

Diversity
Spotlight

Identity In A Diverse World



John A. Logan College
Diversity & Inclusion Program 2014

Editors

Molly Alter
David Cochran
Art Fitzgerald
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Design

The mission of the Diversity and Inclusion program is to educate, advocate for, promote and support campus wide diversity efforts and the community at large.

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Front cover: Self Portrait in Wife Beater Shirt by DeSande R

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The Diversity and Inclusion Program is doing interesting and good work to engage the students and the community.

Some of our activities include:

DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The role of the Diversity Advisory Committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the President to meet diversity goals of the strategic plan and support campus wide diversity efforts.

DIVERSITY EVENTS PROGRAMMING

Cultural heritage programs, social justice programs, underrepresented student groups and organizations, student leadership programs and other diversity initiatives.

MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES SERIES (MPS)

MPS is a forum that provides an informal atmosphere for students to engage with John A. Logan College Alumni, fellow students, faculty and staff, and community members. Guest speakers/presenters share their personal and/or professional multicultural experiences with students. The goal of this program is to increase opportunities for our students to experience more diverse views and cultures that will create openness to enriching their future professional responsibilities and personal lives in today's global politics and economy. MPS will be scheduled once a month in the fall and spring semesters.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/WEEK

International Program offers a wide range of international education opportunities for students and the community. Lectures, exhibits, and performances frequently have an international flavor, and roundtable discussions on topics of international interest are also held several times each semester.

ACTS OF KINDNESS PROJECT

Acts of Kindness Project provides an opportunity for John A. Logan College students to reach out and serve the youth in the community

DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

A booklet to showcase Diversity and Inclusion programming

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS

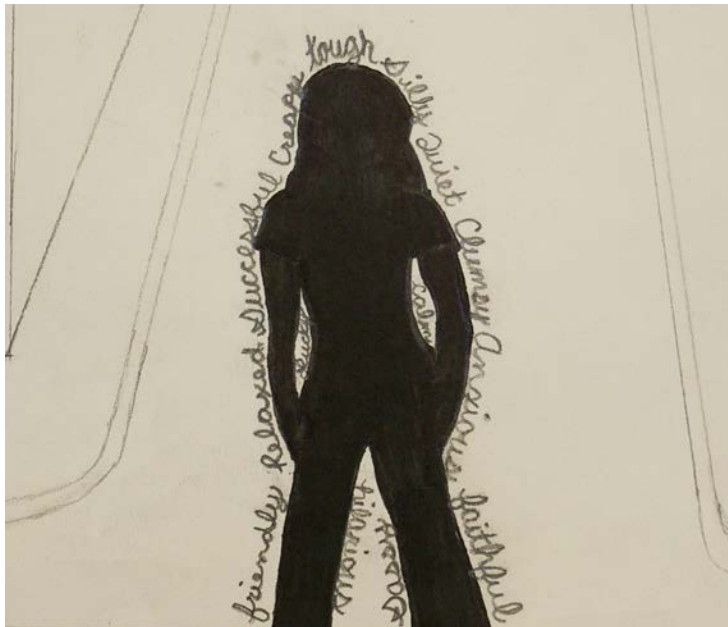
It is a student honors society that build leaders who make a better world
www.societyleadership.org

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

If you are interested in contributing in any way to any of the above or would like to make donations to help promote our diversity efforts, please contact Toyin Fox at 618-985-3741, Ext. 8586 or toyinfox@jalc.edu and Claudia Merrett at 618-985-3741, Ext. 8408 or claudiamerrett@jalc.edu. For more information about the Diversity and Inclusion Program, visit us online at www.jalc.edu.



Jacqueline Henderson



Anonymous

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President's Message

Greetings,

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the Diversity Spotlight here at John A. Logan College. This is part of an ongoing effort to highlight the college's inclusion efforts through the use of literature, artwork, short stories, poetry and other media.

The college has long believed inclusive excellence extends direct and indirect benefits to our college community through a free exchange of ideas and perspectives, and a deeper empathy and respect for those of different racial, ethnic, and cultural groups.

Diverse learning environments positively affect students' critical thinking skills, their civic commitment, and their preparation for work in a global environment. In order to enrich the lives of those in our community, John A Logan college is committed to the advancement of equity and firmly grounded in allegiance to our core values of service, responsibility, respect, compassion and integrity.

Enjoy this program and welcome to our efforts to promote diversity and inclusiveness.

Cordially,
Mike Dreith, Ed.D.
President

Branches Charles Coelho

We are all branches of the same tree.
Even though, some would disown me.
And some because they are higher,
Shun me as a lowdown outlier.
If they could, they would stifle me.

But, I am a part of this tree.
It nourishes and sustains me,
I flower and bloom in season,
and produce fruits without reason.

With the world my fragrance I share,
And my fruits without a care.
Low down far from the canopy,
I still see the sunrise and sunset.

On my branches doves rest.
And in season do birds nest.
We are branches of the same tree.
The tree sustains them and me.

I am the branch of the same tree,
Born on the wrong side of history.
A woman, a kaffir, a social leper they look,
Invisible, I am not on Facebook.

Wrong beliefs, wrong gender, wrong race,
Born in the wrong time and wrong place.
Uneducated, a burden on society,
No faith, no prayers, no piety.

We are all members of the human family.
We are all branches of the same tree.
Black, brown, yellow or white,
All pigments of one skin.
I am a branch on the same tree.
God sustains the Tree and sustains me.

Diversity

Charles Coelho

Eukarya! Maximus! Macrosopus!
Unfolding and folding protein strands,
A rising and falling chest,
Working in tandem at its best,
Yet, you do not seem impressed.

Ionical tones signal reuptake,
Of last night's laughter and joy,
Neurons fire, as below, so above,
In picturesque visions of love,
While, I dream of a flying dove.

Our existence through senses and in sensations,
We the living phenotypic compilations,
Diversely bound in purposeful co-existence,
Bridging hearts to minds distanced,
By miles of illogical persistence.

Knowledge woven in existential tapestry,
Uplifts all of humanity,
Undulating streams of Liberation,
Merges into the sea of human emancipation,
And, in time breaks the shackles of ignorance and privation.

Acknowledgements

Many people have helped to bring this project to fruition.

We are grateful for the generous funding received from General Dynamics Inc. for this publication.

Thanks are due to all the authors and artists who contributed their creative pieces to this publication. We especially appreciate Desande R, who proposed the idea that gave birth to Diversity Spotlight.

Final editing was skillfully and efficiently handled by Robin Egelston, and the Office of College Relations organized and polished all the materials for the final production.

