

ARTIST BIOS

Elizabeth Alston-Pinckney, M.A.

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Elizabeth was born in Georgetown, South Carolina. She moved to Charlotte, NC in 2005. Elizabeth received her B.S. in Psychology from South Carolina State University in 1983, and a M.A. in Counseling from Webster University in 1998. She is married to Dr. Charles Pinckney, and she is the proud and tired mother of two daughters, Jordan, age 18 and Taylor, age 24.

Elizabeth will be the first person to tell you that she loves to take pictures. That love, over the years, developed into a passion for watching people through the eyes of the camera. As she puts it, you learn so much, when you just you “learn to be still and just watch.” When she is not taking pictures, Elizabeth likes to hike, jog, mediate, practice yoga, and enjoy quiet time reflecting on life.

As a third-year cancer survivor, she appreciates every waking moment of life, and she realizes that nothing is as bad as it seems. This will be the first public showing of any of her work.

Jamila Brown

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I'm currently studying Art and Journalism, focusing in photography. Through my medium, I am constantly striving to depict raw emotion, either felt internally or observed externally. I've been introverted and empathetic since childhood, always observing rather than verbalizing. These characteristics still shape who I am today, and the woman I am growing into. I am unceasingly feeling, reading, creating and learning about myself and the world I live in. The more knowledge I attain through research and sensitivity, the more I continue to experience and explore the many layers of my Self.

Monroe Brown

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Monroe is a Valley Forge Military College graduate. Due to his great success at the academy, he was inducted into the Honor of Anthony Wayne Legion. He is known as a "living legend" to cadets, due to being inducted into the Hall of Fame while still attending the academy. He graduated as a Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major of the academy and a silver star in academics. While at UNCC, he is part of the Yesplus organization, founder of the Charlotte Lifters, and is a member of the Interfaith Organization.

Courtney Cole

Courtney is from Fredericksburg, VA. She is a sophomore at UNC Charlotte where she majors in Communication Studies and minors in Sociology. Courtney is an Emma Bowen Fellow where she interns with WRIC TV8 under the partner company Media General/Nexstar. On campus, she is the Vice President of The Black History Club (2016-2017), "Miss 1906" for the Mu Tau Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., an Emerging Leaders Graduate, and is currently working as a freelance videographer. Her career goals are to be a news reporter and later a producer for network news and pursuing her own production company.

Cynthia Cole

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Cynthia Cole is a professor of photography and graphic design at Johnson C. Smith University. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and New York University where she earned her Master of Arts in environmental studies photography. Her work has been featured in the City Gallery of Chastain in Atlanta, Ga.; The Lieca Gallery in New York City, Gallery One Eleven in Birmingham, Ala.; and The Light Factory, Charlotte, N.C. She is a two-time 1st Choice Pick for

the Creative Capital Fellowship for the visual art category and received a Grassroots Grant for North Carolina artists.

DeAndre Collins

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DeAndre is a student at UNC Charlotte. He is the current the President of the UNCC Chapter of the NAACP and the Co-Founder of “Natural Fest.” He is also a Global Black Student Orientation Counselor.

Carl DuPont

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Bass-Baritone Carl DuPont is a vocalist equally engaged in performing, teaching, and research. He has been celebrated for his “dramatic, dark tones” (South Florida Classical Review) and his “lyricism that underpins every statement” (Fanfare Magazine) as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, the title character in *Dennis Rodman in North Korea* and the title role in *Approaching Ali* with Asheville Lyric Opera. He currently serves as an assistant professor of voice at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Highlights from this season include a debut with Opera Carolina as Jose Castro in *La Fanciulla del West*, Pontius Pilate in *St. John Passion* with VOX Firebird Alliance, the bass solos in *Weihnachtsoratorium*, and recitals around the country.

Mark Doepker

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I am a self-taught artist and have always done creative things for as long as I can remember. A lot of my work involves portraits or figures, I use the art for self-reflection and a way to examine the human condition. My work is spread across North and South America. I show at local galleries/shops and group shows. Recently I have interacted with local activists and grassroots political groups and found the struggles are in many ways the same as or close to my own.

