



**Banned Books
Read-a-thon
and
Trading Cards
Reception**

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2023
1:00-8:00pm

by
Valley Cottage Library

Artist Bios

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Yelena Aronson

I immigrated to USA 30 years ago from Moscow, Russia. I graduated from School of Visual Arts, NYC with a graphic design and illustration BFA. I teach computer art at Fairleigh Dickenson University, Metro campus in Teaneck, NJ.

My portfolio is available on:
profaronson.myportfolio.com/portfolio

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, 1931



Michael Byro

Michael Byro has been designing and painting for 11 years. He does pointillism, faux-saic art, and a combination of the two. His heroes are Calder, Seurat, Paul Signac et al. He, like Picasso, believes that art's purpose is to wash the grime of daily life off our souls, refreshing us with new perspective. He wants recognizable work to be seen in a new way. He has won awards and sold artwork all over the United States and Puerto Rico from California, Texas to Maine. He has been given consignments.

To contact Mike Byro: **973 853 6717** or **philbop@warwick.net**

Howl and Other Poems by Allen Ginsberg, 1956



Sonya Cantor

Sonya Cantor is 10 years old and lives with her mother and father in the small hamlet of Nanuet. She has been going to Rockland Center for the Arts and has had her drawings displayed in the school art show every year except for 1st and 2nd grade due to Covid. Sonya's other hobbies include playing instruments, singing, dancing, reading, and playing Dungeons and Dragons.

Drama by Raina Telgemeier, 2012



Peter Cheney

Peter Cheney is a sculptor, painter, and performance artist in Rockland County. His work ranges from the totally abstract to fully representational.

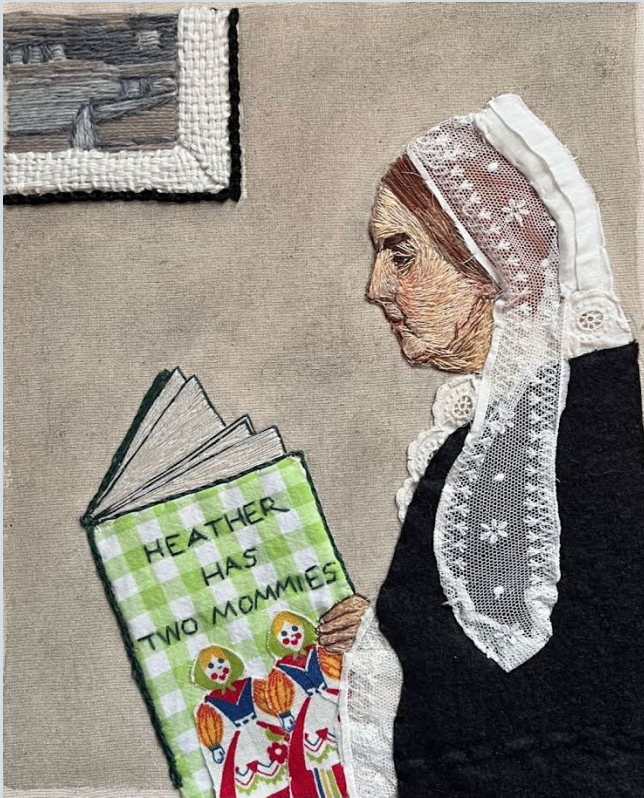
A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess, 1962



Peggy Earle

I'm a Brooklyn, NY native who has lived in Middlebury, CT since 2008. I'm a retired newspaper and magazine journalist, and the author of a book published by UVA -- about Walter Chrysler Jr., and the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Va. (which he endowed). I'm a lifetime artist working in various media such as paint, mosaic, and found-object assemblage. I've exhibited my work in various places as well as on the Internet. For a couple of years, my assemblages were used to illustrate an advice column in the AARP's monthly magazine. I began focusing on embroidery just before the pandemic, and have become obsessed with its myriad possibilities, particularly as a form of visual political protest. @peggyearle8

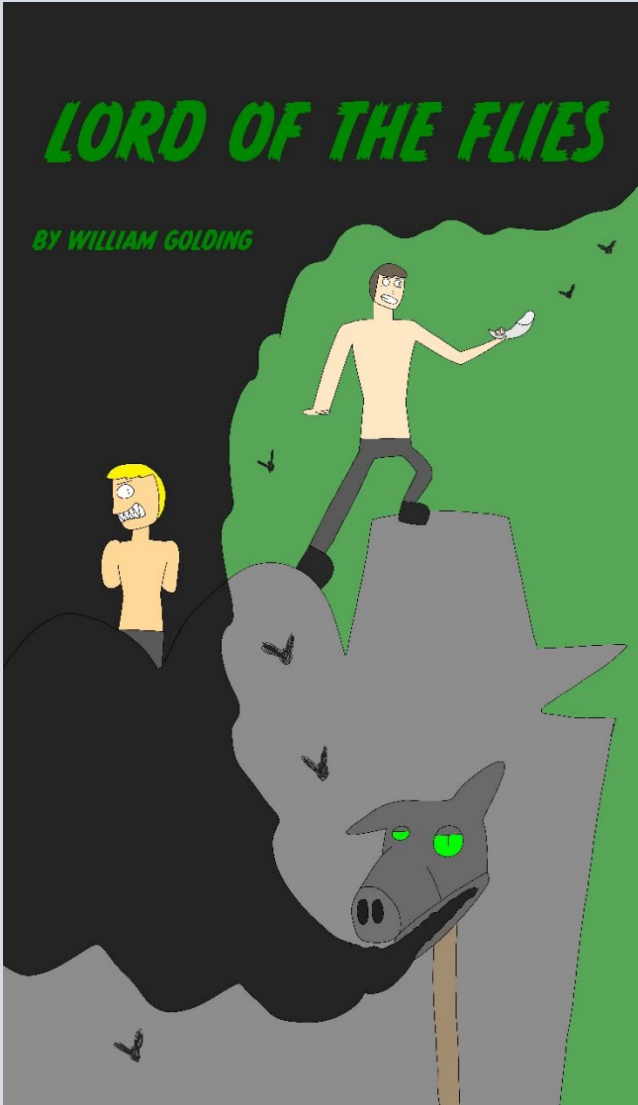
Heather Has Two Mommies by Lesléa Newman, 1989



Leni Farrar

Leni Farrar is a 10th grade student at Pascack Hills High School. In addition to creating original artwork, she enjoys writing, D&D, and playing in the school marching band.

