



# JAMES GAYLES, JR

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## ARTIST BIO

I am a passionate fine artist (painting & mixed media), illustrator, graphic designer, musician, teacher, and father. I am committed to cultivating artists, liberating experiences of the African and Black Diaspora through art and sharing my work with the world. My vision is to put beautiful, uplifting, and enlightening work out in the world and to inspire young and upcoming artists. I see art as a vehicle to educate, by portraying ancestral icons who youth and all people can be proud of and admire. I take things that are obscure and bring them to the open.

Music, history, culture, - together these elements are magical and form the world in which we live. I'm interested in what lies beneath, the hidden story, the truth – this is why I concentrate on the eyes, they are indeed the windows to the soul. After deep examination of my and current work, I've concluded that there is a central theme that has ran and is still running throughout my life and my artwork. This theme is the search for cultural identity. Growing up as a child in the 1950's which by the way was when I started painting in elementary school, my cultural identity was either taken from me or worst grossly distorted. This led to the development of an inferiority complex during that period of my life. Subsequently I am subconsciously drawn to the cultures of African cultures and people of the African Diaspora. This drive is manifested in my artwork.

## EDUCATION

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1966-70	BA in Painting, Pratt Institute, Attended four years toward BA degree, Advisors: Jacob Lawrence and Audrey Buckley	New York, NY
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## EXHIBITIONS

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### SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2021	<i>Portraits Plus More</i> , Reno Art Works Gallery	Reno, NV
2019	<i>Reflections II</i> , Oakstop Gallery	Oakland, CA
2018	<i>In Living Color: Intersection of Art, Civil Rights &amp; Pop Culture</i> , Six Square Gallery	Austin, TX
2016	<i>Artist Closing Reception</i> , Spice Monkey Restaurant	Oakland, CA
2015-16	<i>Reflections in Watercolor</i> , Kroma Art Space, Art Basel Miami	Coconut Grove, FL
2014	<i>Reflections</i> , Oakstop Gallery	Oakland, CA
2014	<i>Face Value</i> , CK Gallery	Oakland, CA
2012	<i>Essence of Identity</i> , Oakland Asian Cultural Center	Oakland, CA
2012	<i>Roots and Branches</i> , Evolve The Gallery	Sacramento, CA
2012	<i>Essence of Identity</i> , Fukuoka Museum	Fukuoka, Japan
2012	<i>Ancestral Melodies</i> , Richmond Art Center	Richmond, CA
2011	<i>Latin JazzMasters</i> , JanRae Community Gallery	Oakland, CA

2011	<i>Legacy</i> , Linen Life Gallery	San Leandro, CA
2011	<i>Old &amp; New</i> , Guerilla Gallery	Berkeley, CA
2010	<i>Reflections in Jazz</i> , Piedmont Piano Company	Oakland, CA
2010	<i>Impressions</i> , Asian Resource Center Gallery	Oakland, CA
2010	<i>The Look of Jazz</i> , Harrington Gallery Firehouse Art Center	Pleasanton, CA
2009	<i>It Happened in Our Lifetime</i> , Cock-A-Doodle Café	Oakland, CA
2009	<i>Abstracts</i> , Lindsay Dirks Brown Gallery	San Ramon, CA
2008	<i>JazzMasters</i> , Swarm Gallery	Oakland, CA
2008	<i>Blues &amp; JazzMasters</i> , San Ramon Library	San Ramon, CA
2008	<i>Sacred Feminine</i> , NoneSuch Space Gallery	Oakland, CA
2008	<i>African Diaspora – A Trilogy</i> , Market Street Gallery	Oakland, CA
2007	<i>20 Year Retrospective</i> , Joyce Gordon Gallery	Oakland, CA
2007	<i>Sargent Johnson Works</i> , African American Art & Culture Complex	San Francisco, CA
2006	<i>Diversity Council Exhibit</i> , JFK University	Pleasant Hill, CA
2006	<i>The Art of Living Black</i> , Cock-A-Doodle Café	Oakland, CA
2006	<i>BluesMasters</i> , City of Oakland Cultural Arts Gallery	Oakland, CA
2005	<i>Roots and Branches</i> , Gallery at Thoreau, The Presidio	San Francisco, CA
2004	<i>Multifaceted</i> , Joysmith Gallery	Memphis, TN
2003	Pro Arts Quarterly at Latham Square	Oakland, CA
2002	Richmond Health Center	Richmond, CA
2001	Ethnic Notions Gallery	Benicia, CA
2000	Brewberries Café	Oakland, CA
1996	Metropolitan Transportation Commission	Oakland, CA
1989	Metropolitan Transportation Commission	Oakland, CA
1979	Le Café Restaurant	New Paltz, NY