Letaeja Fitzgerald

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Letaeja is junior from Clayton, NC. She has a double major in Philosophy and Africana Studies with a minor in Criminal Justice. Letaeja serves as the community service chair for UNC Charlotte's chapter of the Collegiate 100, and she is an Emerging Leaders graduate. Letaeja interns with the National Pre-law Diversity Initiatives, Inc., a non-profit organization based out of Houston. She aspires to attend law school upon graduation, later to become a civil rights attorney. As a student leader she is dedicated to unifying and empowering the campus community.

Abigale Godwin

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I am a junior working towards a Bachelors in Psychology and a minor in Africana Studies. I am also completing the Pre-Physician Assistant track with the aspirations of becoming an Orthopedic PA. As a full-time student, I currently serve in the National Guard as a combat medic. I am employed full time and I became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., the EquiZZZete Upsilon Xi Chapter in the Spring of 2016.

Francisco Gonzalez

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I'm a native of México and have been printmaking and doing mixed media art in Charlotte since 1998. I am mostly self-taught, but have taken printmaking workshops throughout the years. My work has been in several exhibitions throughout the two Carolina's, Georgia, Oregon and New York. In 2002, my art was chosen for 'Celebrating The Legacy of Romare Bearden' exhibition at The Mint Museum Of Art in Charlotte. In 2004, I was an affiliate artist with McColl Center for Art + Innovation. I was one of the artists at Mint Museum's Arte-Poesia-Música 2015. I took part in Artfields 2016 juried show at Lake City, NC. My art is in several private collections in

both Carolina's, Connecticut, Missouri, China and New York. My art is in the permanent collection of Queens University in Charlotte and in corporations throughout North Carolina. I have won awards from Associated Artist of Winston Salem, NC, Museum of York County in Rock Hill and the Charlotte Art League in Charlotte.

John Hairston Jr.

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John Hairston Jr. has been an artist for as long as he can remember. A North Carolina native, he created art before he could read or write. Throughout his grade school years, he spent the majority of his time drawing superheroes and listening to any old soul or Hip Hop records he could get his hands on. Little did he know that his love for all things spandex-clad and funky would play such a major role in his development as an artist. Under the guidance of his high school mentors and college professors, he learned to tap into these components to create a style of artwork that seamlessly blends political satire, social commentary and obscure pop-culture references. Hairston graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and began his career as a professional artist illustrating storyboards for a string of independent films and several television ads. He has done commissioned pieces for numerous art collectors and various non-profit organizations. Hairston's work is currently on display in various art galleries all over the East Coast and Charlotte, NC.

Chanelle Haughton

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My name is Chanelle Haughton and I am an art major with a concentration of graphic design at UNC Charlotte. While being 21 years old I have witnessed many incidents in communities all over the world where the color of someone's skin can make a difference in the way they are treated. Growing up I was taught that no matter who I was, and no matter the color of my skin; I would be able to do and accomplish anything that I wanted to. As the years went by, social media became a way for outsiders to see exactly what was going in a community. I became more and more aware of the unjustified police shootings, how there was no justice served for those lives that were lost, and how the media often construed the way these people were viewed to everyone else.

Alexander Jutila

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I grew up in Mooresville, NC, where I dropped out of high school in 2008. I worked a variety of retail and food service jobs until moving to Charlotte and attending CPCC in 2013. I transferred to UNCC in 2014, where I am currently a graduate student in history. Following the murder of Michael Brown in 2014, I got involved in organizing both on campus at UNCC and in communities across Charlotte.

Marcus Kiser

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Marcus Kiser's work draws inspiration from a range of sources including classical art, comic books, graffiti, and current social and political issues. He is a graduate of the Art Institute, was a founding member of GodCity Studios, and has been a graphic designer and illustrator for many years.

Yazid Laury

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My name is Yazid Laury. I am originally from Newark, New Jersey and I am 20 years old. I am currently a marketing major at UNCC. I am a lover of Art and Fashion and Music, supporter of Black Lives Matter and I am very Pro-Black.

Ashley Luyindu

Ashley is a Junior from Raleigh, NC. As a student at UNC-Charlotte, she majors in Exercise Science and plans on going into research upon graduation. Ashley serves as a leader on and off campus, through her executive board position as community outreach chair for UNC Charlotte Chapter of NAACP; as well as a mentor for Future Leaders of Our Community Awards (FLOCA). She continues to strive to unify the community and her campus in upcoming programs and initiatives.

