



CONNECTING LA CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS WITH ART STUDENTS IN LA HIGH SCHOOLS

Newsletter | Spring-Summer 2017

A Very Successful Year



by [David A Valentine](#) Founder, LA Guest Artists Series

The LA Guest Artist Series has concluded its first full academic year and what a great year it has been! Our Artist Roster now includes 24 local artists, while the Guest Artist program partnered with four teachers in three new LA area high schools. I would like to honor everyone who participated in the LA Guest Artist Series this term with a summary of our activities.

Hamilton High School October/November 2016

We began the Fall 2016 semester as we have in the past with Mr. ObaroEne



Otitigbe's (Mr. O) afterschool art class at Hamilton High School. The LA Guest Artist Series began with Mr. O (left with artist, Susan C Price) in October 2015. He graciously volunteered to allow a handful of local artists to present to his students. This year the class witnessed a more diverse set of contemporary art practices from figure painting to installation art and advertising campaigns for motion pictures. Participating artists included [Jodi Bonassi](#), [SP Harper](#), [Susan C Price](#), [Art Sims](#), [Young Yun Summers](#), [Karen Frimkess-Wolff](#), and

[Vincent Tomczyk](#). Thank you, Mr. O for continuing to support LA Guest Artists.

Los Angeles High School February - April 2017



Sonia Hanson and Carrie Chliyah (left), the [ICAP](#) program art instructors at LA High were eager to work with LA Guest Artists. They conceived a series of semester long visual arts units that would benefit from participation by contemporary artists. The teaching units centered around Narratives in Painting, Wearable Art and Art from Non-Traditional Materials. Each teacher used our Artist Roster to hand-pick individuals to brainstorm and strategize on the best ways to conform their work with the goals of each art class. The artists invited to present their career work and collaborate on specific teaching units were:

- [Jodi Bonassi](#) and [Natasha June](#), Portrait Drawing Unit
- [Richard Bruland](#), [SP Harper](#) and [Young Yun Summers](#) Collage, Composition Shape Balance
- [Brittany Davis](#), Museum Studies Unit
- [Susan Melly](#), Painting Inspired by the Sewing Process
- [Susan C Price](#), Color Unit and Fine Art as Apparel
- [Stu Needman](#), Found Objects and Assemblage Techniques
- [Vincent Tomczyk](#), [Urban Crop Circle](#) Paper Art Unit
- [Karen Frimkess-Wolff](#), Installation Strategies

Marilyn Aquino, one of Sonia Hanson's students whose portrait study, *Glowing Passenger* (below left) was included in the LA High Student Art Show, also became a finalist in the Congressional Art Exhibition sponsored by Congressmember Karen Bass (Democrat, CA 37th District).



Examples of work from the LA High Student Art Show

Humanitas Academy of Art & Technology (HAAT) April 2017



The Humanitas Academy of Art & Technology (HAAT) on the campus of Esteban E Torres High School in East Los Angeles is one of several distinct academies dedicated to the arts and humanities. [Ann Zumwinkle](#) from Urban Crop Circle connected me with Adriana Yugovich (left with writer, Hannibal Tabu) who teaches Art from the perspective of digital technology. She approached the Artist Roster looking for artists whose work included digital imaging techniques. Also, many of her 25 seniors

were involved in writing and illustrating their own comic books and graphic novels as extra curricular projects. She chose three candidates to present to her class:

- [Eve Chayse Lyman](#), photo/video artist who recently had a stunning solo show at [Gallery 825](#) of photographs and video documenting the people of Afghanistan.
- [Luigia Martelloni](#), Mixed media and video artist who also had a thoroughly engaging solo show at Gallery 825 tracing her personal journey as an artist using arboreal photographs and found natural artifacts from the cities she lived in.
- [Hannibal Tabu](#), independent comic book writer and one of the founding principals of Operative.net a development production company serving the comic book industry.

Unavoidable schedule changes prevented Eve Chayse Lyman and Luigia Martelloni from presenting at HAAT this term. However, Hannibal Tabu's dynamic presentation yielded a treasure trove of information about the opportunities and difficulties artists of color can encounter in today's comic book industry. Afterwards, enthusiastic students queued up to

have Mr. Tabu critique their comic art and graphic novel portfolios. Thanks, Adriana for the thoroughly warm reception.



Hannibal Tabu during his inspiring presentation to seniors at HAAT.

School of Visual Arts and Humanities (SVAH) May 2017

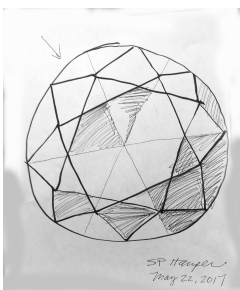


The School of Visual Arts and Humanities is located within the Robert F Kennedy Learning Center, one of many primary and secondary schools on the site of the old Ambassador Hotel in Koreatown. Art teacher, Janet Yoo heard about the LA Guest Artist Series through the CA 37th District Congressional Art Competition where I volunteered as a juror. Even though there were only a couple weeks before finals at SVAH, Janet wanted to have at least one artist from the Roster present to her students. She

chose [SP Harper](#) whose complex and colorful collage paintings reference the design of premium cut diamonds. Recently one of her paintings graced the cover of *Artforum Magazine*.

In addition to her slides SP brought a small sample work (show above) which from the moment she placed it on a nearby table students flocked around to marvel at its intricate facets designed to simulate complex light refractions on canvas.

As an in-class assignment SP modelled how to draw a cut diamond design (below) with pencil and paper under a Digital Reader, so the students could see and follow her technique in real time from the overhead projection screen. We look forward to returning to SVAH next term.



Cut diamond pencil design



Janet Yoo & SP Harper

New Artists and Teachers for Spring 2017

We are happy to welcome the following artists to the LA Guest Artist Roster

[Lili Bernard](#), Visual artist and actor

[Jeanne Dunn](#), Visual artist

[Eve Chayes Lyman](#), Visual artist

[Luigia Martelloni](#), Visual artist

[D. Stevens](#), Feature Filmmaker and Photographer

[Hannibal Tabu](#), Comic book writer and entrepreneur

Thanks to all of you for your commitment to this program. I would also like to thank our new art teacher/collaborators who welcomed us into their classrooms this Spring:

Carrie Chliyeh, Los Angeles Senior High School

Sonia Hanson, Los Angeles Senior High School

Janet Yoo, School of Visual Arts and Humanities at the RFK Learning Center

Adriana Yugovich, Humanitas Academy of Art and Technology

We are grateful for the opportunities to share our process and passion with your students.

Finally, I wish to extend my profound appreciation to everyone who was able to participate in the Guest Artist Series this academic year. I understand events in our lives sometimes intervene to redirect our energies or an illness occurs. Nevertheless, thank you for your commitment and I look forward to being able to work with you in the future. Have a wonderful and productive Summer, everyone!

David A Valentine, Founder

LA Guest Artist Series

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