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A B C / AZ

Twenty Three Artists of the Black Community/AZ

The logo consists of the letters 'ABC' stacked above 'AZ' in a bold, sans-serif font. The background of the entire page is a light beige color with a repeating pattern of white, hand-drawn, abstract shapes that resemble stylized letters and symbols.

**For More Information or to Contact ABC/AZ Artists  
call 602-254-5081**

*Stay abreast with ABC/AZ events, other Black arts and artists  
by becoming a member of COBA,  
visit: [www.cobaarts.org](http://www.cobaarts.org)*

The logo consists of the letters 'ABC' stacked above 'AZ' in a bold, sans-serif font.

Sponsored By:

**CONSORTIUM OF BLACK ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHERS FOR THE ARTS**  
39 East Jackson Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85004

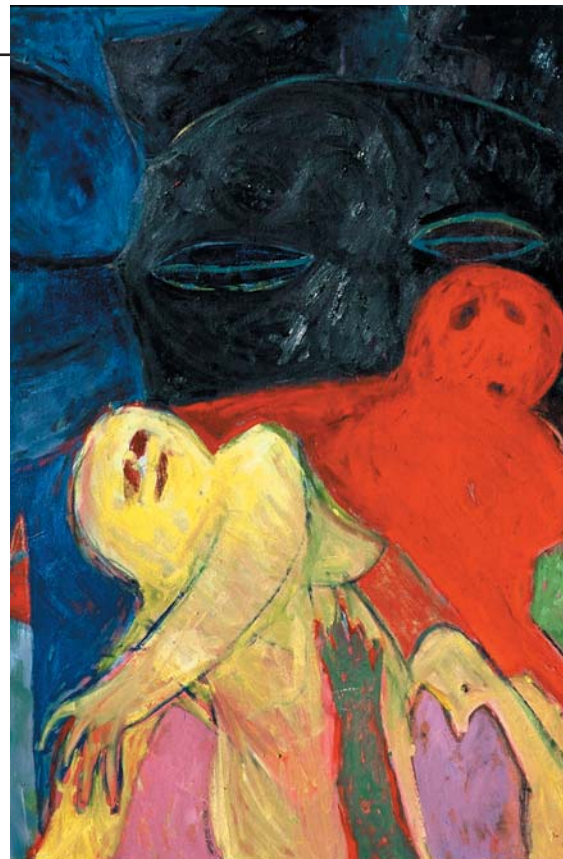
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*Special thanks to Dee Dee Woods for photographs, John & Mary Gray and Mark Herring for layout design & production of this brochure.*



*The late Rip Woods, Co-founder of ABC/AZ, wrote:*

My work represents a wide array of personal choices, all of which are attitudes by their own definitions. I do not know what they mean but I know where they come from. They speak in part of being Black in America, and particularly in art, where opportunities for inclusion in the mainstream are limited and somewhat polarized. I have tried to address these issues with both humor and guilt. While my images are generally satirical some may find them offensive, by the way I'm having fun.



**MY MOTHERS HALO**  
acrylic on canvas

The organization, **Artists of the Black Community/Arizona**, began in the mid 1970's when Rip Woods and I called a meeting with several other Black artists at Helen Mason's Black Theatre Troup's building at 10th Street & Moreland, (*A building demolished for the I-10 freeway*). We discussed the need for Black artists to organize. We had been exhibiting in the annual Juneteenth event at Eastlake Park. Mrs. Coleman, who was largely responsible for reviving the Juneteenth Celebration asked Dr. Grigsby, then on the Juneteenth board, to put together an exhibit for the Juneteenth Celebration. A number of artists including Rip Woods, Earl Cooke, Clendolyn Corbin, Walter Venerable, Erno, Larry Wilson, Alan Jones and several other artists responded. Each June a one day exhibit was held at Eastlake Park. Having to put up and take down an exhibit the same day became difficult. In order to extend the duration, we asked Mike Fox, Director of the Heard Museum for space to exhibit longer than a day. He agreed and gave us two days. In 1980, as a member of the OIC Board, I suggested to Gene Blue that OIC should have an arts