LaDara McKinnon Email: ladara077@gmail.com Website: ladaramckinnon.com

LaDara McKinnon is a published multimedia artist focusing in Ceramics and Painting in Charlotte, NC. In 2017, LaDara will receive her Bachelor's of Fine Arts with minors in Psychology and Women & Gender studies from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Also, she has earned two Associate Degrees in Arts and General Education. LaDara enjoys working with many materials such as acrylic paint, clay, and Indian ink. Her love for art began growing up in Japan and Hawaii. LaDara has always been intrigued by the gray area and taboo topics.

In her work, she abstractly explores social issues, gender influences of social structures, and mental illness concepts regarding the body from microscopic to macroscopic views. Her ceramic work tends to be sculptural, textured, and asymmetrical. In LaDara's paintings she does small-scale abstract paintings with multiple layers and textures in black and white. Her series No Color Needed has been invitational exhibited at The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts Museum. With her work she hopes to engage her viewers by topics that are taboo in a forshade way. To make her community and viewers aware of topics that too bold to talk about.

LaDara's work is published in the 2016 issue of Sanskrit Literary-Arts Magazine. LaDara has recently been featured in Dilworth Artisan Station, Twenty-Two Gallery, Charlotte Art League, and local restaurants. She is currently an instructor at Holt School of Fine Art, Wine & Design, and Pottery Cottage.

Matthew Mills**Email: mmills44@uncc.edu**

A brother, son, and social worker born in Concord, NC now residing in Kannapolis, NC. In 2013, I received my Associates degree from Rowan Cabarrus Community college before taking a break and finishing my Bachelor's degree in Social Work in 2016 at UNCC. I am currently pursuing my Master's in Social Work in the advanced standing program at UNCC. My studies in this time have mostly been towards systems involving education and the criminal justice system in hopes that I can further educate myself and others towards the needs of these systems and the populations they affect.

Natasha Minott**Email: nminott@uncc.edu**

I am a Junior at UNC Charlotte. I am the daughter of West Indian parents that immigrated to the US in their late 20s. Born in New York, and raised in New Jersey, I grew up in a very diverse environment where I was exposed to many different cultures and people due to the large population of immigrants in the Northeast. Shortly after moving in North Carolina to attend UNC Charlotte, I had to adapt to an environment that was not as diverse as I was used to. The racial tensions in Charlotte that erupted shortly after the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott was a wake-up call for me that racial violence and discrimination still exists, especially here in the South. Art and music has recently become a passion of mine within the last year and I wanted to use my developing talent to create this piece "Fruit Basket" to highlight this concept that racial

discrimination and violence is not innate. It is something that is taught to us by our environment and even the people we love the most, our parents.

Jessica Moss

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Jessica is an artist and entrepreneur. Currently, she is the Creative Director of the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, NC. She received her MA in Arts Administration and Policy Management from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Spring 2015. In 2009, she graduated with a BFA in Painting, Drawing and Printmaking from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA.

Her commitment to community service is exemplified through the number of collaborative projects and events she has participated in, including the StoryCorps Story Share Booth project, Redmoon Theatre's Fundraising 'Spectacle Lunatique', and artist Mel Chin's national FUNDRED Dollar Bill Project.

Jessica has worked for a diverse group of organizations including The National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC, Dreamworks Animation in Glendale CA, and Rebuild Foundation in Chicago, IL. Her interests in innovation, collaboration and the arts continue to influence her projects today.

Ashley Myers

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Ashley Myers is a 25 year old senior at UNC Charlotte majoring in Africana Studies and Urban Youth and Development. She is an activist and a protestor of "the system." Keep in mind, she's an artist and she's sensitive about hers.

Sapun Ngoensritong

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Sapun Ngoensritong, a 23-year-old, female, senior international student at UNC Charlotte. She is pursuing a Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts with a Painting concentration. She was born and raised in Bangkok, Thailand and Thai is her native language. She received an early education and attended high-school in a suburb of Bangkok, moved to Charlotte North Carolina in 2012. She choose to study art because, for her, it is a visual communication method and a universal language for everybody to share, connect, and express their voice. Passionate in political and social practice art. Her works often combine figuration and abstraction as well as incorporating textile materials and techniques.