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020-21	<i>Art of the African Diaspora</i> , Richmond Art Center	Richmond, CA
2015	<i>Art of the Blues</i> , Sun Gallery	Hayward, CA
2013	<i>Transformative Visions</i> , Studio One Art Center	Oakland, CA
2011	<i>ReAwaken: Uso y Cultura (style and culture)</i> , Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery, Guest Curators, Eric Murphy and Gabriel Navar	Oakland, CA
2011	<i>Transformative Visions</i> , Studio One Art Center, Organized by OneLife Institute	Oakland, CA
2011	<i>Reclaiming our History</i> , African American Art & Culture Complex	San Francisco, CA
2011	<i>Made in America</i> , Evolve the Gallery,	Sacramento, CA
2010	<i>Sargent Johnson Gallery</i> , Fela Kuti	San Francisco, CA
2010	<i>The Look of Jazz</i> , Harrington Galleries	San Francisco, CA
2010	<i>LIFE: The Expressions of Living</i> , Adobe Art Gallery	Castro Valley, CA
2009	<i>Body and Soul</i> , JanRae Community Art Gallery, Women's Cancer	Oakland, CA

	Resource Center	
2008	<i>Reflections by the Bay</i> , Modern Art Gallery	San Francisco, CA
2008	<i>All That Jazz</i> , The JanRae Community Art Gallery of the Women's Cancer Resource Center	Berkeley, CA
2008	<i>Cultural Connections</i> , City of Oakland Cultural Arts Gallery	Oakland, CA
2007	<i>The Little Show</i> , Swarm Gallery	Oakland, CA
2007	<i>Environments</i> , Space 237 Art Gallery	Toledo, OH
2007	<i>Purple Holiday</i> , Electix Gallery	El Cerrito, CA
2007	<i>Juried Annual Show</i> , Pro Arts Gallery,	Oakland, CA
2007	<i>Coming Home to Roost</i> , Cock-A-Doodle Café	Oakland, CA
2007	<i>The Art of Living Black 2007</i> , Richmond Art Center	Richmond, CA
2007	<i>Celebrating Our Own</i> , African American Museum & Library of Oakland	Oakland, CA
2007	<i>Biennial Statewide Watercolor Exhibition</i> , Triton Museum of Art	Santa Clara, CA
2006	<i>Through the Eye of the Artist</i> , Expressions Gallery	Berkeley, CA.
2005	<i>The National Black Fine Arts Show</i> , The Puck Building, Soho	New York, N.Y.
2005	<i>The Art of Living Black 2005</i> , Richmond Art Center	Richmond, CA
2005	Sargent Johnson Gallery	San Francisco, CA
2004	<i>Group Exhibition</i> , FM Studios	Emeryville, CA
2004	<i>Maafa: Trail of Bones</i> , June Steingart Gallery, Laney College	Oakland, CA
2004	<i>We3: New Visions</i> , San Pablo Arts Gallery	San Pablo, CA
2004	<i>Go Figure</i> , Women's Cancer Resource Center Gallery	Berkeley, CA
2004	<i>The Art of Living Black 2004</i> , Richmond Art Center	Richmond, CA
2004	<i>Creation 2004</i> , African American Historical & Cultural Museum	San Francisco, CA
2003	<i>New Visions: Introductions 03</i> , Pro Arts Gallery	Oakland, CA
2003	<i>The Art of Living Black 2003</i> , Richmond Art Center	Richmond, CA
2003	<i>Creation 2003</i> , African American Historical & Cultural Museum	San Francisco, CA
2003	<i>Biennial Statewide Watercolor Exhibition</i> , Triton Museum of Art	Santa Clara, CA
2002	<i>Juried Annual Show</i> , Pro Arts Gallery	Oakland, CA
2002	<i>The Art of Living Black 2002</i> , Richmond Art Center	Richmond, CA
2001	<i>Biennial Statewide Watercolor Exhibition</i> , Triton Museum of Art	Santa Clara, CA
2000	<i>Miniatures</i> , Monterey Museum of Art	Monterey, CA
1995	<i>African Diaspora</i> , African American Historical & Cultural Museum, Juried by Samela Lewis	San Francisco, CA
1990	CVA Gallery, Lilian Paley Center for the Visual Arts	Oakland, CA

#### COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2021	<i>Portraits Plus More: A Collaborative Process</i> , Reno Art Works	Reno, NV
2020	<i>St. Andrews Plaza Superheroes Mural Project</i> , attitudinal Healing Connection, Bay Area Mural Program	Oakland, CA

2018	<i>A Love Letter to Oakland</i> , 2018 Oakland Mural Festival	Oakland, CA
2003	<i>Kaleidoscope</i> , Bay Area Muralists, Craft & Cultural Arts Gallery -	Oakland, CA
2003	<i>Everything Under the Sun</i> , Marin Watercolor Society Show, Tiburon Town Hall	Tiburon, CA
1993	<i>Art in Public Places Project</i> , Mayor's Office	Oakland, CA

## COMMISSIONED WORK

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2011	Alameda County Art Commission– Commissioned to do 4 paintings as public art for the New Ashland Youth Center
2006	Alameda County Art Commission – Commissioned to do 4 paintings as public art for the newly built Juvenal Justice Center
1998	Public Art Commission, City of Oakland, Crafts and Cultural Arts Department Outdoor mural for the newly built Bushrod Recreation Center, Oakland, CA.