component that would enhance its mission to seek and prepare for its jobs component. Out of this came the OIC CEED program. Most of the artists became involved in the OIC CEED program headed by Gene Blue, (*CEO of the Opportunities Industrialization Center*). CEED was the acronym for Cultural, Economic, and Educational Development, concerned with economic development in all of the arts. Still without exhibit space, I went to Don Tostenrud, CEO of Arizona Bank, to request opportunity to exhibit in the Bank Galleria which is well known for the quality exhibits held there. Tostenrud not only offered space in the Galleria, but funded an exemplary catalog for the exhibit. A few years later COBA replaced CEED. COBA, The Consortium of Black Organizations & Others for the Arts was formed as an outgrowth of an Exhibit of African Art at the Heard Museum and a Symposium of African Art at ASU. COBA replaced CEED as both were concerned with similar objectives and with many of the same people. ABC/AZ became an affiliate of COBA and with the help of COBA expanded its exhibit

schedule. When OIC opened the Jackson St.Studios, ABC/AZ occupied one of them.

The Arizona Commission for the Arts recognized the quality of works by ABC/AZ artists and toured an exhibit of our works for two years to colleges, museums and art centers in Arizona, Texas and Utah. The group has exhibited at most colleges and universities in Phoenix, Tempe, Glendale and Tucson. Also at the West Valley Art Museum in Surprise and The George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center in Phoenix (*planned to be annual exhibits*).

Many of the original members have moved on but not forgotten, these include Stafford Schleifer, who lives in Jamaica; Francis Sprout, in New York, Jackie & Gene Harris, in St. Louis, Donald Locke, & John Joiner moved to Georgia, and Oliver Parsons, in Texas, Clifford Scott, and Anderson Fitzhugh, Sonny Scholol and Herman Relf are in the Phoenix area but not active with ABC/AZ.

J. Eugene Grigsby, *Phoenix May 2006*

## RHONDA “SHAKUR” CARTER



“Shakur” comes to Arizona from California, she is a multi-talented artist and refers to her work as “Fine Art Wood Dimensions” (*FAWD*), Shakur also works in pastels, conte crayon, charcoal, acrylic, oil, pin & ink and watercolor. She has received awards, grants and is currently working on a project (public art) for the City of Phoenix, Arizona.

“I feel my art is a gift and it expresses a spiritual part of me. It shares the compassion and admiration I have, for my people and all people of the world. I hope to spark curiosity and inspiration, when I create work that is pleasing to the eye.”



**BOYS IN THE WINDOW**  
*wood construction & acrylic*



**JAHKIEM ON 135TH STREET, HARLEM NY,**  
*black & white photography*

## DEE DEE WOODS



“Photography is magic! It captures moments in time and connects the viewer with the experience. My work explores the history of a people: their past, present and future. My photographs are about creating, connecting and sharing experiences. They tell stories of people, places and things. The images capture wit and immortalize the legacy of strength, struggle and eternal spirit of a people. They illustrate complex commonality and kinship that is universal. My work represents the triumphantly enduring faith and pride of Black People.”

## GEORGE WELCH



I perceive my paintings as visual metaphors of the dream world, of chaos and the clarity of creation. When you step into the paradox of the blank canvas, you start out with something in mind and take it from where you are, like jazz.



**UNTITLED**  
*mono print*



**AFRICAN MASK**  
*asse-blah-gage*

## ARCHIE COLES, SR.



Coles, a self taught folk artist says,  
“I collect found objects and arranges them on a plane,  
in ways that relate stories of my life and my ancestors...”