Special thanks to Molly Alter, ART 111 instructor, who set aside extra time to help students produce exemplary works. Her careful attention to details is reflected in this work throughout. Thanks also go to Joanna Christopher, Chair of the English Department, and other instructors for their support. We relied on their expertise to guide the students and select the pieces.

We also deeply appreciate the support and encouragement from the college President, Dr. Michael Dreith, and his staff.

Finally, we owe a debt of thanks to all the members of the diversity event planning committee—David Cochran, Angela Calcaterra, Art Fitzgerald, Sheri Cook and Jennifer Rose—for their courageous voices and for taking the time to share their insights.

It is our hope that the Diversity Spotlight continues to illuminate our campus and community.

*Special thanks to General Dynamics Inc.
for making the Diversity Spotlight Publication possible*

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Ordnance and Tactical Systems

Marion, Illinois

JOHN A LOGAN COLLEGE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION PROGRAM

Diversity Spotlight

The Diversity Spotlight idea was conceived during the planning of the spring 2014 diversity events art exhibition titled "Rembrandt." Desande R, the artist in focus, asked if it would be possible to get some students, faculty and community members' artwork together and published them as a booklet. She showed me a sample of a booklet that was done for one of her previous exhibitions. It sounded like a great idea, and after further pondering and consideration, we decided to pursue the idea but make it relevant to the theme, which for this semester's diversity events programming is "Identity in a Diverse World."

General Dynamics Inc in Marion, Illinois had offered earlier to support our diversity program and they readily agreed to fund the publication. We came up with the title Diversity Spotlight for the booklet and this is its first edition.

Diversity Spotlight is here to showcase diversity and inclusion events programming. Students, faculty and staff at John A. Logan College are invited to submit original creative pieces for publication. Submissions may include artwork, stories, creative non-fiction, drama, fiction, poetry, and song lyrics. It is another forum for our students, faculty, staff and community members to have dialogue with regard to diversity and inclusion.

Our theme this semester is one more opportunity to engage in this conversation. Our world is becoming more diverse, as is evident, for instance, in the make-up of our American society as we are a country of many different backgrounds and beliefs, and of various social economic classes and behavioral norms. Our diverse world also is reflected in the increasingly global connections among different nations and peoples around the planet.

To value our diverse world requires us to continuously strive for a better understanding of ourselves and others. Identity is complex. Even when we identify with a specific group, it is easy to forget how much diversity there can be within that group. It is important that we understand and appreciate our differences as well as our commonalities as we are all part of the human family.

Toyin Fox
Director, Diversity & Inclusion
John A. Logan College



Untitled
Meredith McDaniel

Untitled
Randy Wade



Rape
Brenda Dozier

All I wanted was a cheeseburger. What started out to be a craving, ended up being a life sentence of scars burned inside and out. The cheeseburger so fresh, hot and tasty. The lettuce, crisp, over juicy tomatoes. The pain came seasoned with hatred, humility and seen only in the mirrors of my soul. All I wanted was a cheeseburger on a sesame seed bun. Why won't it go away? How do you repay the damage done? Does therapy give you a smile for the tortuous memories that never seem to fade? Only a few blocks from safety and a step too close to harm. The hospital near the state lines, why so far? Why so endless a night of torture for a cheeseburger. Yes, he took away the thirst for my cheeseburger and traded it for a night of pain. The June night so starry, so unforgettable for a reward of animalistic lust; not in the cheeseburger but my weakness of wars fought thru the night. Well, you didn't take away the cavities from too much sugar, I smile when I taste candy, I smile for Christmas, and I smile for birthdays. I even smile for cheeseburgers on any starry June night.



Unwritten
Kym Rangitsch

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EVENTS
SCHEDULE SPRING 2014**

THEME: IDENTITY IN A DIVERSE WORLD

**Why So Fascinating:
Minstrelsy from
Martin Lawrence
to Tyler Perry**



**Thursday, February 20, 2014,
9:30 – 10:45 am,
Batteau & Ivey**

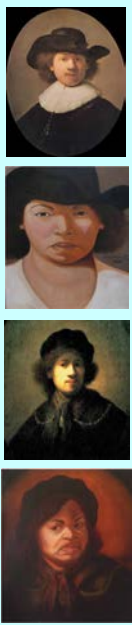
**PRESENTATION BY
Dr. Novotny Lawrence,**

**Acting Chair, Radio, Television and
Digital Media Department & Africana Studies,
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale**

Novotny Lawrence is an Associate Professor of Race, Media, and Popular Culture and the Acting Chair of SIU's Radio, TV, and Digital Media Department. He teaches a range of undergraduate and graduate courses including Understanding Electronic Media, History of African American Images in Film, Textual Analysis, and Race in the Media among others. Dr. Lawrence's primary research area is the representation of African Americans in film and he has written extensively on black exploitation cinema. He is the author of *Blaxploitation Films of the 1970s: Blackness and Genre* which was published by Routledge Press in 2007 and he has also published journal articles and book chapters on topics such as *The Jeffersons*, the comedy of Dave Chappelle, and *The Twilight Zone*. Dr. Lawrence is currently working on an edited collection of essays tentatively titled, *Documentary Cinema the Black Experience*, which centers on non-narrative films chronicling African American history, culture, and identity.

Rembrandt Van Rijn (1606 -1669) And Self-Identity of An African-American Artist

Monday, February 24, 2014, 10:00 – 2:00 pm, Batteau & Ivey



John A. Logan College
Presents
Identity in a Diverse World
an
Art Exhibition and Presentation
by
DeSande R

**Rembrandt van Rijn
and the
Self-Identity of an
African-American Artist**

Date: Monday, February 24, 2014

Time: Artwork Can Be Seen 10 am-2 pm
11 am-12 noon (presentation)
12 noon-2 pm (reception)

Place: John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, IL
Conference Center
Batteau and Ivey Rooms

Diversity and Inclusion Program, John A. Logan College
For More Information:
Call (618) 985-3741, Ext. 8586

ART EXHIBITION AND PRESENTATION BY

Desande R.

DeSande R is an educated artist born in Chicago, Illinois, and currently resides in Carbondale, Illinois. She currently teaches at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois. She previously worked on paintings concerning influential people in the community. DeSande also ventured into analog photography within the subject of portraiture. Her most recent works encompass using pen to do expressive drawings.