Jordan McNeal Pinckney

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Born on January 29th in Columbia, South Carolina, Jordan Pinckney is a visual arts major and graduating senior at Northwest School of the Arts in Charlotte, North Carolina. Jordan is a self-taught artist, who always loved to draw and doodle early on as a little child. It became apparent, around the age of five, that Jordan's doodling was much more than that. As a little girl, Jordan drew vivid images and themes throughout her artwork. Ironically though, she only started taking formal art classes once she started attending Northwest School of the Arts three years ago. Always armed with a sketch book in hand, Jordan never stops sketching. It's second nature to her, and if you ask her, it's definitely her passion. Her works are a compilation of images and drawings of the past and present African-American experiences. Jordan's artistic philosophies are Black People, Black Things, and Black Issues. These themes are consistently reflected and depicted in her artwork. Some of the artists who have influenced Jordan are Kadir Nelson, Frank Morris, and Bruce W. Smith. As an artist, Jordan's techniques are to draw inspiration from books

and videos. She analyzes the figures of her subjects and then maps out the details accordingly in her mind. That's how she creates her works.

Jordan also has a special interest in developing sorority and fraternity customized drawings and prints. Some of her specialized sorority drawings include works such as: *AKA in the Kitchen*, *Slay, Stroll*, and *Girl Talk*. Some of her other works include paintings and drawings such as: *Make the Pain Stop*, *Civil Rights for All*, *En Vogue*, *Girl Tribe*, and *Natural Beauty*. Once she graduates, Jordan plans on pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration Design and concentrating on her entrepreneurial spirit as well with her love of art.

TyQuan Pugh

TyQuan Pugh is a senior Organizational communication major from Kinston, North Carolina. He is the President of Collegiate 100, The Fashion Wall Street at UNC Charlotte and is a former Peer Advising Leader for Emerging Leaders. Also he is the CEO/Founder of The Fashion Wall Street. He loves to travel and after college he will continue to pursue his entrepreneurial plans and his career in fashion designing.

Bianca Reyes

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Bianca is a senior at UNC Charlotte. She is a Psychology major and an Africana Studies minor who enjoys conversations about activism for LGBTQ and minority groups.

Jamil D. Steele

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Jamil Steele is a visual artist based in Charlotte, North Carolina. Born in 1982, he gravitated to art at a very early age, spending most of his free time drawing and creating. Jamil studied fine arts with a concentration in illustration at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. It is there that he had his first solo exhibition. Since obtaining his BFA, Jamil has gone on to feature his work in several galleries in and around Charlotte. Jamil's work has been featured at the Art House in NODA, Festival in the Park, Spirit Square, the Art Institute of Charlotte, and most recently the Center for the Arts in Rock Hill, SC. In addition, Jamil was selected by founder and CEO Kyle Holbrook of the MLK mural project to serve as one of five lead artists in the creation of the "Charlotte, Past, Present, and Future Mural" in Charlotte's Historic West End. Jamil recently completed his Master's of Art Education at Winthrop University in Rock Hill SC., and has taught visual arts for eight years. Jamil currently works as a freelance portrait artist, illustrator, and muralist.

Hamilton Ward

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Hamilton is a videographer, photographer and illustrator based out of Charlotte, North Carolina. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, with a BFA in Digital Media. He has shown work at the Greenville Museum of Art in Greenville North Carolina, The Indie Grits Film Festival in Columbia South Carolina, Visions6 Film Festival in Wilmington North Carolina, as well as the Underexposed Festival in Rock Hill South Carolina. Hamilton is currently showing work in the ZaPOW! Gallery in Asheville, North Carolina. He takes inspiration from Pop Culture, Mid-Century Americana and Southern Folklore.

Madison Westfall

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Madison Elaine Westfall is an Artist native to the greater Charlotte area. Currently attending the Art Program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Westfall will graduate in Spring 2017 with her BA in Art and aspires to continue her education in Colorado.