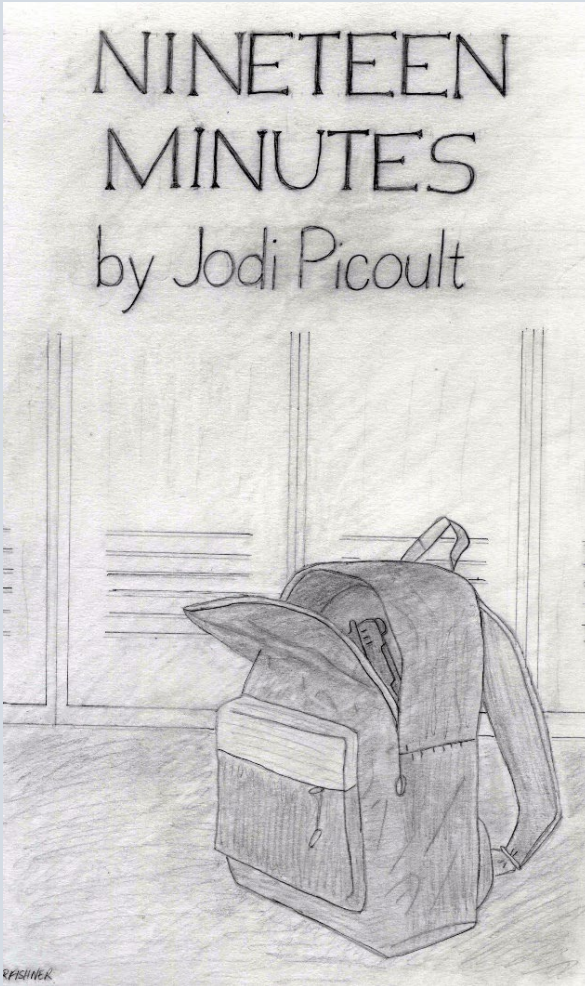
Lord of the Flies by William Golding, 1954



Rebecca Fishner

Rebecca Fishner is a rehabilitation counselor from New Jersey. She is new to drawing but co-led art therapy groups for artists with disabilities earlier in her career. Rebecca began drawing when she was no longer able to cross-stitch due to her own disability. This is her second pencil sketch, created mostly with large preschool pencils.

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult, 2007



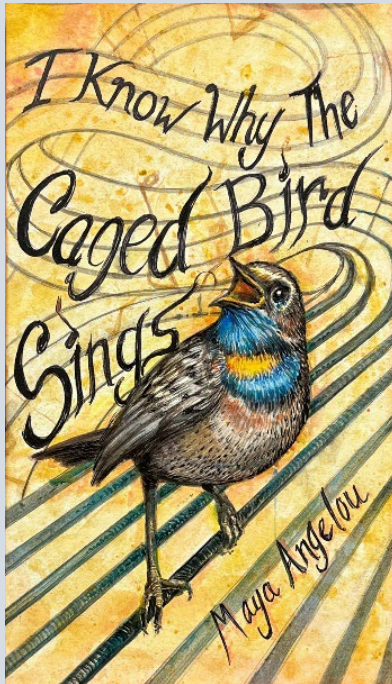
Janet Hamlin

Janet Hamlin graduated with honors from Art Center College of Design and then moved to New York to advance her career as an illustrator. She has had the honor of working with a variety of clients in publishing, entertainment, and as a visual journalist. In 2006, The Associated Press sent her to Guantanamo Bay to sketch the military tribunals as a court sketch artist. She continued to cover the courts there until 2020 and produced a book in 2013 with several veteran journalists entitled *Sketching Guantanamo* published by Fantagraphics.

She became a proud member of the United Scenic Artists 829 in 2013 and now works primarily as a Scenic Artist for Movies, Broadway and Streaming productions. She works in both traditional and digital media.

janethamlin.com, [@hamhamchat](https://twitter.com/hamhamchat)

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou



Elena Hanley

Elena Hanley is a second year Illustration student attending the Fashion Institute of Technology with an interest in concept art and character design. You can see samples of her work, including portraits in various mediums, on her Instagram @art.elenah where she is also accepting commissions. She is grateful to be included in this exhibit. @art.elenah

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger, 1951



Candy Heiland

Candy Heiland is an artist living and working in New York City. She graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Fiber Arts and a double minor in drawing and photography. As a child, her grandfather worked in a printing company and would bring her home reams of paper on which to draw. Inspired by the bright colors, bold patterns and edgy subjects of Folk Art, Chicago's Hairy Who artists, and the German Expressionists she moved to painting, eventually returning to her truest love, drawing. Using black paper and oil pastels or painted canvas banners, she is able to capture the texture of fiber while exploring images of color, light and the subculture of Coney Island and New York City at night.

candyheiland.com, [@candyheiland](https://www.instagram.com/candyheiland)