## GRANTS, AWARDS & HONORS

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2019	Alameda County Arts Leadership Award, Alameda County Art Commission, Oakland, CA
2016	Voter's Choice for Best Artist, East Bay Express, Oakland CA
2013	Selected for the Public Art display at Fukuoka Park, Fukuoka, Japan
2012	Selected to represent Oakland and Oakland Art in the Fukuoka-Oakland artist cultural exchange, Fukuoka, Japan
2011	1st Place Illustration Award, East Bay Press Club
2010	City of Oakland, Crafts and Cultural Arts, Individual Artist Grant
2009	1st Place Illustration Award, California Newspaper Publishers' Association
2008	City of Richmond Civic Center Public Art Project, Painting selected for public art
2007	City of Oakland, Crafts and Cultural Arts, Individual Artist Grant
2004	City of Oakland, Crafts and Cultural Arts, Individual artist Grant
2003	Jan Hart-Shyers Award 2003, The Art of Living Black
2003	1st Place Illustration Award, California Newspaper Publishers' Award
1980	Television Emmy Award, For design and illustration, NBC-TV
1979	N.Y. Art Directors Creativity Award for an Editorial Illustration for the New York Times

## PUBLISHED WORKS

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2019	<i>Reflections 2: The Creative Process</i> , Pochino Press
2014	<i>Reflections</i> , Pochino Press

## MEDIA

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### PRINT MEDIA

- 2019, August *Meet Carol White*, Art Magazine, Volume 25, pp. 3-4
- 2016-17 *The Best of James Gayles, Print Series*, Alameda County Arts Commission
- 2015, June *An Artist, Her Pants, and the World*, Art and Culture, pp. 9-11
- 2012-13 *Public Art Exhibit Catalog*, Alameda County Arts Commission Catalog
- 2011-12 *Public Art Exhibit Catalog*, Richmond Memorial Civic Center Revitalization Project
- 2011 *The Art of James Gayles*, ImagineAffairs, Berkeley CA
- 2010 *Life Expressions of Living, Synchronized Chaos*, The December Issue of Synchronized Chaos: Internalization
- 2007 *Black Arts Quarterly*, featured artist, Winter Issue, Stanford University
- 2006 *Artist Profile and Interview*, Soul Magazine, Fall Issue # 15
- 2006, April *Exhibition Review*, The Daily Review, Hayward
- 2006, April *Exhibition Review*, Oakland Tribune
- 2005 *Artist Profile and Interview*, Tea Party Magazine, Fall Issue # 15
- BluesMasters Catalog*, Exhibit Catalog
- Black Artists in Oakland*, Book, Arcadia Press
- Exhibit Catalog*, Alameda County Arts Commission Catalog

### WEB FEATURES

- 2014 *James Gayles and His Book Reflections*, Oakland North, Berkeley, CA
- 2004 *Crossing Bridges*, CBS MarketWatch.com, San Francisco, CA
- 2003 *Crossing Bridges*, CBS MarketWatch.com, San Francisco, CA

## AFFILIATIONS & POSITIONS HELD

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### TEACHING & INSTRUCTION

- 2021 Art Instructor, Reno Art Works, Reno, NV
- 2020 Art Instructor, Sierra Arts Academy, Sierra Arts Foundation, Reno, NV
- Fine Arts Instructor, The JanRae Community Art Gallery, Berkeley, CA
- Art Instructor, Pentecostal Way of Truth Academy, Oakland, CA

### ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

- 2021-current Reno Art Works, Reno NV
- 2020 Oakland Artists Gallery, Oakland, CA
- Oakstop, Oakland, CA
- Pro Arts Gallery and Commons, Oakland, CA
- 57<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery, Oakland, CA

Swarm Gallery + Studios, Oakland, CA  
Richmond Arts Center, Richmond, CA

## APPOINTMENTS

2008-current Visual Artist, Local 365 Art and Music Collaborative  
2000-current Fine Artist (Painter) & Graphic Artist, East Bay Newspaper Group  
1998-2010 Illustrator, ANG Newspapers, Oakland, CA  
1980-1996 Graphic Design and Fine Artist, Oakland, CA  
1972-1980 Assistant News Graphics Director, NewsCenter 4, NBC-TV, New York, NY

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2007 Member, Board of Directors, ArtsChange, Richmond, CA  
Juror, The Art of Living Black  
Member, African American Museum & Library of Oakland Coalition, Oakland, CA  
Public Art and Artist Grant Panels, City of Oakland Cultural Arts, Oakland, CA  
Member, Marin Watercolor Society, Tiburon, CA  
Member, Pleasanton Art League, Pleasanton, CA  
Chair, Communication Committee, Oakland Marketing Board, Oakland, CA  
Member, California Lawyers for the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
Member, African American Business Exchange  
Visiting Artist, MediaNews Group

## SELECTED ILLUSTRATIONS & COLLECTIONS

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### ILLUSTRATIONS

McGraw-Hill  
Random House  
Essence Magazine  
Black Enterprise Magazine

### COLLECTIONS

Alameda Arts Commission  
Bay Area Blues Society  
Carlos Santana  
City of Oakland Cultural Arts  
Hill & Co., Communications  
Judge Trina Thompson  
Richmond Health Center  
Siebert, Branford, Shanks & Co.  
Yoshi's