Two Lovers in A Distorted World

Derrick Timothy Davis



Love is Blind
Taylor Forbes



Untitled
Skylar Lambert



NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

“Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment”

Women Making a Difference: Three Local Institutions That Have Shaped Our Lives

Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 11:00 -12:15 pm, Tarvin & Crisp



GUEST SPEAKER:

Ms. Laura Van Abbema

Term Faculty, John A. Logan College

Ms. Laura Van Abbema will address women in three local institutions within John A. Logan College District: the Harrison-Bruce Historical Village on the John A. Logan College Campus, the Women's Center in Carbondale, and the League of Women Voters in Jackson County.

Laura Van Abbema has been a term faculty member in the Social Sciences department here at John A. Logan College since the summer of 2013. She teaches a variety of courses, primarily world history prior to 1500 BCE. She received B.A. degrees in History and Classics from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale while spending her final year in northeast England as an exchange student. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in European History (doctorate awarded in 2008). While her area of research focuses on women and gender of Imperial Rome, Laura is also interested in satire, historiography and women's history from a modern, global perspective. She has taught as a visiting assistant professor at Cornell and Brown Universities, and she has published articles in classical journals (e.g. Latomus) and companion volumes of Roman history. Since returning to the area, she has done research on more local institutions, especially the history of the League of Women Voters in Jackson County. In addition to serving as a board member in the local LWV chapter for this coming year, Laura works in rape crisis services at the Women's Center in Carbondale.

From Secretary to CEO

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 11:00 -12:15 pm, TBA

**A LIVE BROADCAST BY
Ms. Carly Fiona**

**Chairman, Good360, the World's Largest
Product Philanthropy Organization**

(Sponsored by the National Society
of Leadership and Success)



Carly Fiona is one of the most recognized business leaders in the world. She started her business as a secretary and went on to become the first woman to lead a Fortune 20 company, serving as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hewlett-Packard from 1999 to 2005. She was named Fortune's Most Powerful Woman in Business for six consecutive years. She earned a Master's of Science in Business from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Carly currently serves as Chairman of Good360, the world's largest product philanthropy organization.

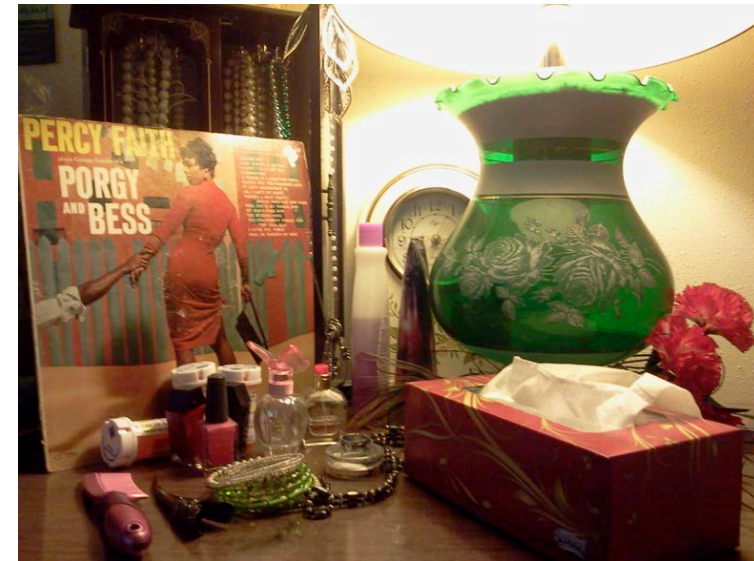
Autism Spectrum Disorder

Friday, April 11, 2014, 11:00-12:00 noon, Room C138

**PRESENTATION BY
Ms. Sherell Marie Sparks**

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, IL

Sherell Sparks is the Family Service Coordinator and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor for the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Sherell earned a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Administration and Services from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Sherell has extensive experience in the rehabilitation field serving persons with developmental disabilities. She has worked with the Center since September 2002. Sherell is responsible for coordinating entry and follow up services for families at the Center. She provides counseling services for parents and adolescents with autism. She conducts trainings for community providers and families as well as assisting them in identifying appropriate community resources. She performs screenings for autism spectrum disorders and participates in community events promoting autism awareness



Abre Los Ojos
Vahseenah Milton

Was there innocence,
Was there fear,
Was there bravery beyond compare
In the depths of those eyes?

Did her wit cut
like a knife?
Did she brighten the room
Simply by entering it?
Light in her eyes...

Did she sin
like the Devil?
Was she pious as a
Saint?

Living in with those eyes...

And when she saw her reflection
When she saw her eyes
Did she see herself?

Heart Beat

Song written and performed by Connor Porvaznik

Verse

This world isn't the same
It's changed so much even since 65'
I have to admit the world can seem
Like a scary place
But then again to all these different faces
Put on your warm smile
But we still have a long way to go

Chorus

It doesn't matter if you're young or old
Black, White, or in-between
Our hearts, our hearts, our hearts
Beat the same

Verse

Do you dare to be different
Looking around you see
All of this fighting and bickering
Can we use all of this difference
To bring us together
Oh we still have a long way to go

Chorus

It doesn't matter if you're young or old
Black, White, or in-between
Our hearts, our hearts, our hearts
Beat the same

Verse

Our paths may lead in different W(I)S
They may cross
It shouldn't matter who we are
Where we are from
Just what we do and who we are inside
But we still have a long way to go

Chorus

It doesn't matter if you're young or old
Black, White, or in-between
Our hearts, our hearts, our hearts
Beat the same

Self-Portraits by DeSande R based on Rembrandt van Rijn



An Interview with DeSande R (2014)

DeSande R is an educated artist born in Chicago, Illinois, and currently resides in Carbondale, Illinois. DeSande recognized her talent since the age of five. While living a quiet life, she spent most of her time studying people. She observed the mannerisms and expressions of people during family gatherings. Hiding in a corner was her special place for this observance.

While attending high school, DeSande's influences were Leonardo da Vinci, Caravaggio, and Michelangelo. They reflected images that appealed to her style and taste. From that moment on, she knew that painting would be a prominent part of her life. Later in college, she researched African-American artists such as Laura Wheeler-Waring, Adrian Piper, Archibald Motley Jr, and Jacob Lawrence. Another influential artist during her graduate school years was Rembrandt van Rijn and Odd Nerdrum. DeSande worked closely with Professor Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, the Emeritus Professor Robert Paulson, and many other excellent art professors at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

To continue to fine-tune her talent, she attended Northern Illinois University. After two and a half years of undergraduate core curriculum classes, she took a break. Ten years later, with some hardships behind her, DeSande was ready to return to school. That ten-year interlude prepared her for continuing her education. Southern Illinois University Carbondale gave her the opportunity to continue her endeavors in art. She received her bachelor's degree and master's degree from SIUC. During her time at SIUC, she received four prestigious scholarships/fellowships from the Illinois Humanities Council in Chicago, the Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Program (ICEOP), Graduate Dean's Fellowship, and the Celine Chu Award. This fresh start was a rebirth of DeSande's talent. Her inspiration for each day is that she was creating a part of history.