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, 1953

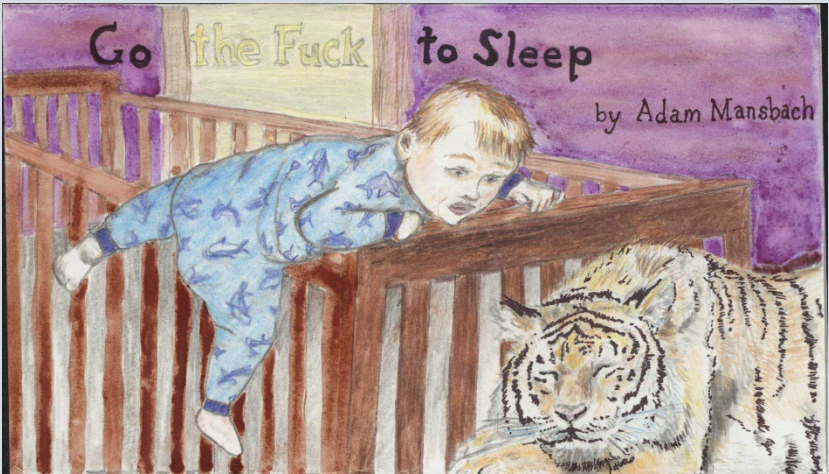


Jamie Heras

Jamie is an intermediate fine artist. She explored mixed media in high school where she gravitated to painting and drawing the natural world. Her favorite genre is fantasy and mythological creatures. Her career goals led her to study at Alfred State College for a Bachelor of Architectural Design and then moved to the New York City area to study at New York School of Interior Design where she sketched and used computer-aided programs to create vivid interiors. Jamie moved to Rockland County two years ago with her husband and two kids where she is finding bits of time to sketch and explore her new neighborhood.

archinect.com, deviantart.com

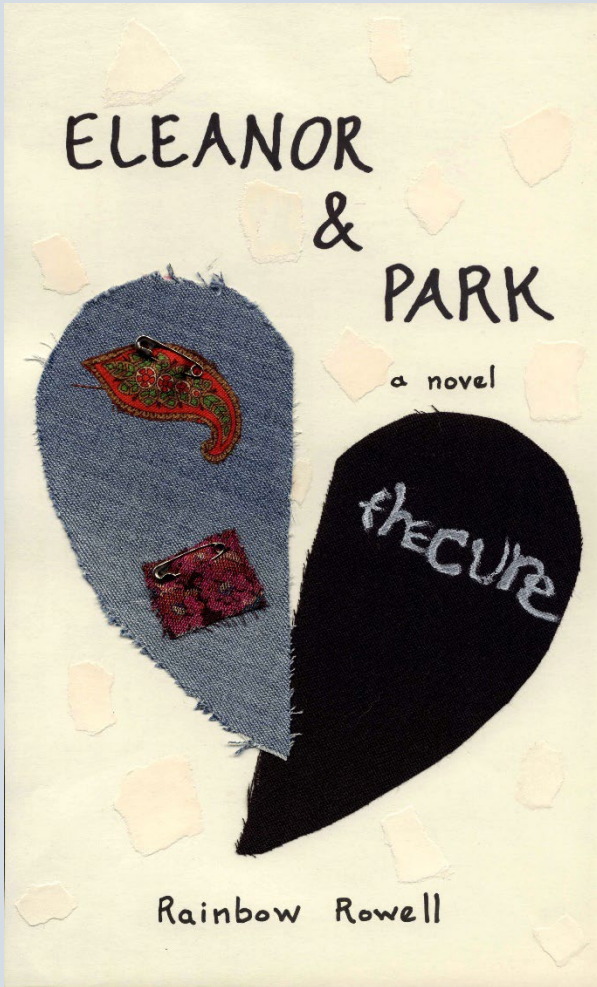
Go the Fuck to Sleep by Adam Mansbach, 2011



Elizabeth Hobson

I am a retired library director who worked in every area of the library prior to becoming a library leader. My career in libraries was rooted in the importance of having EVERY voice heard, even the small or frightened ones (or perhaps most especially those). I'm enjoying my retirement through artistic endeavors, whether on paper or in the dirt of my backyard.

Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell, 2013

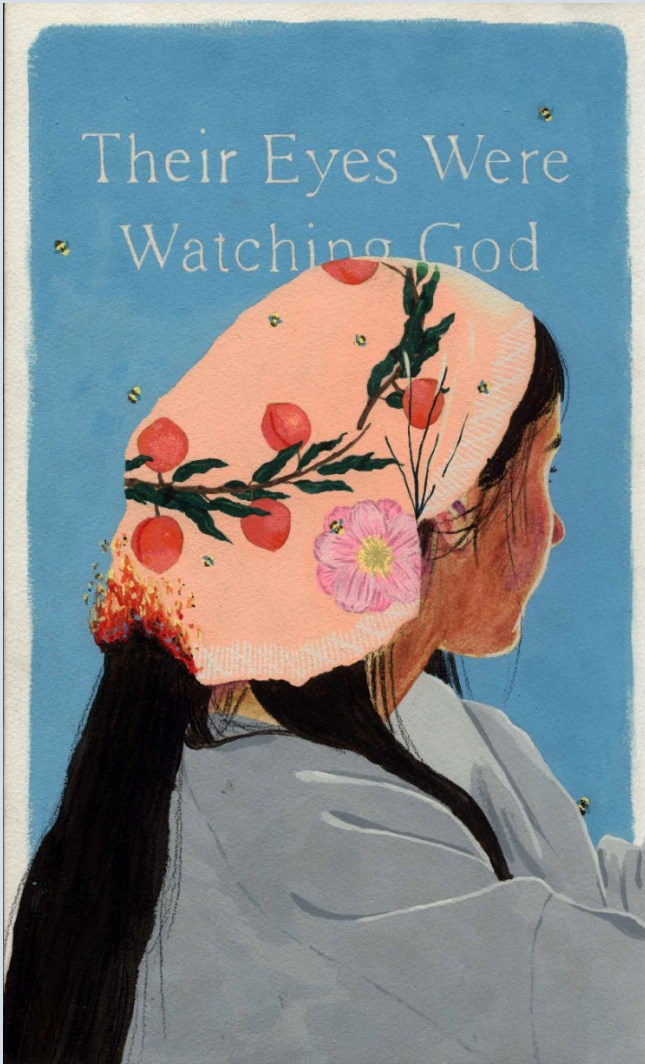


Louise Jones

Louise Jones is a painter based in the Hudson Valley. She most often works with acrylic and watercolor, but enjoys trying new mediums. Her work explores human relationships and narrative tropes.

@strike_rabbit_customs

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston, 1937



Joyce Kanyuk

I'm a graduate of Syracuse University with a BFA and an MA in art education from The College of New Rochelle. I have studied watercolor with Carolyn H. Pedersen, NWS, and have retired after teaching art for 32 years. My paintings are in many private collections. I am a signature member of Northeast Watercolor Society, and Audubon Artists.

