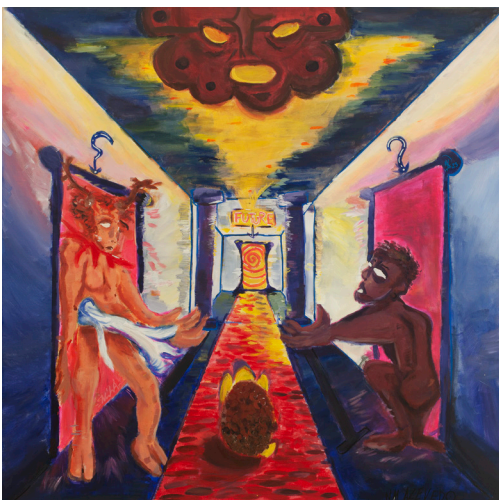
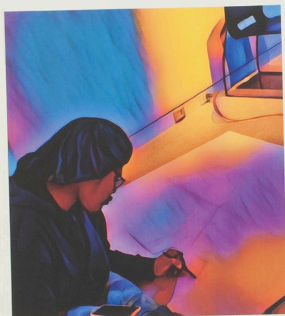
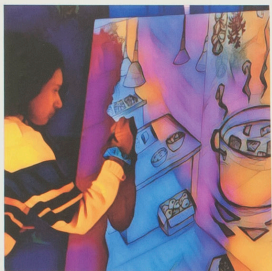




**Sharing Our View:
25th Anniversary
Art of Storytelling**





John P. Baker



J. Cooper

John Baker

Artist, curator, art & museum educator

Sharing Our View (1998) curator

In 1998, I organized the exhibition *Sharing Our View* at the Burchfield Penney Art Center to celebrate local African American visual artists of the past, present, and future. The concept was conceived after many discussions with artists, some of whom are no longer with us, about art, artists, and the community. How do we as black artists achieve respect, equality, and inclusion in the art community? With their shared experiences it was questioned why we are continuing to reinvent the wheel. How do we recognize the contributions of talented artists and artwork held in high regard by members of the community within the city's established arts and cultural institutions? The title *Sharing Our VIEW* represented a way to address these questions and share the diverse work of the featured artists with larger audiences.

Recreating the exhibition 25 years later shows how far we have come, and how much further we can continue to go. Curator Tiffany Gaines expanded the scope of this exhibition to include the artists from the original exhibition alongside a new generation of artists who follow in the footsteps of those that came before them. Including more generations of participants is a rewarding experience for the community. It allows visitors and fellow artists to experience the rich history of black artistic production in Buffalo. There are many more talented artists that extend beyond those exhibited here. We acknowledge, appreciate, and respect your work. You are without saying a part of *Sharing Our VIEW*.

Art of...STORYTELLING

As a product of the Buffalo Public Schools and its art programs, as well as a former art teacher, I recognize the power of visual art to tell our stories. I felt this mural project was an excellent opportunity for some of our high school art students to learn the history of storytelling and to tell their own stories. I wish I would have had the chance to work with a museum and with professional artists when I was their age. Through this experience, I hope they are empowered in their voices and see that professional careers in the arts are possible. I was inspired at the end of the project when they said 20 years from now, they would be doing *Sharing Our VIEW* for students like them.

Thank you to the Burchfield Penney Art Center, the exhibiting artists, student participants, supporters, and collaborators, who made this multigenerational celebration of artistic legacy possible. I was once asked about my legacy and what I have accomplished as an artist. Upon reflection, I appreciate every opportunity granted to me. The most important to me is paying it forward. My hope is that years from now, another artist can benefit from what I've done in my career. The 25th anniversary of *Sharing Our View* commemorates all that continues to be possible. And for that, I am grateful.

Dedicated to the memory of Natalie Vinson Trueheart

Noah Acevedo



Noah Acevedo (he/him) is a 17-year-old artist and writer. His art frequently distorts the human figure and combines it with animalistic features — conveying the close relationship we have to our environments and how they affect us. His goal is to display common adversities faced by people of all types in an abstract yet thought provoking way. He loves to get out of his comfort zone and try out new mediums, ideas, and settings whenever he can. A new step in his life will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in Anthropology at UB.





E. Batista

E. Batista (they/them) is a senior at McKinley High School and will be attending Villa Maria College for animation and business administration. The mediums that they use regularly are watercolors and alcoholic markers. In the future, they hope to get one of their artworks signed by the entire Buffalo Bills team.