DeSande currently teaches at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois. Although teaching keeps her quite busy, she continues to work in the community and exhibit her art. Through the past sixteen years she has exhibited her work in Kansas, Illinois, Pennsylvania, China, Canada, Arkansas, Ohio, and Tennessee. DeSande has been in ten solo exhibitions, thirty group exhibitions, and has fourteen art publications. She has done work for conferences, special events, commissions, and volunteer artwork for student organizations and SIUC instructors. Her current favorite artists are Rembrandt van Rijn and Laura Wheeler-Waring. Most of her research and artwork reflect Rembrandt's painting style. DeSande recently ventured into photography. Her most recent show encompassed portraits of influential people in her community.

The following interview was conducted by Toyin Fox of John A. Logan College in January, 2014. Following the interview is a sampling of Desande's artwork.

Deliverance for Us All

Haily Wyant

We sit at tables pushed together to form a square.

A Latino man sets at the largest table with books in front of him.

Next to him sits a biker, beside him a mother of six and next to her a grandmother.

Across the table from them sits a fireman a judge and a farmer.

Beside me sits a business man and on my other side a social worker.

Each of us come for the same reason, to find sanity and to fill a void we could not manage to do by

Substance.

The first thing we were suggested to do was come to a realization we are powerless over our past. The

Second suggestion was to choose a higher power, mine being God.

The third suggestion is never discuss your higher power by name.

But if I cannot discuss him here and what he has done for me, how can I tell them he is here to do the same for them?

He is the deliverer!

I cannot go back! I will never go back to the way it was before.

Without him I would be no more.

Identity Theft

Clara Sitzes

Find yourself outside,

The world that we live in now,

Patience will guide you.

I Am Me

Madison Kramp

I am small, so small that my effects on this world will be very minimal, if I can make an effect at all. And yet, I know that I can make a difference in the world. I am an ant. I am a giant. I am cold. I am hot. I am entirely ordinary, yet I am outstanding. I see around me, all different colors and beliefs. I let them consume me, they are me. I am black and white. I am Jewish and Christian. I am an old soul. I was meant to live in another era. I am third born. I fall through the cracks and am sometimes forgotten, but I am not resentful. I am a sister. I am an Aunt. I am friend who will always be there. I am dependable. I am loved by a man and that is a huge part of who I am. I am a wife that is always yearning for her soldier. I love being each of these things. I am simple. I am complicated. No one word could ever describe me. I am who I am. I will never let myself become part of the mold. I am my own person. I am me.

Identity

Tessa Shevlin

You ask who I am
I am happy accidents
Changing with seasons

Elicia Hanley

When I first thought about my identity, I said to myself, "That's easy. I know who I am!" But thinking about it more in detail, I really don't know who I am. It's tough to wrap your mind around it. We all live together in the same world whether we are best friends or we have never met before. We are similar in many ways but dissimilar in more. We are all human beings yet we may not even speak the same language. We are all living a different life here on Earth but each of us is altered by the people we live with. I've always heard, "Smile at everyone, even a stranger, because you never know what that person is going through." Smiling at a stranger could make a suicidal person have second thoughts. Everyone is here for a reason but figuring out that reason is not an easy task. Not for me, anyway. All I know is I'm here to change someone's life in this diverse world; hopefully for the better.



TF: *When did you first realize you wanted to be an artist?*

DR: I first realized I wanted to be an artist when my mother encouraged me to do so. I really just thought art was something I could do, like anything else, like cooking or sewing, although, I did notice that I always got A's on my art and the admiration of other students around me. I was completely clueless about what I was supposed to do after college. When I was a junior in high school, I told my mother that I thought I was just going to hang around the house after I graduated. She said, "No! You are going to college!" So, I thought about it for a while and realized I could escape my home town, be on my own, do the thing I loved the most (art), next to reading books day after day.

There was also a poster in my bedroom when I was in high school that I got from my great-grandmother. It had a popular painting of an Angel walking two frightened children across a bridge. I looked at the poster every day and night and thought to myself, I would really love to know how to paint like that. By my senior year in high school, I was experimenting with oil paints on my own. I was immediately smitten with the soft texture of oil paints and how I could easily mix the colors.

TF: *How does art bring out your whole self (affect or influence your identity)?*

DR: Art is, of course, an expression of something or someone. My art is an expression of myself and my experiences. As with art, my personality has various levels that make me who I am. Each self-portrait I do tells a story of a different part of me. For instance, my painting called "Recovering Secretary" is an expression of me being a secretary and what comes with it.

I always said, sometimes a secretary has the hardest job in the office. They are responsible for all the workings of the office, but it is also easy to be blamed for what goes wrong in that office. My expression in this painting is my defiance of being a secretary and not wanting to be called one, because I am so much more complicated than having one level or occupation. Notice the red undertones that show warmth. I layered the colors like layers of someone's personality. I'm not trying to hide my pain or sorrow.

TF: *Sometimes we have the feeling that we are supposed to become something but have no clue how to achieve it. What are the challenges you faced in the process of becoming an artist?*

DR: The challenges were really evident when I went to college. My first two years of college were at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. Things didn't go too well there. I felt like a number and not an individual. It was such a big change from my small neighborhood that was unfortunately shaped like a circle. It had one way in and one way out. The big campus in DeKalb was overwhelming. After two years, I decided to leave and take a few years off from school. After those few years, I was accepted at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. I had many challenges there. I knew what I wanted artistically, but was not sure how to get there or what position I wanted in the art world. I had no idea I was going to teach. I didn't want to be in graphic design, since I really wanted to tailor my art to the old masters like Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Caravaggio. Little did I know that I was not yet up to par for that level of art. So, I struggled for a while and then had a heart to heart with the Emeritus Professor Robert Paulson at SIUC who introduced me to Rembrandt's paintings. He asked me to really study his art and method and try to duplicate it in my own way, using myself as a model. After studying about Rembrandt's life and art, I could really relate to him and what I go through each day in my own life.