My goal as an artist is to capture the beauty and serenity of a landscape, or a flower, or a figure and to share this harmony with all who view my paintings. I love the luminosity of color I can achieve with a watercolor wash. I have recently moved to Berkeley, CA.

joycekanyuk.com

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien, 1954



Katie Karkheck

Katie has been making art her whole life. The daughter of a painter and art teacher, and the granddaughter of a painter, she earned a BA from Middlebury College in Studio Art with a focus on printmaking and an MLIS from The Palmer School for Library Science. She studied color etching at the Studio for Color Etching in Barga, Italy and painting restoration at Laboratorio Scuola Oro e Colore in Florence Italy.

Before becoming a librarian, Katie installed art exhibitions, and managed art collections in museums, art galleries, auction houses and private or corporate collections. She was also the Museum Collection Manager of the Coney Island Museum.

Katie finds inspiration in the colorful chaos of Coney Island, the interesting shapes of everyday life, and the humor that can be derived of found objects and images. She is the Head of Technical Services and Programming Librarian at the Valley Cottage Library. She lives in Nyack with her two rambunctious cats.

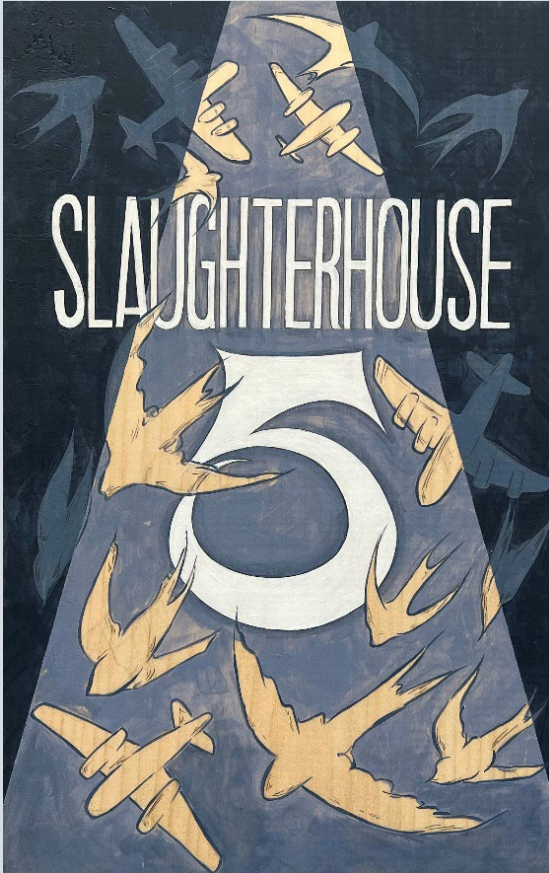
Melissa by Alex Gino, 2015



Dorothy Keck

Dorothy Keck is an artist and illustrator based out of Burlington, VT by way of Fort Collins, CO where she recently received her BFA and Chicago, IL where she was born and raised. She works on a wide array of projects from fine art to graphic design and out of everything, her favorite is certainly book covers which allow her to celebrate her love for both art and reading. She is constantly finding inspiration from nature and centers her practice around pattern making and storytelling. She is so honored to be a part of this project. [@longlinestudio](#)

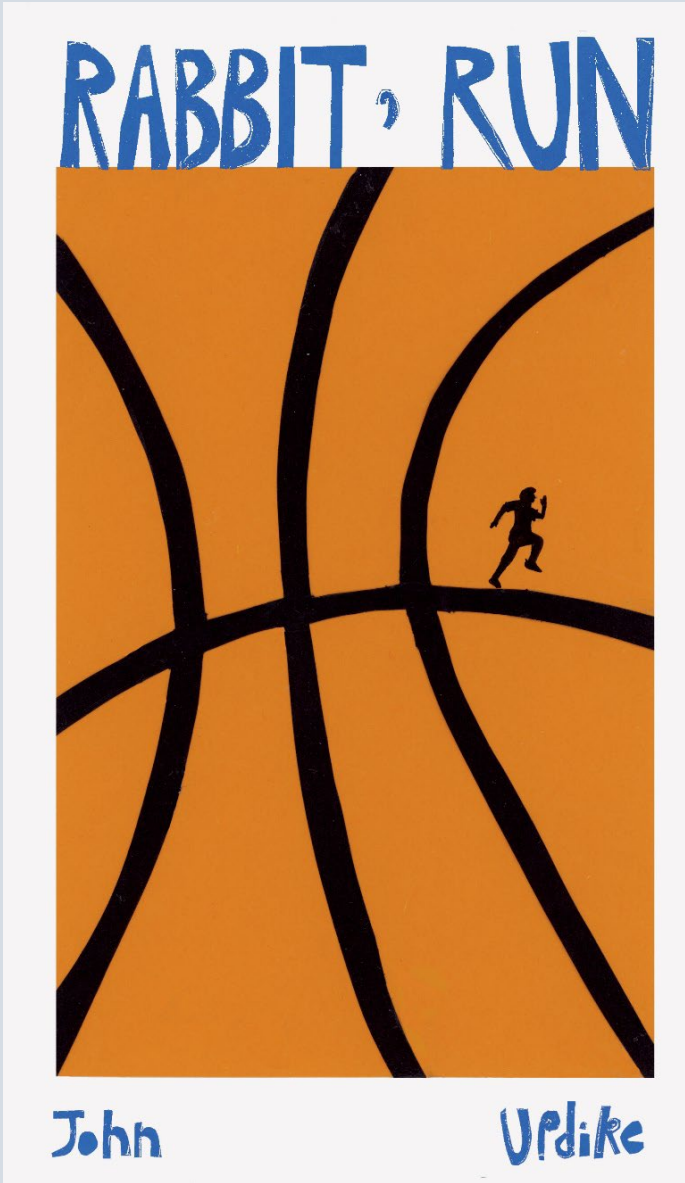
Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut, 1969



Divyakshi Kedia

divyakshikedia.com, @divy_does

Rabbit, Run by John Updike, 1960



Fern Lan Siew

Fern Lan Siew, is a landscape architect at NYC Parks working on the design and reconstruction of playgrounds, dog runs, play courts, sports fields and her personal favorite, traffic triangles. She firmly believes in the ethos of parks for the people and loves seeing folks of all ages enjoying and utilizing public green spaces.

