

## LASHONDA COOKS

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### *Artist Statement:*

*I love exploring cultural norms, beauty and identity through words, images and community engagement. I use painting, drawing and mixed media to dissect privilege, power, ethnicity, gender roles, expectations and biases on traditional and non-traditional canvases. My work is a love song to myself, my family, my community and my culture and memory.*

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### **SKILLS:**

- Painting quick post-Impressionist portraits based on photo and live references in public or private
- 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 partner
- Work with vendors and community stakeholders to create and curate and manage projects that leave lasting impressions and build morale.

### **AWARDS:**

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

## **EXHIBITIONS:**

### **Group Exhibition:**

- *Fort Worth Art Fair, Sundance Square, Fort Worth, May 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*