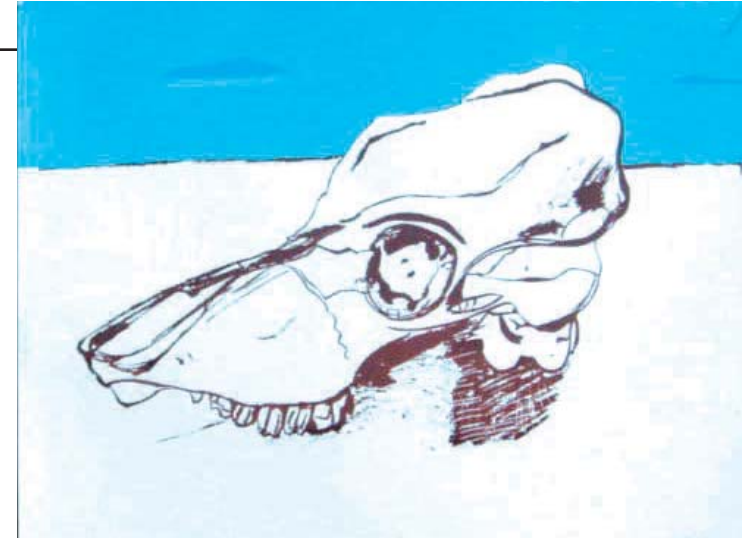
## ROBERT COLESCOTT



“My responsibility ends with the completion of the work. I think that people will look at them and discover different things. Some people will look at them and really focus on the paintings and may get a great deal from them. Others will see the paintings only as color and some will see them only as content and not experience the structural part of the painting. But I can't say expect anything in particular... Hopefully the paintings will do their work.”



**THE TRIUMPH OF CHRISTIANITY ©1993**  
*acrylic on canvas*



**“UNTITLED I” SUMER 2005**  
*silkscreen print*

## BERNARD YOUNG, PH.D.



Bernard Young is a professor of Art Educaiton at the Katherine K. Herberger College of Fine Arts, Arizona State University. His interest is in children's development in art. He has authored books and articles published by the National Art Education Association.

He became interested in painting at a young age, and later worked as a teacher and a mural painter for the Philadelphia Museum of Art while working his way through college. Recently Dr. Young has been experimenting in painting and silk screen prints of objects and people in environmental and multicultural artworld themes. In 2004 he was named a NAEA Fellow.

## LARRY WILSON



Larry Wilson is a native Phoenician, grade school, high school, college. A graduate of Arizona State University College of Fine Arts. He specializes in portraits in variety of media. He is always interested in people's faces and the historical stories that faces tell.



**RAY CHARLES**  
*charcoal*



**THE ORIGIN OF MAN AKINS: MISFITS IN UTOPIA**

## SUSAN COPELAND



Susan Copeland is a Phoenix native, educated at the Art Students League of New York and Arizona State University. Her work encompasses a variety of media including: concrete, plaster recycled materials, clay and various printmaking techniques. A dedicated social activist, her work has recently taken a political bend, dealing with issues such as incarceration, war, urban sprawl and the environment. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions, in Russia and across the US, and has had solo exhibitions at the Scottsdale Performing Arts Center, Valley National Bank's Corporate Gallery, Central Gallery, Metropophobia and the University of Arizona. Her public art projects include integrating the natural environment with the artwork of students.

## CLENDOLYN CORBIN



Clendolyn Corbin, one of the original members of COBA and ABC/Az has exhibited with the group in various locations. She has a Masters Degree in Art Education from Arizona State University and State Supervisory Credentials in Art. Years have been spent introducing the world of art production and art appreciation to children in the classroom. She served as a Phoenix Art Museum docent for twelve years.

“I create oil paintings and linoleum block prints. Subject matter have been groups of people performing together in religious, political and social settings. A recent series of prints depict my designed interpretations of well-know Bible quotations.”



**FRUIT BOWL**  
*acrylic on canvas*

## BALINDA WILSON



At the age of four when most kids were out playing I was in doors washing down my mother's walls that I had drawn on. This was the beginning of my drawing and painting experiences.

While attending Phoenix College, I had the opportunity of studying drawing under artist Merrill Mahaffey, who studied painting under the late Roosevelt Woods (*Rip*) at Arizona State University.

I began teaching visual arts, later returned to school and obtained my Masters of Arts in Education degree.

This opportunity has allowed me to become a consultant in cross-curriculum designing, while pursuing my doctorates along with working a new body of work for January 2007.

The challenge for me as an artist is to consume intense color in a stylized manner that will draw the viewer into my paintings.

My paintings are an extension of who I am and in some instances of what I have experienced.



