

Alva McNeal

Artist Statement

"My passion is painting figurative images, this is my gift. I am continually drawn to subjects that tell the story of people, especially ordinary people. My goal is not to paint pretty pictures but to capture the essence of the subject in a way that across the room, the observer will be drawn to examine that which was significance to me."

"I am essentially a self-taught artist which I believe helped me to find my own voice. I was blessed with the natural ability to draw, I never had problems with my draftsmanship but I knew very little about the painting process."

"The Artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work" ...Emile Zola



Alva's love of art began at a very early age, passed onto her she believes, by her father's family.

After years raising three children and pursuing a law enforcement career, she retired from law enforcement due to an on-the-job injury. While recuperating her love for drawing and painting were rekindled.

Alva, at the age of 37 enrolled in a local college to study Early Childhood Education and while there, she enrolled in a painting class. This is where she developed her love for painting and watercolors became her choice of mediums.

There began the slow realization that she wanted more than the local college offered. Her goal was set at becoming proficient in the fine arts of figurative and realization art. This is where she began the journey of teaching herself thru books, art workshops, and private classes.

Watercolors can be challenging but brutally honest. Today, her preferred medium continues to be watercolors and her preferred subject is figurative drawing. Alva loves painting people and is engaged with creating three-dimensional images on a two-dimensional surface while capturing the essence of who that person is or was.

Alva's images have been purchased and on exhibition throughout the nation. Alva's work has been featured in juried exhibits, art festivals and museums, The Watercolor Society of Alabama, The Louisiana Watercolor Society, National League of American Pen Women, AAFTA of Atlanta, Ga., Steuwart Mc Lean Gallery, Pacific Art Guild, San Pedro Art Association, Art on 5 Art Gallery, City of Los Angeles Senior Exhibit as well as a One Woman Show at Fox Studio in Los Angeles, California. During her residence in Raleigh, North Carolina, Alva taught Art and Mural painting at both the St. Joseph's Hayti Heritage Center in Durham, North Carolina and the Durham Public School district.

Alva's images have been included in the movie, "Sacred is the Flesh" and her images were chosen for the cover of the University of Duke Medical Center, cancer research magazine. Her image "Sistahs" was selected for permanent display at the United Way Foundation in Los Angeles, Ca. She is the illustrator for the book, "Marital Secrets" by Dr. Robert D. William and Dr. Paris M. William and numerous children's books.

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