Prior to joining Parks, she was a Principal Researcher and Project Manager at Terreform, the urban design research studio founded by Michael Sorkin. Her work at Terreform was published by UR as *Gowtown: A 197-X Plan for Upper Manhattan* in 2016. Her background includes bench research in plant breeding and genomics, in addition to animal sciences. She developed curriculum at the Nanobiotechnology Center and Cornell University, designing K-12 science kits and laboratory modules for programs that were funded by the National Science Foundation and National Institute of Health, prior to pursuing her MLA.

Fern was born and raised in Malaysia before moving to New York as a teenager. She is a graduate of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Cornell University, and CCNY Spitzer School of Architecture. In her free time when she is not wrangling foster kittens, she enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, reading, traveling, and trying street foods.

A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo by Jill Twiss, 2018



Taylor McAstocker

Taylor McAstocker is a high school student with an interest in all forms of art. Including clay and photography! They also appreciate the art of stage crew and actively participate in their school's theater program.

The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater, 2017



Laura McCallum

Laura McCallum, originally from Oregon, has lived and worked in Brooklyn since 1981.

Initially a sculptor, there is a spatial and dimensional influence that is apparent in all of her art whether three-dimensional, flat work, or video. She has worked in a wide range of materials from glass to fiber, paper to stone. Laura has exhibited internationally including the Brooklyn Museum, Salon Zürcher, the Thomas Werner Gallery, Socrates Sculpture Park, and Long Island University in New York, as well as in Washington D.C., Atlanta, Seattle, Baltimore, Rome, Athens, Aix-en-Provence, Berlin, and Moscow. McCallum has been exhibiting with Mémoire de l'Avenir Gallery in Paris since 2019, Currently she is in an exhibition, Nid, at Icebox4, a gallery in Williamsburg. Her video work has been shown at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Emory University, and the Great River Arts Institute in Vermont. Her most recent installation was included in the an/aesthetics, exhibition 2022-23 at the Century House in Rosendale NY. lauramccallum.net, [@lauramccallumartist](https://www.instagram.com/lauramccallumartist)

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison, 1970



Meridith McNeal

Meridith McNeal is a Brooklyn-based artist represented by Figureworks Gallery (Kingston, NY), Flat Files of Kentler International Drawing Space (Brooklyn, NY), and Embrace Creatives (Detroit, MI). Meridith is a frequent Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome. She was featured in “A View From the Easel During Times of Quarantine” in *HYPERALLERGIC*, and is Association Award Winner, Brand 49, Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale, CA; Shortlist Finalist, Visual Art Open 2021 UK & International Emerging Artist Awards; Best of the Net 2021, nominated by The Lumiere Review; Silver Medal, Curators Award, PAPERWORKS 2021, b.j. spoke gallery, Huntington, NY; Jurors Top Choice in Arizona Aqueous XXXV at Tubac Center of the Arts, Tubac, AZ. Her work was cited for top merit in 2019 Contemporary Art Survey at Lincoln Center in Fort Collins, CO. In both 2020 and 2019, Meridith was recognized with Artists of the Year awards by the Circle Foundation for the Arts, Lyon, France. Meridith regularly exhibits her artwork throughout the US and abroad. meridithmcneal.com

***Madeline and the Gypsies* by Ludwig Bemelmans, 1958**



Cass McVety

I am a self-taught watercolorist also working in acrylics, colored pencil and other media. I majored in Art History at NYU, worked as an Art Therapist for a while and am gratefully retired from corporate.

Color is who I am—I seek to breathe life into each object with a vibrant and bold splash of paint. Colors, like my personality, bubble with happy energy.

@cassmcvety on Instagram

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, 1884**

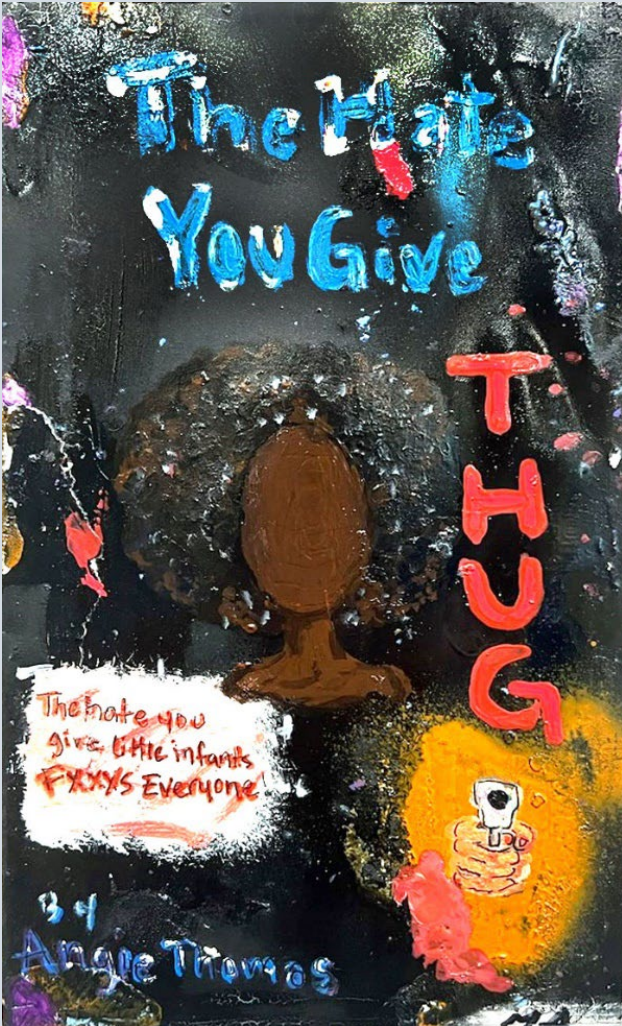


Marie Medjine Antoine

I chose *The Hate You Give* because it's relatable growing up a young Black girl in Spring Valley, I'm accustomed to hatred thrown at our community because we were POC/Black majority, of constantly being judged for the color of my skin.