**A LITTLE GOSSIP WITH MY TEA**  
*acrylic on canvas*

## JOE WILLIE SMITH



“My present focus is ‘Urban Fields’ a study involving empty areas within the city” abandoned lots, underdeveloped land, strips of land adjacent to railways, roads, and freeways. These areas represent repositories of informantion that reflect the social orders that exists near them.”



**SPIRIT TOWER**  
*Aleppo pine and oil paint*



**HOPE**  
*acrylic on canvas*

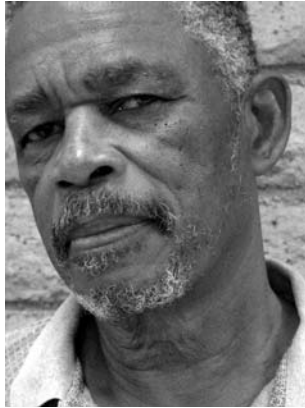
## RANDY GOODE



Randolph W. Goode has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Arizona State University. Randy works as a Graphic Designer and has won several advertising and design awards. He has served on the Phoenix Commission of the Arts and Culture and on the Board of Directors with the Arizona Theater Company. His acrylic paintings and charcoal drawings are in various private and public collections.

“In my work, I try to find beauty in the mundane and energy in the peaceful.”

## JOHN T. GRAY



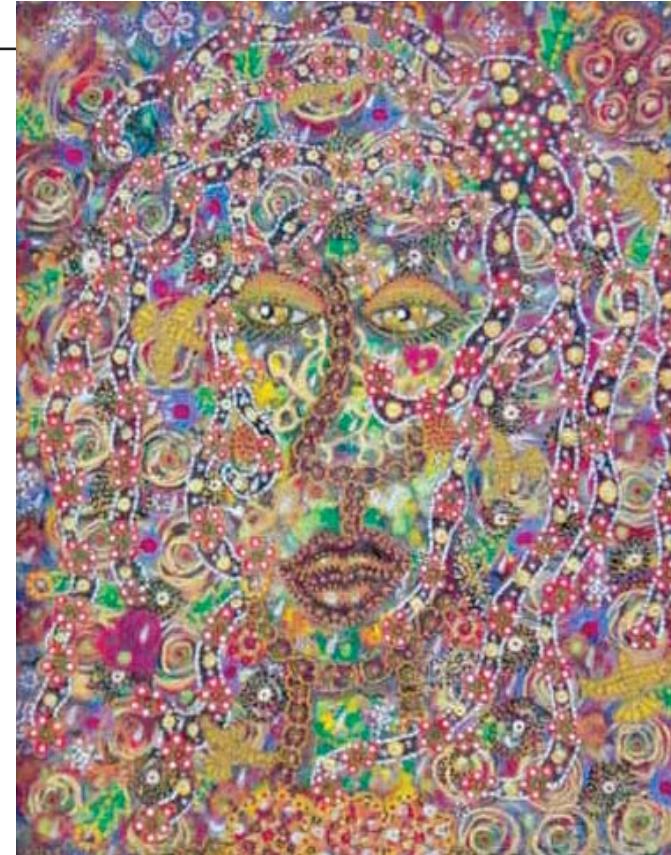
John T. Gray, attended high school in Indianapolis, IN where he first learned about photography.

Joined the military where he cultivated his interests. There he took aerial and underwater pictures. Upon retirement he bought a computer, a digital camera and began experimenting. John moved his family to Arizona where he and artist wife, Mary started Gram-E-Gallery. They have produced several calendars.

“When I’m not working with my wife Mary and COBA members, I am observing and photographing the Arizona topography, especially the sunrises and sunsets, as a world traveler, I can appreciate the beauty of Arizona. It is truly spectacular and unique...”



**ARIZONA SUNRISE**  
*color photography*



**A PEAK AT MOTHER NATURE**  
*acrylic on canvas*

## RICHARD RETTER



“Creating my art and working with my friends, in rehabilitaiton and specializing in art therapy, allows me to go to that place where all of us are one— a place of peace, love, tolearnce and joy in one another.

I hope my paintings communicate this and serve as a visual reminder or inspiration to living in this world...”