Most of us need someone to guide us in our journey concerning our career. To have a mentor, I believe, is the key. A mentor sticks with you for the rest of your life, if possible. They are not the same as a parent, but more like an advisor for your career. I have had several throughout my life, but I didn't really realize what it was to have one until I met the now internationally known, Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, Professor at SIUC. He also worked closely with me concerning my art, how to research art, how to price it, how to network, and how to know what it was I wanted to achieve with my art. Other instructors at SIUC that assisted me were Professor Joel Feldman, Professor Peter Chametzky, Professor Erin Palmer, Professor Ed Shay, and Professor Cheonae Kim.

If you really want to succeed in your career, have a mentor to help guide you. Know what you want to achieve concerning your career. Don't be afraid to try new things. Also, take a business class in case you want to someday have your own business. I am still working on that facet of my life and career.

TF: *With regard to your portraits in particular, what influences your choice of subjects?*

DR: My choice of subject is usually determined by what I am going through in my life; hence the self-portraits become the vessel. An example would be my painting called "To Hell and Back".

This was a really tough time for me. My grandmother moved to Carbondale so she could have someone close to help take care of her. I had



My Identity

Destinee Lawrence

I am a daughter. I am a granddaughter. I am a sister to three men. I am a cousin to many. I am an aunt to few. I am a best friend. I'm a girlfriend to a soldier. I am a co-worker. I am a classmate.

I'm a dog lover. I'm a competitor. I'm a book worm. I'm a lover. I'm a jokester. I'm a nature lover. I'm a clean freak. I'm a money saver in hopes of oceanfront living someday soon. I'm a dreamer. I'm a lover. I'm on a journey to find a way to be useful in this world.

Who I Am

Traci Smith

Who am I? Where do I belong? Why do I even sing this song?
Close all the doors. Pull all the blinds.
When no one's around, I can come alive.
I've been hiding all day, now it's time to shine.
Wait! Who's at the door? Should I let them in?
No one's even seen who I really am. I'm afraid if they do,
but isn't that what it's about.
I'm me, I'm not you! Without a doubt.
Open the doors, open the blinds. Here it is! It's my time to shine.
I may never fit in, and I won't look the same,
as these cookie cutter people with fake faces and fake names.
But I'll face the world as who I am.
You be you, I'll be me. Let's not pretend.
We're different, and that's fine. So, you sing your song and I'll sing mine.

Vanessa Hidden within my name is a special story.

Vanessa Jones

V is for vitality, I have a lust for living.
A is for accepting, accepting that I am not perfect and that is ok.
N is for Nerd, for I am a nerd for reading.
E is for elegant, it's born within me.
S is for select, as few are chosen.
S is for self-respect, a solid score in my life.
A is for accomplished, for I have accomplished so much already.
Vanessa is more than just a name it's who I am.

A Biopoem About Me.

Joey

Determined, tech savvy, compassionate

Friend to many

The ability to overcome adversity, watching technology advance,
living in a time of change

Joy when overcoming obstacles, feeling secure around family and
friends who are accepting, independence.

Not being independent, not being accepted,
not being able, to achieve goals

Dealing with a disability, adapting, furthering education.

Equality in every aspect of life, a cure, travel to another country

Born and raised in Illinois

Burrow

Identity in a Diverse World

Trent Bigham

A sea of people
Yet who am I in this world;
Always evolving

no idea what I was getting myself into, but I soon found out. It is not easy taking care of an elderly person. My grandmother was tough. I managed to survive it, but it was very hard. This painting represents the Hell I went through to try to keep her happy and safe. I almost didn't survive it. If you look closely at the painting, you could probably see a glimpse of Hell in my eyes.

TF: *The goal of the diversity and inclusion program at JALC is to enrich our students' learning experience so they are prepared to be leaders for the 21st century. Can you tell us how you integrate your creative strengths and artistic gifts into your leadership approaches?*

DR: My creative strengths and artistic gifts gave me the opportunity to be an instructor of art. I could not do these things without the help of having mentors and being confident with my own skills. You could paint all day and every day until your fingers bleed, but if you don't believe in what you are doing, you might as well not do it at all. How can I teach someone else what it means to be successful, if I don't know myself how to do that? Keep in mind that success does not just mean having wealth or being famous. Success is something you must first believe is obtainable in your life and know what it is you want to do in life. It also includes giving back to others what you have learned from your peers and mentors. If you don't pass the knowledge along, it just dies and goes no further. That is not success. To be a leader, you must know how to lead your own life and career (or at least learn from your journey) before you can tell others what they can do to improve themselves and their career.

TF: *What do you see as the role of the artist in contemporary society?*

DR: I feel the role of the artist is to create history and bring out the best of humanity, but also remind others of its failures in order to not repeat them again. We all should know where we come from, where we want to go, and how to share our talents with others. The humanities are so vital to our society. Without music, what could calm us? Without art, how would we know how people lived thousands of years ago? Without books, how would we understand human nature and the human daily struggles? We would not be a people as a whole without art in contemporary society.

TF: *You are an artist and educator, an American citizen, a mother, a daughter, an African American, and so on, and you have been a wife. How do you negotiate these multiple identities?*

DR: That is a good question! Without having multiple identities, I would not be the person I am today. I try to keep my identities separate, yet whole. I keep them separate by not letting each one overlap to the point of being confused about who I am. The many self-portraits depict the different identities of my life, but I must have them all within me to be the person I am today. Being all of the identities listed above strengthen me as an individual. I cannot begin to say how much being a parent changed my life. I had more to worry about than myself. Being a parent made me want to be successful even more. As for being an African American, that identity is what it is. It doesn't define me as a whole

person, but instead it exemplifies my identity. Being an artist keeps me sane while being all of the identities listed above.

TF: *As a female artist and instructor living in a multicultural society and having had the experience of dwelling in both rural and cosmopolitan settings, how do you respond to change?*

DR: I am always excited to meet new people and go to new places. It refreshes my mind and keeps the creativity flowing. Now, I am a creature of habit with everything else in my life though. Just ask my family. I try to keep a solid schedule, yet I do not fear being adventurous. I have goals set up, but realize some things must be adjusted. I love being in an environment with many cultures and activities. The world is a palette in itself.

TF: *You have produced quite a number of works. How do you manage to stay focused and bring your vision to fruition?*

DR: I make sketches and keep note books of ideas for art that I would like to do in the future. Research is vital to the success of my art when it comes to doing a body of work in series form. As for different ideas for the self-portraits, my everyday experience gives me a vision of what I want to do next.

TF: *Retention, persistence and degree completion have been some of the challenges community colleges face today. What advice do you have for our students in learning to work with and not against themselves in order to achieve success and their full potential?*

DR: My advice would be to keep a schedule so that you don't become overwhelmed. That would include keeping the same schedule, if possible, when you have your three meals a day, when you sleep, when you take time out for yourself. Strive to get an A+, but try not to stress about it. As long as you give 110%, you know you did your best.