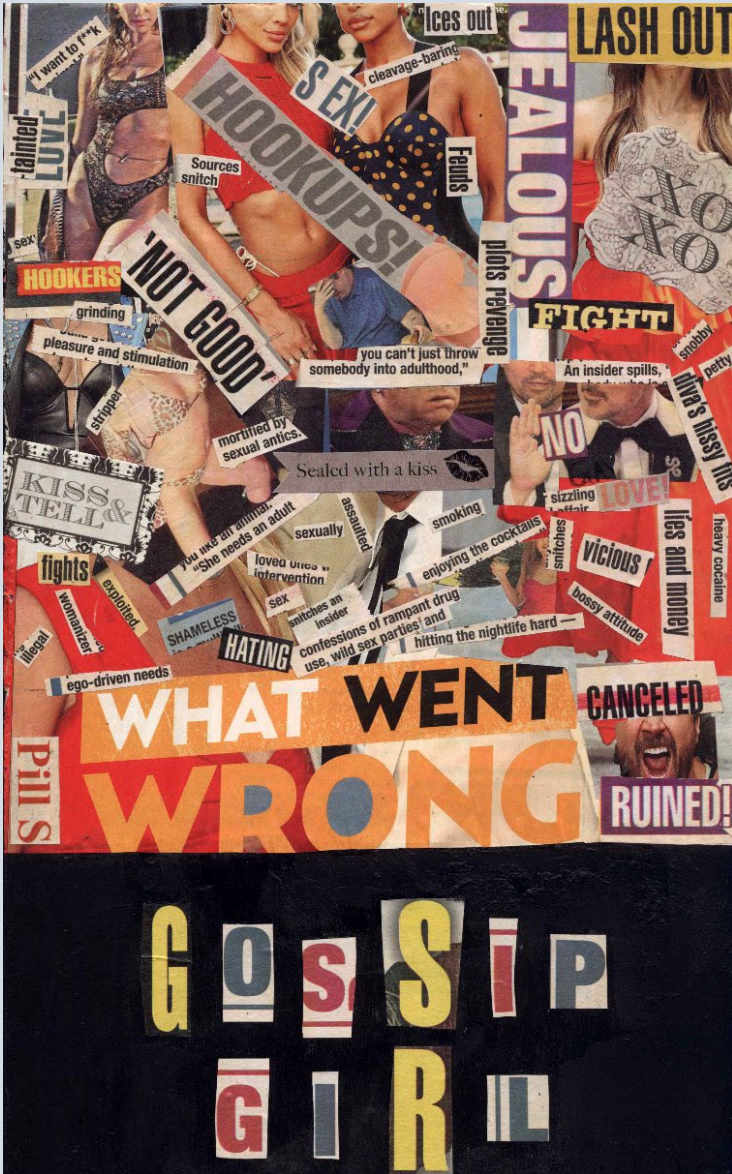
@_medjine and @beyonxt

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas, 2017



Jenna Mega

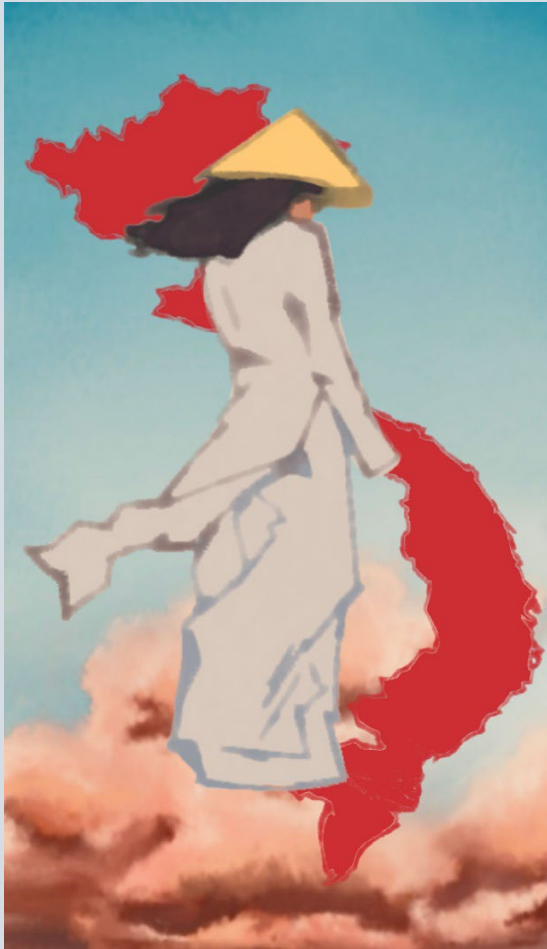
Gossip Girl by Cecily von Ziegesar, 2002



Eden-Nicole Moore

Eden-Nicole Moore is a Brooklyn-based artist who works in both digital and hand-painted media. Their works are often focused on mixing Filmic, animated and historical references to create pieces that are highly colorful and educational. They work in both New York and London as a teaching artist for the organization ART YARD BKLYN and as an undergraduate student studying Film at the University of East London. artyardbklyn.org

Paradise of the Blind by Duong Thu Huong, 2002



Sarah K. Myers

Originally from Michigan, Sarah now lives in Queens, NY with her partner and two cats. When she's not drawing she can be found teaching violin lessons or volunteering with a local TNR group to help neighborhood cats. sarakmyers.com, [@sarahkillustration](https://www.instagram.com/sarahkillustration)