## SABASTIO PERERIA



Born in Brazil, Sebastiao came to Arizona in 1981 to attend Arizona State University. He was a student of “Rip” Woods and Ellen Murray Meisinger and received his Bachelors, and Master’s Degree in Fine Arts.

Today he is a highly recognized international artist. He has taught watercolor classes at Glendale and Estrella Mountain Colleges, and presently is teaching art at South Mountain Magnet High School. Sebastiao’s works are strongly influenced by fellow artists, his parents, and his Brazilian background.



**GLOBAL BEAUTY**  
*watercolors*



**THE SPIRITS ARE AMONG US**  
*acrylic on canvas*

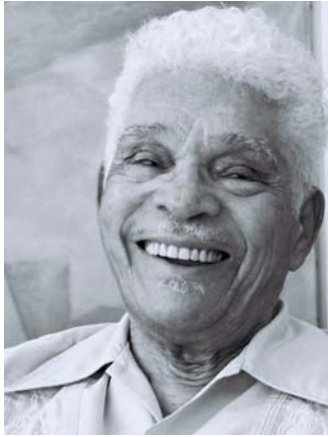
## MARY SHACKLETTE GRAY



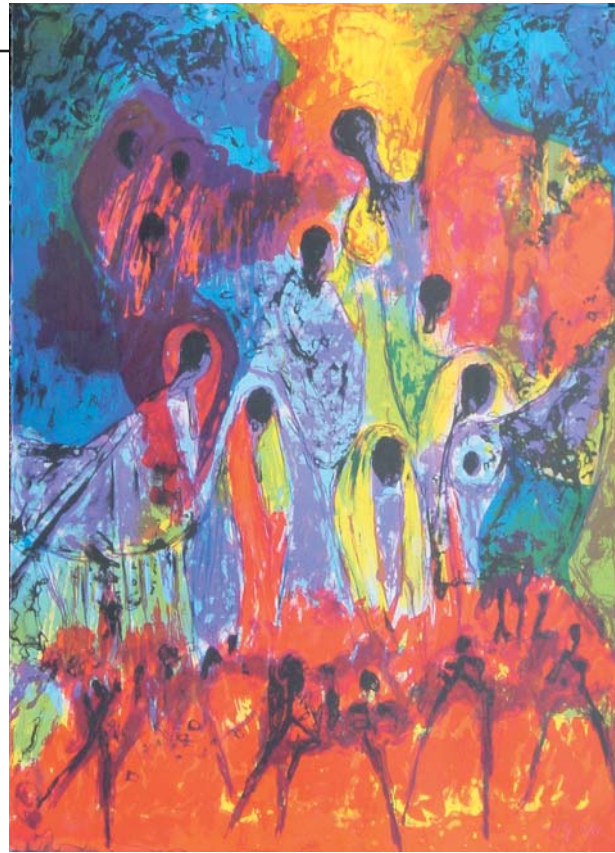
Mary Gray was a Children’s Art Workshop *protegee*. She has pursued many paths in the art world such as architecture, teaching and painting. The Indianapolis YWCA hired Mary where she became a staff artist and became interested in working with multicultural people.

When Mary left the YWCA, she traveled with her husband John on his military tours throughout USA and Europe, teaching art classes on base and providing graphic art services for the US Naval Exchange. When John retired, the family moved from Virginia Beach, to Phoenix, where she attended courses at Arizona State University. As the first Black female student in the College of Fine Arts. Mary received her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in painting and drawing. A most prolific artist, she created “The Grandma Series” about her past. Today Mary’s watercolors and acrylic paintings address sensitivity to visionary concepts of the spirit world.

## J. EUGENE GRIGSBY, JR.



Eugene Grigsby, Jr. is a distinguished artist, *professor emeritus* of Art Education, College of Fine Arts at Arizona State University, author and founder of the COBA and Artist of the Black Community/Arizona. His interests lie in youth art education. Grigsby's paintings and prints are in collections worldwide. They focus on his trips to Africa, and studies of African arts.