If you don't want to just be a number in your class room, keep in touch with your instructor and go see them during their office hours for questions or concerns, and email them when you are having trouble.

Students should study and do research as much as possible in order to be the best with their choice of career. If you cheat to get ahead, you are only harming yourself of the learning experience that could have changed your life for the better. You want to be a master of your craft. That can only come with hard work and perseverance.

Above all, enjoy what you do. Think about what it would be like to wake up every day and do the same thing each time. If you don't love it, you will learn to hate it after awhile. After you have made your final decision concerning your major, stick with it. How can you have any regrets about it when you chose the career you love?

The Difference

Emily Jack

Difference and diversity are key
We were all made different for our own good
Not to be judge in society's disease
Because it's become easy to be misunderstood

Everyone is equal and everyone is the same
That lie is commonly told
Yet if everyone conformed it would be a shame
So be an individualist until you are old

The Real Question

Alex Snyder

Sitting in a classroom full of students
With their own race and ethnicity
Some have the same and some don't
Each day I learn more and more
About the styles and the slangs
Pondering the question
How can people be so different?
When the real question is
How can I be so different?

Different

Samaria Gosa

We are all different
We are all the same
We have a different culture
We are living in a different world
Our Soul is the same,
We have the same humanity
We see ourselves in a different diversity
The world that were living in
Proud of every person that makes it unique in its own way
Our world continues to change every different day.

Breaking the Cycle

Hannah Stanton

I look outside and see, hundreds of people
Of all different shapes and sizes.
Yet, from where I sit, I am surrounded by sameness.
I look over at other groups and wonder what they're talking about.
I long to go and find out.
Then you look up and catch me staring.
I am the same as you, you are the same as me,
Yet, we are grouped differently,
Based on our age, gender, race, sexuality, and religious beliefs.
When there are so many different people,
With so many different expectations,
It's hard not to be intimidated
And shy away from who you truly are.
But I will break the cycle,
I will leave my group and join yours, going against the 'norm'.
Because I take pride in who I am
In this diverse world.

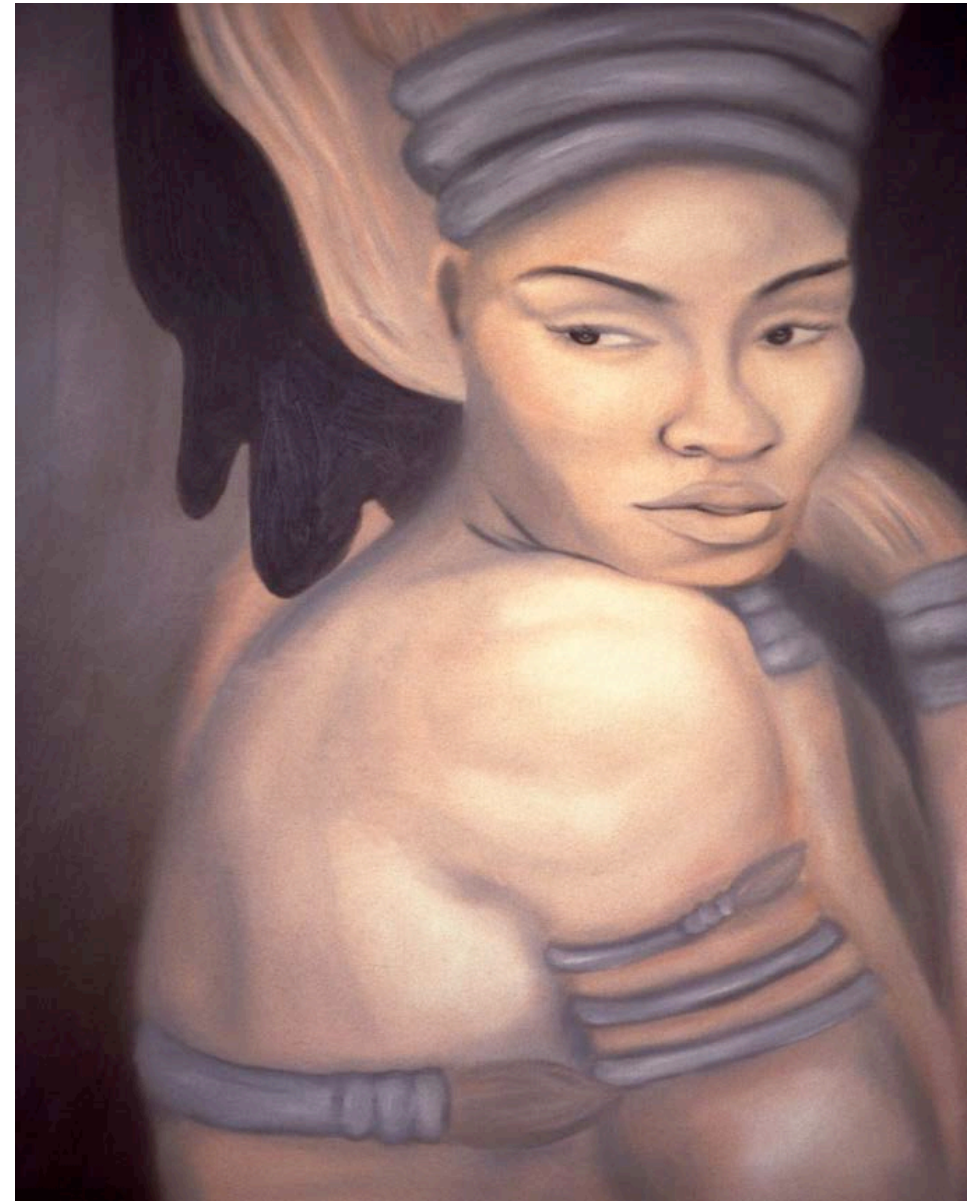
Jasmine Lee

Sophomore

I am what so many are, a student, a worker, an American. Some may see my ethnicity as something that makes me different but I see myself as part of a diverse world. Alone I am just a color but with others I am a part of a beautiful rainbow. As the years go by my identity changes just like with every raindrop there is a new reflection of that rainbow. One day my new identity will be a wife, teacher, and a mother.

Goddess

Paintbrush



Billie Holiday 2

Oil on Canvas, 2002



Billie Holiday 3

Oil on Canvas, 2002



Self Portrait as a House Cat

Hannah Borowitz

Mahogan pelt clings
to her butterball frame.
The fur displaying itself
curled and accentuated
with blonde and burgundy,
hiding in between each crimp.