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, 1960

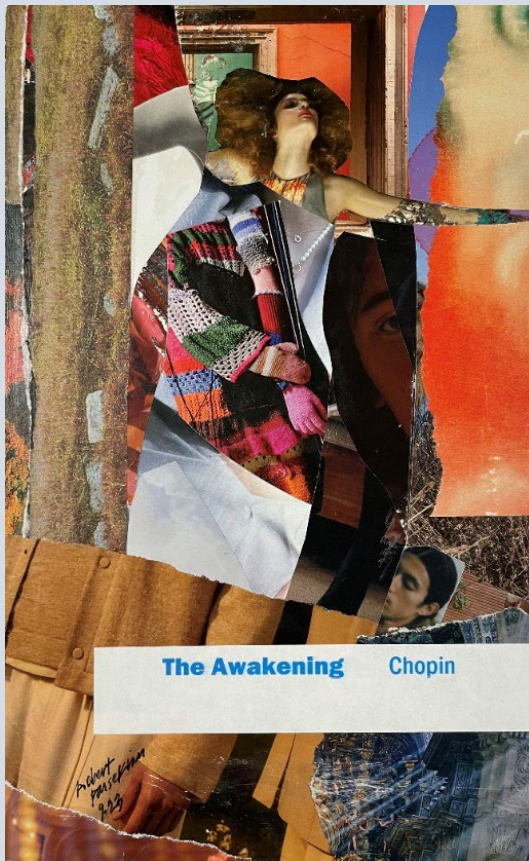


Robert Parsekian

Parsekian received his education at the Art Students League in New York, the University of Florence, Italy, and Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, where he graduated with a Bachelor of fine Arts. He was apprentice to the Belgian stained-glass artist, Benoit Gilsoul.

Robert’s work appears in numerous transportation facilities in the tri-state area in the form of murals, graphic and architectural enhancements created during his time as Architectural Graphics Coordinator at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. His approach is inspired by nature and the manipulation of realism to emphasize a personal narrative. **@robertandrewparsekian**

The Awakening by Kate Chopin, 1899



Janet Pirozzi Riolo

Janet Pirozzi Riolo works exclusively in watercolor pencils. She earned her art degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Early in her career, she designed screen prints and did illustration work in NYC's Garment District. With her background in fashion, Janet always draws upon and incorporates color, pattern, and style in her work; whether she is working in actual realism or stylized realism, fashion is always a part of her art.

Janet has developed her own style of working in watercolor pencil, which she has gone on to teach. First, she sketches out her subject, then underpaints the entire piece with water, finally filling in different amounts and degrees of detail to achieve the visual outcome she wants. jpriolo-art.com, [@jpriolo.art](https://www.instagram.com/jpriolo.art)

The Color Purple by Alice Walker, 1982



Amanda Reyes

My name is Amanda Reyes. I am a mother of two beautiful kids and 4 animals. I love to digital illustrate. I am also an amateur photographer.

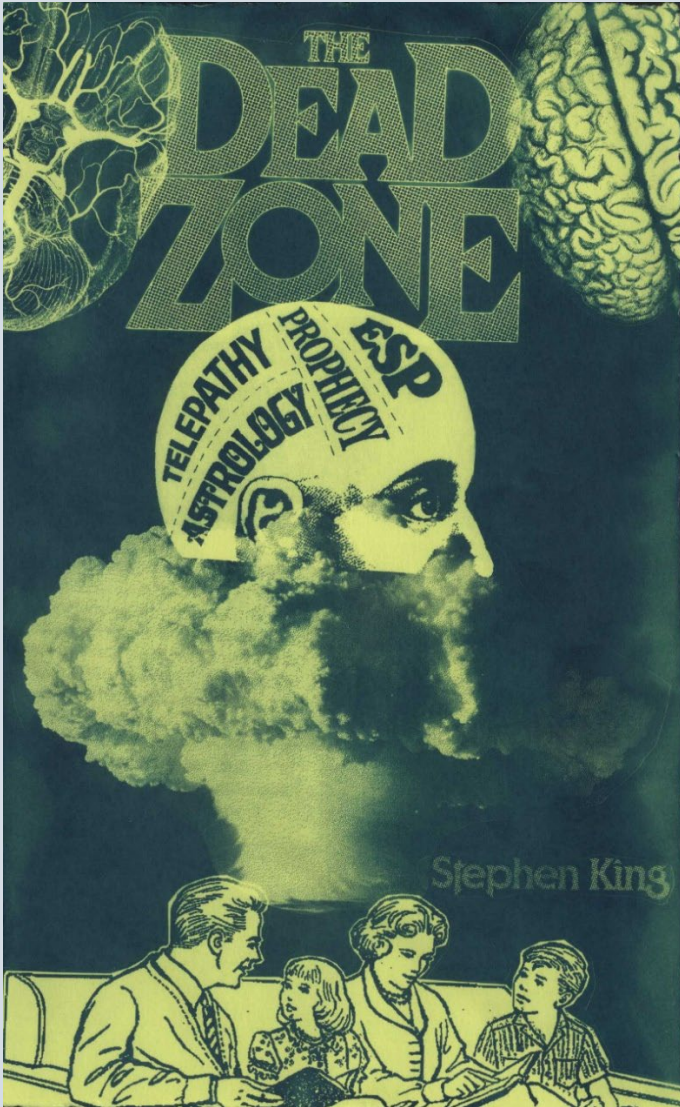
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, 1937



Eliza Rinn

Eliza Rinn is a Brooklyn-based photographer and mixed media artist inspired by the surreal language of the street and found images. elizarinnphoto.com, [@eliza.rinn](https://www.instagram.com/eliza.rinn)

The Dead Zone by Stephen King, 1979



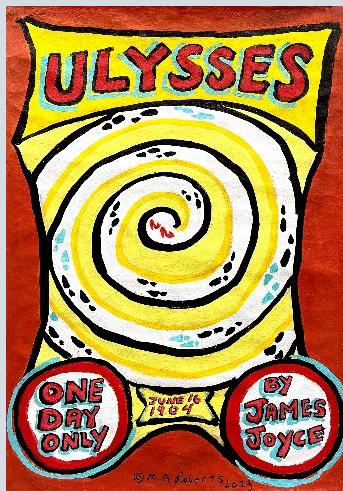
Marie A. Roberts

Marie Roberts is a painter and native New Yorker, living and working in Southern Brooklyn and Manhattan. She received a B.A in art from Brooklyn College and MFA in painting from Queens College, (CUNY), is a Professor of Art at Fairleigh Dickinson University and was Artist in Residence at the not for profit arts center Coney Island USA from 1997 to 2022.

