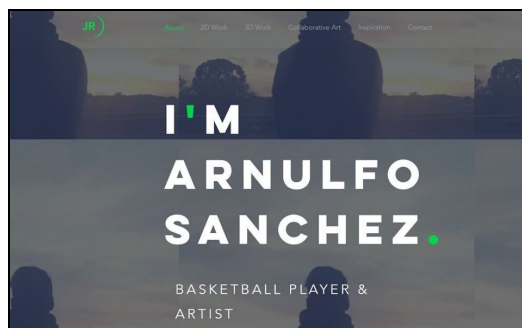
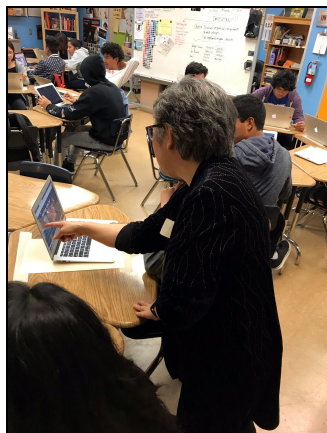
(Above) Detail of *Milky Way* stars and gas clouds (Below) Stencil figures..



On April 2nd, web design professional, [Ann Zumwinkle](#) of Zumwinkle.com graciously consented to address Carrie Hoff's Art class on web design best practices. Earlier in March, each student learned to build a web page to highlight their academic and personal accomplishments. Ann showed them real world examples of web designs her company created for various corporate clients. Later, Ann critiqued student webpage designs on their laptops while the students adjusted their content in response.



Ann Zumwinkle working with individual students on their web pages.



Example of a student's welcome page

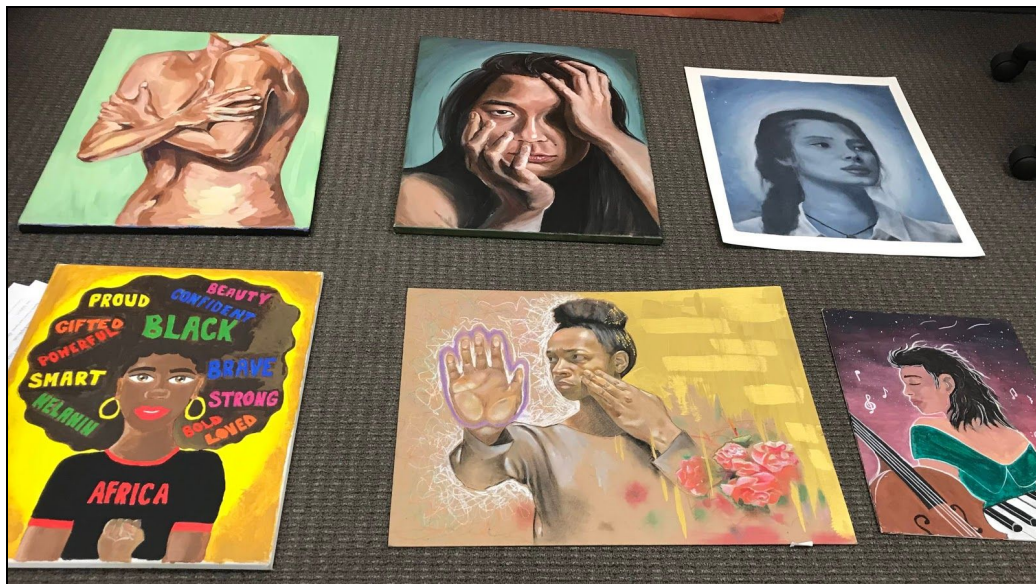
## Career Day at View Park High School



On May 1st, I was invited to address a classroom full of students on the topic of “Creativity and Collaboration: Living An Artist’s Life Even If You’re Not An Artist”

View Park Student Councilor, **Latrica Cooper** reached out to me to participate in the school’s first Annual Career Development Day event. I gave a talk to a mix of 25 sophomores, juniors and seniors on the life skills of learning to bring creative approaches to problem solving, which is an essential skill in the life of an artist.