Cryptic blue eyes,
absorbed by buxom cheeks.
Whispers displayed
as a texturized motion
in a sea of laziness
oversized jaws agape.

With an aggravated
Furrow of fur
She leamps around
the room,
Landing gracefully on
To her padded feet,
Claws ready to cling
For balance.

Impish tail
swishing furiously
back and forth from
Impatience and boredom

She slumps in the sun spots,
decorating the room
in the set parts of the morning
Her body language giving her
and ominous “do not disturb” sign

Evergreen

Chelsea I Davis

What lies deep within the soul is the truth that makes up thy heart, forcing the sincerity to piercethrough ones eyes. No matter how hard one may try to hide the virtues that lie within they are leftwithout choice, but not without doubt. It is doubt alone that prevents beauty from seeing the light, butthere is one thing that even doubt cannot withstand, the power of passion. For as long as passion runsdeep in your veins there is always hope. Compare your life to the root of an evergreen tree. A tree that never stops growing, never sheds its skin, and one of the few things on this earth that ages with time onits side, which genuinely defines its true beauty. As the seasons come and go the evergreen stands tali, reminding us all that even when your surroundings change you mustn't be ashamed of what lies within. For like the mighty evergreen tree, in due time it shall help shape you, bringing your virtues forth, and reminding you of who you are inside. So when your winter arrives and everything the eye can see has seemed to change, you must gain the strength to remain true to yourself allowing the essence of your soul to shine through your eyes, showing the world you have nothing to hide.

We're All Created Equal

Bree Marz

Big or small,
Black or white,
We're all created equal,
And should all have equal rights.
No one is better,
Because of their color,
We're all created equal,
And need to love each other.
It doesn't matter your age,
Your race or your color,
We're all created equal,
We all bleed the same color.

Kyle Emery

Many cultures thrive
Separately from others
But this is one world

Impossible Choices

Briya Wilborn

In our world finding something
So personal can seem almost
impossible
With so many different views and
People telling you what to do
Being pulled in a million directions
Finding something so personal
Can seem almost impossible

The choice is yours
With so many influences
The opportunity to create something
So diverse and unique
How could you go wrong
The choice is yours

Jessica Conte

Conte and 2B Pencil, 2013



My Baby Jessica

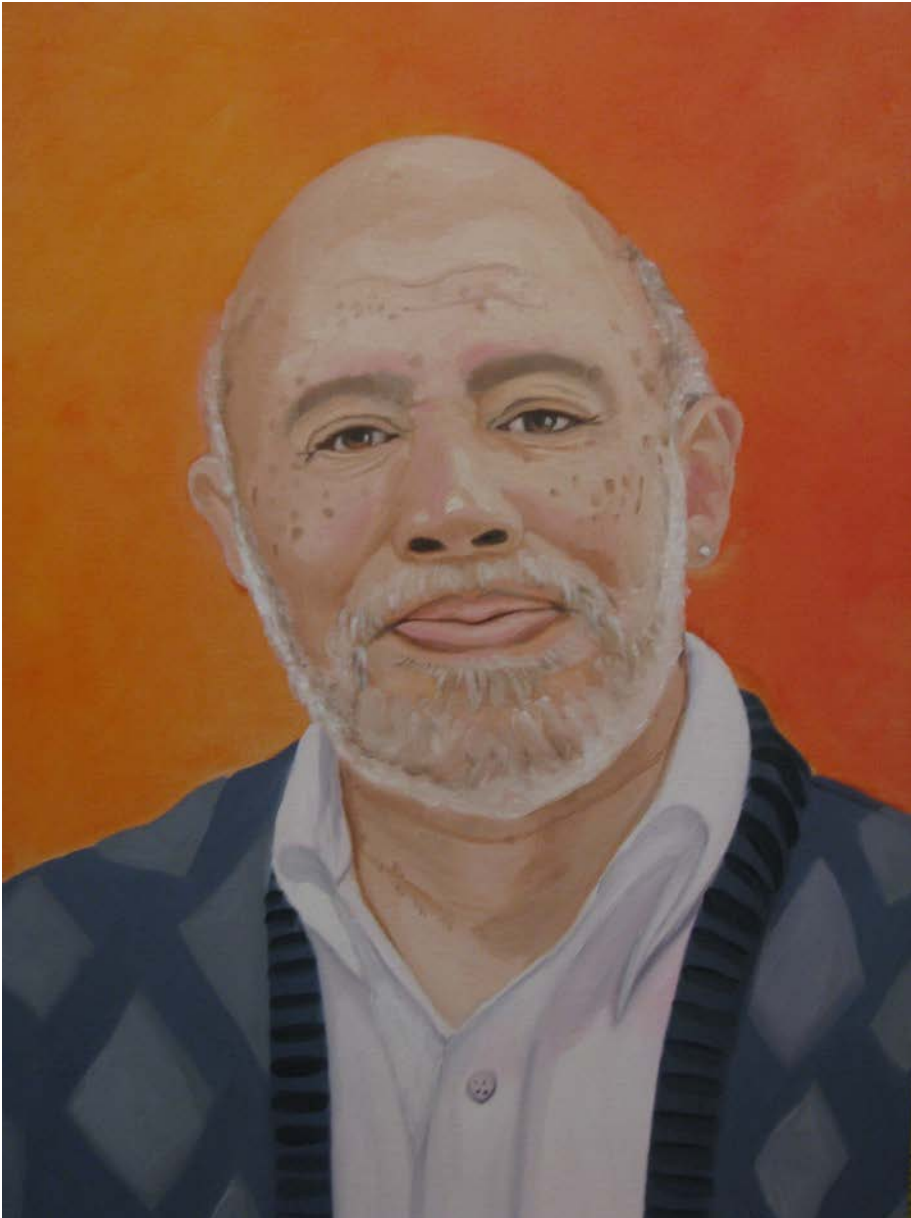
Oil on Canvas, 1998



Community Series – Dr. Joseph Brown

Oil on Canvas, 2011

Desande R.



Summer Camp

Kayla Willi

When her parents first told her she would be going to summer camp she was angry. Angry that they could just decide what she would do with her summer without her say in the matter. Now what was she supposed to do with that cute new swimsuit she bought just for Caitlyn's midsummer party she and all her friends attended each year? The whole way to the camp she sulked in the backseat, shoulders slumped, and a look of total disappointment etched into her face. They pulled up to the edge of the gravel cul-de-sac at the mouth of the camp's entrance where all the counselors were helping the newcomers with their bags and assigning cabins. She was assigned to cabin 8 along with 7 other girls, the cabin seemed large and inviting to her dismay. As she entered the cabin she was greeted by the oddest assortment of girls she'd ever seen together. They all seemed to be from different areas, different backgrounds and races. They were all giggling and sharing stories about themselves and excitements over the camp's itinerary for the summer. She had never been exposed to such different lives than her own, and she found it wonderful and exciting. Throughout the summer she realized that all their differences is what made them special and valued. Their identity wasn't just they themselves, but it was in how they all respected each other's differences and cherished them for it. Even after lights out the girls didn't stop giggling.

