

## ERNEST MARSHALL KROMAH

An American artist whose work transcends definition. His masterpieces are inundated with rich vibrant colors, textures and designs that conjure highly sensual, spiritual emotions, and concepts of the known and unknown. Ernest is also known for creating customized works based upon concept and décor of a space or a specific concept for showcasing. The versatility of his artistic talent is uniquely exceptional.

Ernest M. Kromah's mission is to expose the world to his artistic creations and thinking in anticipation of influencing them to expand their minds for whatever purpose they may deem necessary.

- Was born April 18, 1939 in Baltimore, Maryland
- Started creating artwork at the age of 3 yrs. old, according to his paternal aunt, who became his guardian after his mother, a designer, transitioned when he was 11 yrs. old
- His fine art talent was heavily influenced by the artistic talent in fashion, food and fine art of his Mother, Margaret and other family members, as well as, mentors: Thaddeus Quarles, Robert O. Torrence, Cliff Smith and Howard Marshall (known as "Uncle Sammy," an art educator)
- He studied to be a chef/pastry chef at age 15, under his father's training for 10yrs
- He commenced, developed and operated his culinary and artistic entrepreneurial enterprises from 1965-2011 at which time serious health challenges did not allow him to continue in business
- The enterprises included ownership of a small neighborhood restaurant, kitchen cabinet design/installation manufacturing company, five pastry shops and baking production plant (that were located in Towson, Hamilton, Mt. Vernon and the Gallery in Harborplace), a 30,000 sq. ft. banquet hall/ catering company(housed in the downtown Baltimore Grand), tea room/art gallery( housed on the historic Antique Row), and 4 additional art galleries that included :

-Two private home galleries,

-A non-profit that implemented a cultural arts program and radio show on WEAA-FM, Morgan State University, entitled "Creative Forces."

- The historic Charles Fish Bldg. at Eutaw and Franklin Streets in Baltimore

All of which incorporated internship opportunities through local college institutions and private clientele.

Although he achieved a reputable name in the culinary field as exceptionally artistic and superb in creating authentic, unusual taste and presentation in his products, his passion has always been fueled by the various art establishments that he founded and operated mostly for the purpose of playing an instrumental role in the growth and development of other fine artists that included Joyce Scott, Thomas Miller, Jerry Prettyman, Robert O. Torrence, Januwa Moja, Nathaniel Gibbs, Andy Pigatt, to name a few.

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A few of his major exhibitions include:

- 4 major solo art exhibitions in Liberia, West Africa
- The wife of a former Liberian diplomat hosted a fine art and edible salon art show at the Elizabeth Condominium, Friendship Heights, Bethesda, Md.
- Stevenson University, formerly, Villa Julie College
- Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum, Founders' Room, commissioned to render portrait of one of the founders of the 1<sup>st</sup> African American shipbuilding companies
- Private salon art show in the New York city home of a former Sony Music executive
- Commissioned to complete an edible art miniature pastry mosaic presentation on all four levels of the Baltimore Convention Center for the 1980 Mayor William Donald Schaefer's Annual Mayor's Ball for the Arts.
- Artscape, 1999 sponsored "Kromah Gallery Revisited" a showcase of over 100 artists, who were affiliated with Kromah Gallery for over 20 yrs.
- **St. Agnes Hospital Initiatives:** auction of a Kromah painting in the St Agnes Foundation's Spring Caritas Gala, on April 11, 2015; the unveiling of the St. Agnes Hospital's acquisition of a giclee print of "*The Coalition*"; the planning of the exhibition of a body of work and opening reception, in the main hospital's administrative hallway.

Currently, there is a team of community volunteers, businesses and other organizations working with the planning, development and implementation of several projects of Kromah Art Enterprises that include the following: The Kromah Art Reciprocity Project- including Kromah Art Publishing, LLC, renewal of Kromah Gallery, Blue Indigo Edibles, LLC, Ambrosia Caterers, LLC, Lee Newton Co., Digital Printing @ Graphics.net and Art With Food traveling exhibitions. Additionally the implementation of an education program is underway entitled, "Healing Through the Arts for Optimal Health". We are looking forward to being coordinated with the **St. Agnes Hospital Foundation's** initiatives in providing inspirational programs, whose mission is to contribute to the healing process, especially for terminally ill youths. In conjunction with the mission of the Healing Through the Arts program we have developed and implemented fundraising campaigns in coordination with the **OGOT (OneGodOneThoughtCenter) a member of the UFBL (Universal Foundation for Better Living).**

Ultimately his goal, with his wife of 43 years, plans to establish The **Ernest and Gail Kromah's Foundation for the Arts and Humanities**

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