## California 37th Congressional District Art Competition



Metaphor Club | Los Angeles, California

Each year members of the United States Congress hold a Student Art Competition and Exhibition among high schools within their Districts. Congressmember Karen Bass (Democrat)

representing the California 37th Congressional District in the House of Representatives assembled a panel of arts educators, supporters and visual artists from throughout her district to jury 150 student Art entries for this year's competition. Out of that pool, 12 finalists were selected to compete for 1st Prize and runners up. 2019's winning artwork was painted by Norma Sanchez, a senior at Crenshaw High School. She and her parents received an all expenses paid three days, two nights trip to Washington, DC as Congressmember Bass's guests. They attended a special ceremony in the Capitol Building where Norma's painting was installed among the halls of the United States Congress. This year's exhibition was held at the gallery space of the Metaphor Club in the commercial heart of the Crenshaw District.



Recipients of Certificates of Appreciation for participating as jurors in the 2019 37th Congressional Art Competition and Exhibition are (from left to right) David A Valentine, founder LAGA, Lisa and Steve Vasquez owners Cooking with Gabby Catering, Congressmember Karen Bass (center), Art Sims, CEO of 1124 Design and Presley Burroughs, CalTrans.



Crenshaw High School senior, Norma Sanchez, this year's winner of the 37th District Congressional Art Competition. pictured with her winning entry, "Que Dios Este Contigo", Congressmember Karen Bass and Art teacher, Ronda Brown.

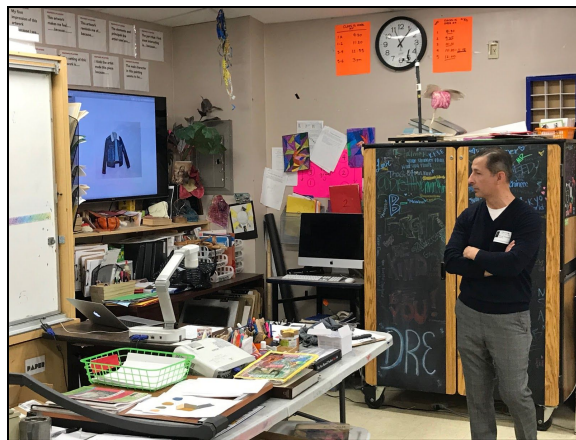
## Fall 2019

### View Park High School

Crenshaw District | Los Angeles, California

LAGA began the 2019-2020 academic year at View Park High School with paper sculpture artist, [Vincent Tomczyk](#) who creates life size replicas of furniture and clothing from paper. Vincent's objects embody narratives about his family, celebrities and ordinary people. Though not formally trained as an artist, he grew up reading about art from the books his mother brought

home from work. His craft making skills were passed on to him by his father, and he learned about various grades of paper from his experiences working in book design houses. Vincent visited Ms Palmer's AP Art class accompanied by what appeared to be a blue denim jacket with brass buttons and a white fur collar. In actuality it was his sample artwork he brought in for students to examine after his presentation.



"Blue Denim Jacket", a life size paper sculpture Vincent explaining his work

Students inquired about the various grades of paper used to create the *Blue Denim Jacket*. Vincent replied the paper was cardboard, the kind you usually find in packaging supporting new shirts at retail stores. The trick is manipulating the cardboard to conform to shapes the artist requires. Another student asked why he chose to create this particular jacket? Vincent related how he saw TV news video footage of a Central American asylum seeker lined up at a border crossing wearing a blue denim jacket with white fur around the collar. He was moved to make a statement about immigration policy and what lengths human beings will go to find a safe place for themselves and their families.