Circle of Diversity

Olivia Martin

Having an identity in a diverse world means that you're also diverse right? Right; so if diversity means variety then your identity is a variety of many traits and information gained over your years. Identity means you know who you truly are, but do you honestly ever really find out who you are if you continue to live every day and learn new things? I think you never really learn who you are because we live with so much diversity in our world that we continue to grow as an individual each day and learn new things about races, cultures, religions, beliefs, and so on. I believe diversity is really just a learning roller coaster throughout life that we continue to ride because curiosity always gets the best of us and the question always lingers of who are you in the diverse world we live in? I believe my identity is not a "set" thing rather a blank book to my life to "write" the things I've learned about either me or another "diverse" person who teaches me something valuable. The unknown might be scary but what you find in the unknown is always worth it. Whether bad or good, learning always comes from experience, and experience always comes from trying new things and being diverse.



Niche

Morgan Mueller

We all start out small. Whether it is in an igloo at the North Pole or on the dry plains of Africa we are in the system of life. The struggles in this life are to find the true meaning to our being and for what purposes we were put here on this earth. Whether it's saving thousands of lives or playing a sport and being the entertainment for millions, we struggle to find satisfaction and fulfillment. For some, fulfillment can be found easy, but for others the stories are not the same. Our views can be swayed so greatly by how we were raised and the lifestyle we grew up in. With our diverse images that have been created around us we have been placed in invisible categories, barriers, which distinguish ourselves from one another and make us "different." Yet, these diverse barriers do not stop the similarities that we all have, our drive and motivation. We strive to become something more of what we once were and to continually make ourselves better out of this systematic routine life style we currently live in because we are all humans that live in a sea of vast knowledge beyond our being, but we are all looking for our little niche in our span of life.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STUDENTS

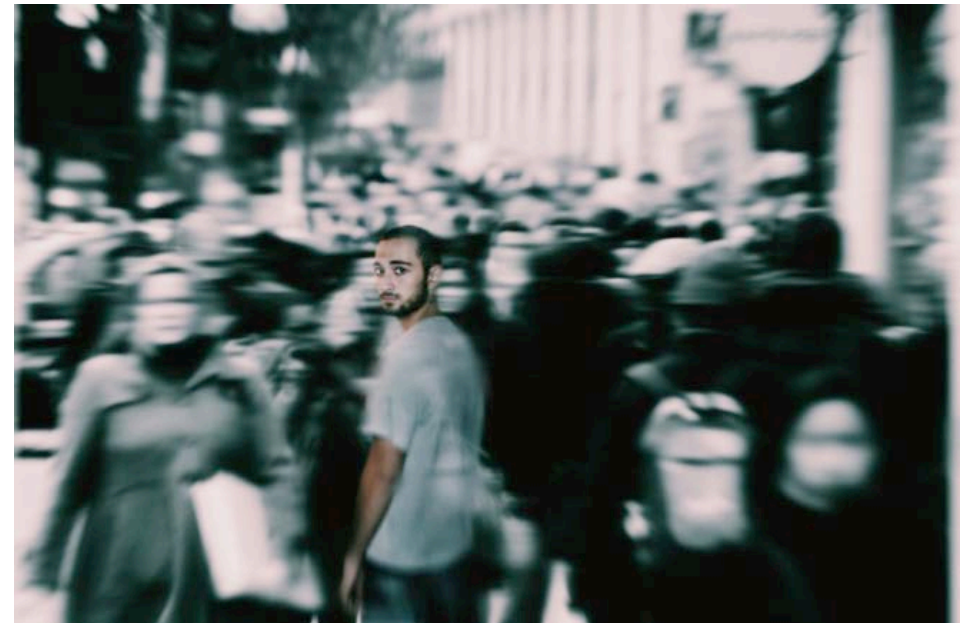
Challenges

Brenda Dozier

Challenges ; fought, forgave, FINESSED. Challenges ; upon, within, BEYOND. Challenges; endured, achieved, CONQUERED. Challenges ; lost, forgave , FORGOTTEN. Challenges; hidden, enrolled, and CONSCIOUS. Challenges, congruent, conspicuous, and COGNITIVE . Challenges , WELCOMED yet WON beyond BELIEF.

Own Light

Alvaro Corbalan Enguidanos



Showing Myself Through Art

Rebecca Bagget



Scenes from the Life of a Closet Botanist who Lives on the Third Floor

Anonymous

My roots stretch down
All the way down
To the basement.
Through all that I am
They twist into cradles
Holding all of the children
That ever I'll be.
Down, farther down they go,
Daring to venture through the
cement
And the dirt
Of my foundation.
They wrap around the legs
Of the table my father was born on.
I still remember what it looks like.

The trunk of me goes
Straight up
Through Illinois.
You can get to the top in
Six hours -
But if you've climbed enough trees,
You'll make it in five.
My leaves are not all on one branch
Nor are my branches
Reaching for the same things ...
Parts of me have died, and become
nutrients
Allowing more growth.
I will escape the third floor, soon.

Bearded Lady

inspired by Fat Girl by Megan Falley

Bearded lady
have some respect for yourself
there's creams for that, you
know
it's called "taking care of
yourself"
i don't mean to be rude, but
YUCK.
bearded lady,
are you trying to make some
kind of a statement?
bearded lady
i didn't know the circus was in
town!

bearded lady
i think you have something on
your face
bearded lady
transvestite transgenders? he,
she, it?

mama, is that a girl?
bearded lady
well, i guess it takes all kinds
of people
to make up god's kingdom
bearded lady
everybody's got a struggle!
bearded lady
has to work twice as hard,
apologizes
for asking a question,
still doesn't get the raise.
bearded lady,
can i touch it?
are you a real woman?
bearded lady,
cover your face!
you'll scare the baby.
bearded lady
boner killer
arf, arf! bahahaha
bearded lady
oh shit, did you see that girl?
at least, i think it was a girl
not trying to find out,
know what i mean?
bearded lady
knows what you mean.
bearded lady
politicized body
it is a lady... right?

Anonymous Author