Roberts' work has been shown nationally and internationally. Her work is included in the collections of the Metropolitan Transit Authority NYC, *The Village Voice*, Merk, CNN, DiDomenico Partners, Laughing Lotus Yoga, 9-11 Memorial & Museum, Feld Entertainment and private collections.

Roberts has been subject of several short documentaries, including "Sideshow Picasso" by Marilyn Agrelo, and the 2015 "This Side of Dreamland" by Joshua Glick and Patrick Reagan. She is included in *Coney Island Lost and Found* by Charles Denson; *City Lights: Tales of New York* by Dan Barry and in media as diverse as *The New York Times*, TLC's "Cake Boss," AMC's "Ride With Norman Reedus," PBS "Metrofocus: Inside the Secret World of Sideshow," and is an ethical vegetarian tending toward vegan. @mariearoberts

Ulysses by James Joyce, 1922



Toni-Lee Sangastiano

Toni-Lee Sangastiano is a contemporary painter whose work examines the carnivalesque. She is also a sideshow banner painter who studies the postmodern and its relevance to contemporary language, aesthetics, and media. Carnavalesque, Sangastiano's most recent solo exhibition was at the Lucille M. and Richard F.X. Spagnuolo Gallery at Georgetown University. Her work has also been exhibited at the Yale School of Art's Edgewood Gallery, the Coney Island Museum, Tate Modern, London, and is included in the permanent collection of the Robert A. Facchina Italian American Museum of Washington DC (IAMDC).

Sangastiano earned a B.A. in Art, Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ and an MFA in studio art at Montclair State University, NJ. She studied classical drawing and painting at the Angel Academy of Art in Florence, Italy, and earned a Ph.D. in Visual Arts: Philosophy, Aesthetics and Art Theory, from the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Portland, ME. She is an Associate Professor of the Practice in the Art & Art History Department and a Medical Humanities core faculty member, Georgetown University, Washington DC. Sangastiano also continues to teach at her alma maters FDU and IDSVA
sangastiano.com, sideshowbanners.com, [@leetoni](https://www.instagram.com/leetoni)

***Fifty Shades of Grey* by E.L. James, 2011**



Caroline Siecke-Pape

I am the Adult Programs and Exhibits Manager at the Valley Cottage Library. I am happily celebrating my first year of living in Nyack after moving from Warwick to be closer to my favorite job.

When creating art, I primarily work in acrylic, watercolor, and collage with subject matter ranging from people and birds to architecture.

My work tends to occur in spurts at times that I am inspired. This Trading Card Project inspired me! @sieckepape

My Shadow is Purple by Scott Stuart, 2022



David Spatz

I was born in the Bronx in 1962. A couple of years later my mother, father, two sisters and I moved up to the Rockland County suburbs north west of the city.

Art was always an important part of lives of everyone in my family. My parents and younger sister's passions was the theater. My other sister is a violinist.

I, however, chose visual art. Some of my earliest memories are of drawing elaborate trees. Sketching each branch leading to the next was a peaceful escape from the world around me. Around 10-years-old I discovered comics and superheroes. I drew characters like Spiderman and the Hulk and sometimes I invented my own superheroes.

In 1980, I attended Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia and quickly realized art was my passion. I knew I loved making visual images. I had some interest in painting but very little technical training was available. Unfortunately, MWC's art program was typical of many colleges in the 1980's. Some artists said painting was dead and conceptual art was what mattered. If you wanted to learn to draw and paint realistically you were on your own.

So I graduated worked in computer graphics and took classes at Rockland Center for the Arts. Eventually in my late twenties I found the New York Academy of Art. A graduate school dedicated figurative and representational art. It was a place where I could learn the skills I wanted all along. At NYAA we learned perspective, anatomy as well as drawing and painting techniques. Thematic content was also discussed. We even sculpted the human form in clay to better understand it.

In 2006 I changed from computer graphics to scenic art. Instead of digitally retouching photographs I was retouching screen and theater sets with a paint brush. Being a scenic artist has also improved my painting technique. We use so many different ways to apply paint to

a surface that my arsenal of brush marks is much larger. Mixing colors has improved my sense of color. And having to work fast has made me less precious about my work.

Today I live in Valley Cottage with my wife two daughters. And I paint whenever I can. I seek to make paintings that display the beauty of the paint itself, but also describe the world visually and emotionally. Painting is still my way to escape the chaotic world around me.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, 1985**



Jayden Spratley

My name is Jayden Spratley, a graduate from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Bachelors in Graphic Design. I have recently broken out of my comfort zone and am now tackling art projects that I would have never thought of creating.

Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey, 1997



Glynis Sweeny

gsweeny.com

Maus by Art Spiegelman, 1986



Fatima Traore

Fatima Traore is a 27-year-old fine artist based in New York City. She discovered her passion for drawing, illustrating, and painting in Junior High School and has continuously evolved this skill set allowing it to manifest throughout her ten-year career. She graduated from Virginia State University in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. While getting her education, she studied abroad for a semester in South Africa at University of Johannesburg. These experiences and exposures have influenced her artistic styles, techniques, and concepts. Fatima typically works in acrylic and watercolor paint with a focus on portraiture/ figurative content. She enjoys exploring new and innovative art forms and at times mixes media that contribute well to her compositions. Using what she's learned has allowed her to impact the youth of the Tri-state area through art education. Dedicating her time to non-profit organizations and private schools has granted student's opportunities to learn about the arts and have their work displayed. Her hope is to often invite others to see the change, then be the change they want to see in the world. [@fatimatraore.art](https://www.instagram.com/fatimatraore.art)

Beloved by Toni Morrison, 1987