Keidra Gray



Keidra Gray (she/her, they/ them) is a Jamaican artist born in Buffalo, NY. Art has been a passion of theirs since their childhood years and is their primary form of expression. Through her artwork, she relieves herself of any negativity. She uses it to cope with the weight of her emotions and trauma. Her works are more on the simple side, but each has a meaning. It is uncommon to see positive work from them. Still, their intent is to make the viewer question the piece since they are always willing to hear different interpretations. She likes to use any medium (clay, paints, colored pencils, ink, pastels, graphite, pen, etc.), although acrylic paint and

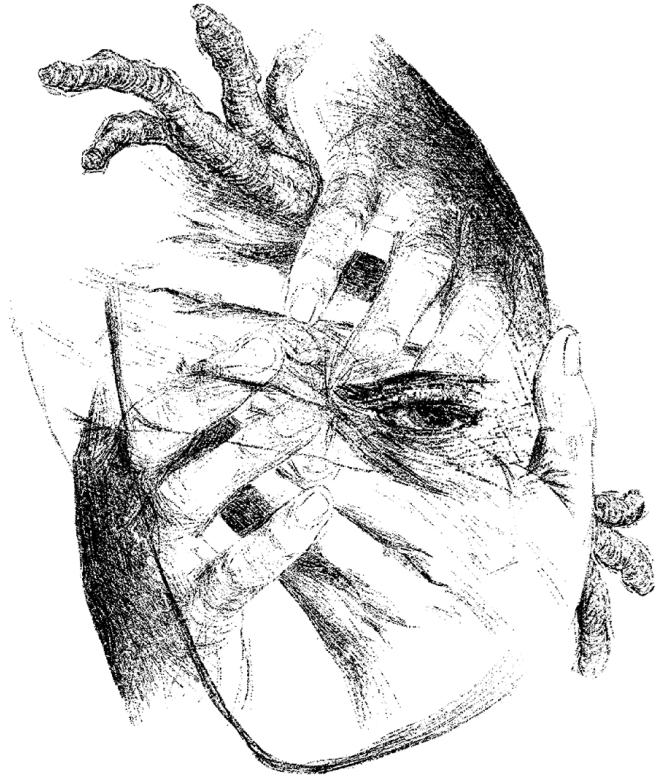
graphite are her main ones. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Architecture-specifically Interior Design- or Fine Arts for her college years. Their main inspirations for their art are themselves, the mind and soul, the people close to them, culture, nature, and the stars.





Cinara Marquis

Cinara Marquis (she/they/he) is an 18-year-old artist and poet who centers their artwork around interdependence, humanity, and nature through often printmaking, painting, and photography. They are a senior at the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts and plan to achieve a bachelor's degree later this year in social work with an art minor at SUNY Plattsburgh. Cinara wants to make a tangible impact on the people around them and help advocate for equity.



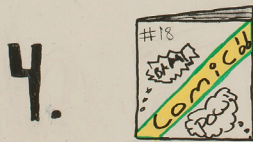
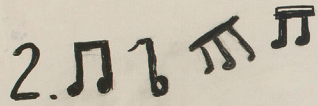
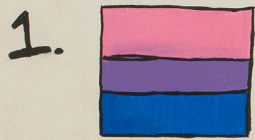
Zaid Martinez Perez



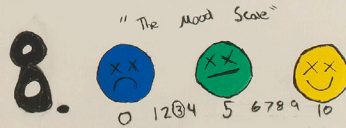
Zaid Martinez Perez was born in Puerto Rico, San Juan, on January 9, 2008. She moved to New York City when she was about eight and moved to Buffalo about two years ago. She is a student attending Buffalo Academy for The Visual & Performing Arts. They are still developing their art style and know they have many things to learn. She likes to try various mediums of art. They wish to do something that is not ordinary, something where they can let their creativity run its course, something that will set them apart from the rest, big or small.



Imagination



Imagination



Stephanie McCaulley

Stephanie McCaulley (she/her) is a 17-year-old at McKinley High School. She likes to make 3D art or fantasy-based art with watercolor paint. While she loves art and comic books, she hopes to one day become a vet tech.



Quincey Strothers



Quincey Strothers, they/them) is a senior at McKinley High Sch. They are self-taught artist whose favorite mediums are a range of graphite pencils, colored pencils, markers, and the occasional painting. Their family inspires them. No matter what happens, they will have thier art on their side.

Their process for creating art comes from their mood. They start there and put my pencil on the paper, and that's where the magic happens. In the near future, they want to start painting more, expand to different mediums, and try new things such as charcoal and pastels. They want to be fashion designers creating all body

types of clothes. No matter how big or small, they want everyone to feel comfortable in their clothing.



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Artwork

John Baker, James Cooper III, and Princessa S. Williams

The Process, 2023, mixed media on canvas panel, 48 inches x 48 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

Noah Acevedo

Path to Righteousness, 2023, acrylic on canvas panel, 48 inches x 48 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

E. Batista

Star Premium, 2023, acrylic on canvas panel, 48 inches x 48 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

Keidra Gray

The Light, 2023, acrylic on canvas panel, 48 inches x 48 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

Cinara Marquis

Warm Bodies in the Ocean, 2023, acrylic on canvas panel, 48 inches x 48 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

Zaid Martinez Perez

The Community, 2023, mixed media on canvas panel, 48 inches x 48 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

Stephanie McCaulley

Imagination (Self Identity), 2023, acrylic on canvas panel, 48 inches x 48 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

Quincey Strothers

Love is Love, 2023, acrylic on canvas panel, 48 inches x 48 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