YEMENJA  
*lithograph*



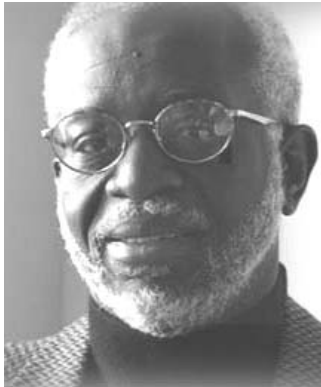
CAMARADERIE  
*clay sculpture*

## HELEN OSMAN

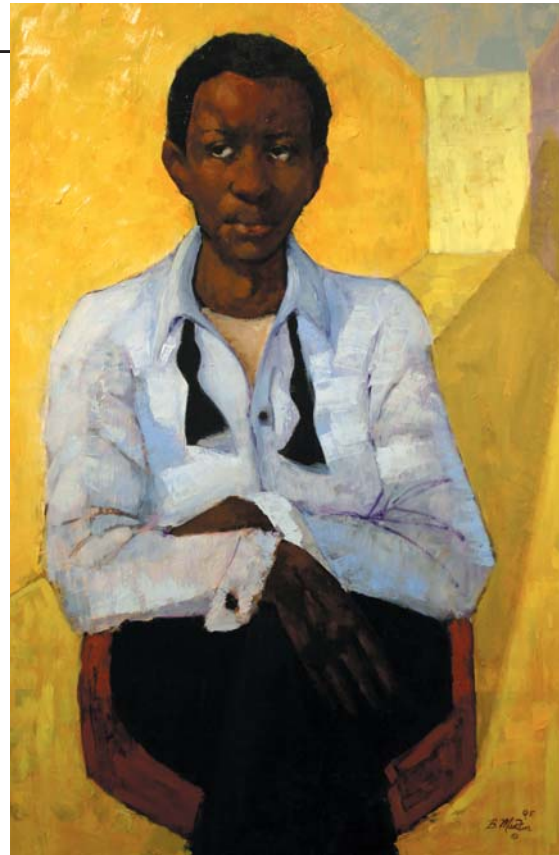


“As an artist, I seek to find strength and beauty in my work...  
The clay inspires me to breath life into my work and takes me on a journey through my heritage and on an adventure that stirs the very depths of my soul. I believe that my work brings out the best in me and I hope that the strength I feel when I am working, is reflected in the eyes of the beholder...”

## BOB MARTIN



“Painting for me is a conversation I am having with the viewer- about relationships and how they are always changing. I am capturing in my paintings moments that do not lend themselves easily to words. It is about my personal experience, what I saw, what I felt, what I heard and what I wanted at this time in my life”.



ENOUGH  
acrylic & oil on board



**BARK BARK!**  
black & white photography

## MARK HERRING

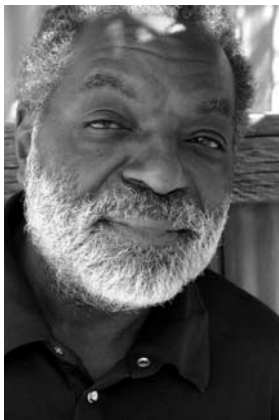


A long time resident of Phoenix, and graduate of Arizona State University (*B.S. Advertising Design, College of Fine Arts*), currently administrative assistant to J. Eugene Grigsby, Jr.

Mark works in photography and digital design. As an award winning designer and photographer he has worked with local and national advertising companies, in all print media (*advertisements, magazine ads, books, catalogs, corporate identity, etc.*).

Awards: Member FESTAC 76', Call for Entries, Phoenix Art Directors Club, Prisma Awards, New York, NY, Fine Woodworking Showcase and others.

## ALAN JONES



“The two driving forces in my life are the compulsion to create and a relentless curiosity... clay is exciting because it is so responsive and immediate. I touch a spinning lump of clay and it grows taller or fatter on the wheel. Without conscious thought, I change the shape of a pot and the vision in my mind’s eye springs into being. It’s spontaneous construction.”



**CUBICAL**  
*ceramic painting*



**COLOR THE BUDGET**  
*acrylic on canvas*

## CHARICE MABRY



“Without art, I can not hear the Lord speak. After chasing the dreams that others had for me, I began to chase my own and found myself –free.”

omit

film/page



