

Kini Collins

Upon graduating from high school in 1970 I moved to New York City where, driven by the need to protect myself from armed robberies, I began a study of martial arts that was to be the focus of my life for 20 years. I studied in the US and Japan and received ranking in several different movement forms; a third degree black belt in aikido, first degree black belt in iaido, second degree black belt in jujitsu and I was the first non-Japanese to receive a master's level ranking in Tenshin Bukkyo Ryu Heiho. I taught classes in Tokyo, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tulsa and Baltimore.

Other than a wealth of personal combat skills and some injuries, the most useful things I took away from those years of study was an understanding that failure is a misnomer and that discipline and desire are as important as talent. After being injured and unable to practice martial arts, I began working as a free-lance writer and editor in 1994. With the thought that learning to draw would improve my observation skills and help me be a better writer, I decided to study drawing. Over the course of two years I slowly stopped writing and art-making became the focus of my life until in 2015 a discarded manuscript resurfaced and I began writing again. In 2018 I was taken on by a literary agent and in 2022 my novel, *The Singing Bowl*, was published by Spuyten Duyvil Press. In April 2026, another novel, Cloud Shadows, will be published by Spuyten Duyvil Press.

Exhibitions, Awards, Publications (all solo exhibitions unless otherwise indicated)

Upcoming -- April 2026 -- Light/Form/Being -- Max Gallery, Baltimore MD Sculpture exhibit with Shannon Cassidy and Lyndie Vantine

July 2025 -- Visiting Artist-- Solo show/public workshop and co-teaching with Rebecca Bafford at Howard Community College

January 2025 -- Ascension -- Visiting Artist at GW Carver Center for Art and Technology

January 2024 -- Blooming Scapes (group show) -- Creative Alliance

February 2024 -- Individual Special Reception of work in Blooming Scapes November 2024 -- Publication of *The Singing Bowl*

April 2021 -- Part and Parcel -Essex Community College

September 2020 -- 20th Anniversary Show (group) Fleckenstien Gallery September 2019 -- Umbra -- Howard Community College

November 2014 -- May 2015 -- East Side Works -- organized and managed a workforce development program with Maxine Taylor

November 2014 -- Storm's Coming -- Laughing Pint

August 2014 -- City Birds, the Taphouse Edition

September 2013 -- Naturally Inclined (with Andrea Huppert) Fleckenstien Gallery July 2013 -- Similar Differences (group show) Artscape @MAX Gallery

May 2013 LandSCRAPes -- Roman's Place, Baltimore, MD

March 2013 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Grant

January 2013 Anamnesis -- School 33
October 2102 Sense/Memory -- Laughing Pint
October 2011 Canyon Walls -- Project 1628
May 2011 -- Images of Peru (with Martha Simons) -- Laughing Pint
April 2010 -- City Birds, the Gull edition -- Laughing Pint
July 2007 Strength and Grace -- Gallery G
March 2007 City Birds and Empty Bowls -- Gallery 1448
August 2006 Urban Flora -- Gallery at Liriodendron
May 2005 House -- Paper Rock Scissors
November 2004 Inward Gazes (invitational exhibit) -- Goucher College October 2004 Points of Contact -- The Creative Alliance
September 2003 Landfall -- Paper Rock Scissors Gallery
October 2002 For the Birds -- Paper Rock Scissors Gallery
May 2001 New American Paintings -- Work selected for national publication

August 1999 -- Harvest (with Rebecca Bafford) -- Halcyon Gallery June 1998 Bible Studies: Personal Visions -- Hood College

Collaborations

October 2001 From Reverence to Exultation -- The Creative Alliance
Organized and participated in multi-media exhibition with 14 artists based on discussions of love focusing on John Coltrane's work "A Love Supreme."

October 1998 READINGS -- Columbia Art Center
September 2000 READINGS 2 -- Mill River Gallery MD
For Readings exhibits I invited several artist to read three novels over the course of a year. We met to discuss the writings and each made work based on the readings and discussions.