

## LASHONDA COOKS

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### **Artist Statement:**

*My work is a love song to myself, my family, my community and my culture. I love exploring beauty, cultural norms and identity as well as the construction of power, privilege, memory and movement.*

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### **SKILLS:**

- Painting quick post-Impressionist portraits based on photo and live references
- Sketching quick life drawing images in public and private
- Create custom illustrations, sketches and paintings based on client's needs, budget and vision
- Curating timely exhibits to create opportunities for myself and fellow emerging artists
- Host arts and crafts workshops in southern Dallas as a form of art therapy and incubator of creativity with community partners

### **AWARDS:**

- *Best in Show, Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum Juried Art Show, Texas, March 2024*
- *Denis Diderot Grant, Chateau D'Orquevaux Creative Residency, France, Oct 2023*
- *CACHR Hall of Fame Inductee, Texas Feb 2023*
- *Selected muralist for Deep Ellum Blues Alley, Texas, May 2022*
- *Forest Theater Artist of the Month, Texas, Nov 2021*
- *Best in Show, Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum Juried Art Show, Texas, March 2021*
- *Recipient of Iota Phi Lambda Dorethea N. Hornbuckle Business Entrepreneur Award, Texas, April 2020*
- *Recipient of Mayor's Rising Star Council Bus Stop Project, Texas Jan 2019*
- *Recipient of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs Cultural Projects Funding Grant, Texas, Fall 2018*

### **EXHIBITIONS:**

#### **Group Exhibition:**

- *Justus Sundermann Invitational, St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts, Dallas, Sept 2024*
- *Convergence, Art on Main Gallery, Dallas, Sept 2024*
- *Baba Shop Dallas, Dallas, Sept 2024*
- *Fort Worth Art Fair, 400H Gallery, Fort Worth, April 2024*
- *Lenora Rolla Show, 400H Gallery, Fort Worth, Feb 2024*
- *Small Works Show, 400H Gallery, Fort Worth, Nov 2023*
- *Mayor's Suite Exhibition, Dallas City Hall, March 2023*
- *Hue, Msanii Hous, Dallas, July 2022*
- *Respite, Pencil on Paper, Dallas, Feb 2022*
- *Constuyendo La Paz Con El Lenguaje Del Arte, Illamar Galeria, Peru, Oct 2021*
- *Tears: Weaponized, Devalued, Reconciled?, African American Museum, Dallas, March 2021*
- *Hair Story: Myths, Magic and Methods of Black, African American Museum, Dallas, Nov 2020*
- *As a Matter of Black: The Roaring 20's, MUCE Campus Miami, Feb 2020*
- *We the People, Mosesian Center for the Arts, Boston, Nov 2019*
- *Identity, Oak Cliff Cultural Center, Dallas, Nov 2019*
- *The Masks We Wear Community Exhibit, March 2019*
- *Falling in Love with Me, Grand Prairie, Feb 2019*
- *Salute Life Miami, WeWork Miami, Dec 2018*
- *Art, Power, Respect, Ponchavelli Studio at Drawing Board, Richardson, Sept 2018*
- *100 for 100 Show, Fort Works Art, Sept 2018*
- *Four Women Art Show, Brewing Arts Festival, Arlington, Sept 2018*
- *Muses Art Show, TVAA Gallery, Dallas, Aug 2018*

- *Art Conspiracy, Life in Deep Ellum, Dallas, June 2018 .*

#### **Two- Person Exhibition:**

- *Sanctuary, St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts, Jan 2022*
- *Ownership Series, Babson College, Feb 2018 (with abstract artist Jamaal Eversley)*
- *Coming of Age Art Show, Babson College, Hollister Gallery, Sept 2017 (with abstract artist Jamaal Eversley)*

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- *"Meet LaShonda Cooks," CanvasRebel, July 2022*
- *"Like father, like daughter: Pair Hosts First Joint Art Exhibit," Spectrum News, March 2022*
- *"Hair Story Grabs History by the Hair," Dallas Observer, Dec 2020*
- *"Hair Story Exhibit explores his Black Hair is more than mere follicles," KERA, Dec 2020*
- *"Artists Explore the Roots of Black Hair Culture," D Magazine, Nov 2020*
- *"From her beautiful stories to her pointillistic painting style. Meet artist LaShonda Cooks," [www.damienartsmag.com](http://www.damienartsmag.com), Feb 2020*
- *"An artist and an Entrepreneur," Babson Thought & Action, Sept 2019*
- *"Conversations with the Inspiring LaShonda Cooks," Voyage Dallas, Jan 2019*
- *"Native Dallas Artist Creating Positive Impact at Babson College," Dallas Post Tribune, Oct 2017*
- *"CityLine: Coming of Age," WCVB, Sept 2017*
- *"Alumni Joint Exhibition: A Coming of Age," [www.blogs.babson.edu](http://www.blogs.babson.edu), Sept 2017*
- *"Alumni LaShonda Cooks, Jamaal Eversley exhibit art at Babson College, Wicked Local, Sept 2017*
- *"A Brush with Happiness," Babson Magazine, August 2017*

#### **BIOGRAPHY:**

**LaShonda Cooks is a Dallas-based artist and writer who loves exploring cultural norms, identity and beauty through words and images. She received her BS from Babson College in 2010. Cooks, the daughter of an art teacher, balanced her business education with her life-long interest in the arts by working in the college's ceramic studio and exploring color in glaze and underglaze tiles. Those color studies birthed her signature pointillist painting style that features short fluid strokes and multiple layers of colors. Portraiture is her specialty. Her work has been featured in the Hollister Gallery at Babson College, Babson Magazine, Beacon Gallery, Boston City Hall, MUCE Miami Campus, Dallas Mayor's Office, , Forest Theater, 500X Gallery, Moody Performance Hall, Latino Cultural Center, St. Matthews Cathedral's Sundermann Gallery, Illamar Galeria in Peru, Chateau D'Orquevaux Residency in France and the African American Museum of Dallas.**