[Susan C Price](#), In addition to her magnificent abstract paintings, Susan designed a series of *Memory Boxes* containing small drawings, objects and photographs of departed friends and family members. Borrowing directly from the Mexican *Dia de los muertos* tradition Susan used brightly painted shoe boxes to house her memorials. She brought in a selection of them for Chloe Palmer's AP Art class focusing on how one can encompass memory in an aesthetic object. Susan took time to describe the significance of every item in each box and why she placed it there. Another source of inquiry was the color scheme of each box. Susan admitted to a little cultural appropriation but in her mind it was appropriate as she always celebrates *Dia de los muertos* by baking skeleton shaped challah bread in remembrance of departed loved ones. At the end of the session one of the students thanked Susan and said she was the most personally moving artist she'd encountered.



Susan C Price presenting her *Memory Boxes*



Dia de los muertos challah bread by Susan C Price



Susan answers questions about the box contents

## Los Angeles High School

Mid City | Los Angeles, CA

[Sandra Lauterbach](#) is an internationally renowned textile artist who came to her craft after establishing a successful career as an attorney. But as it happened, fine fabrics play an integral part in her family's history. For three generations, from Eastern Europe to America, her ancestors traded in textiles and fine linens; so, it comes as no surprise that Sandra approaches her art from a textile perspective.

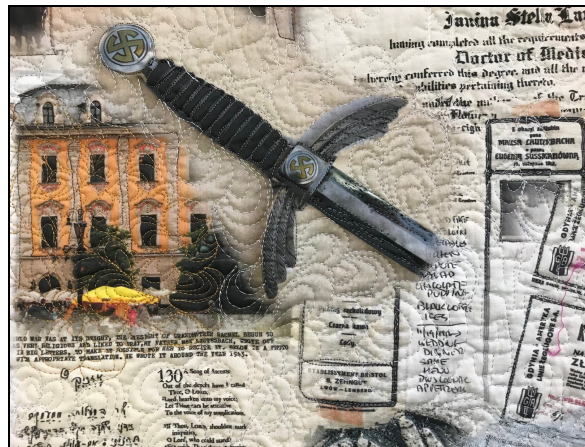
Art teacher, Carrie Hoff's Sculpture class is graced with an extensive collection of sewing machines and reams of donated fabrics. The class had begun a unit on knitting and quilting when Sandra presented her career work expanding student notions of what kind of Art can be done by combining sewing, quilting and image manipulation. "Using fabric is my way of applying paint to canvas," she remarked. It also allows her to create compelling narratives about personal histories in a tactile way that transcends paint.



Sandra Lauterbach presenting slides of her work “Under My Skin”, family history quilt.

Sandra’s oeuvre contains figurative and abstract designs that blend mixed media and digital image imprints on fabric which allows her to make unique testaments about her ethnicity and heritage.

At the conclusion of her presentation students gathered around a large table where three of her work samples were spread out for a lively Q&A.



Sandra Lauterbach leads a class discussion on elements in her work samples. A detail from “Under My Skin”, a chronicle in textile of her parents and great grandparents experiences in Europe.

[Vincent Tomczyk](#) rounded out the theme of hand made dimensional objects imbued with historical narratives about family and ethnicity with an insightful discussion about the problems of making an object so realistic that its “ordinariness” fails to communicate the potential for being something more. A student asked him if he ever considered creating two dimensional objects or framed paintings as a way to heighten its meaning. Vincent said he was actively experimenting with such approaches.



Vincent Tomczyk discussing the unexpected consequences of creating a paper object so realistic it appears to viewers as 'too ordinary' to be of any aesthetic significance.

Please consider donating a gift in any amount to support our artists who spend extra hours working on student projects. This year our goal is to create a \$2,500 stipend and mileage reimbursement fund. The **LA Guest Artist Series** is a sponsored project of **Fractured Atlas**, a non-profit arts service organization. Contributions for the charitable purposes of **LA Guest Artists** must be made payable to **Fractured Atlas**, only and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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Thank you,  
David Valentine, Founder LAGuest Artist Series

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