

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 Toda Ha Bukkyo Ryu. I taught classes in Tokyo, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tulsa and Baltimore.

In the pursuit of these rankings, I supported myself by teaching and working as a Japanese-English interpreter. 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, where it has remained since.

Exhibitions and Awards (all solo exhibitions unless otherwise indicated)

Upcoming -- April 2021 -- Part and Parcel - Essex Community College, MD
September 2020 -- 20th Anniversary Show (group) Fleckenstien Gallery Baltimore MD
September 2019- Umbra -- Howard Community College
November 2014 Storm's Coming -- Laughing Pint, Baltimore
August 2014 City Birds, the Taphouse Edition, Baltimore MD
September 2013 Naturally Inclined (with Andrea Huppert) Fleckenstien Gallery Baltimore MD
July 2013 Similar Differences - (group show) Artscape @MAX Gallery, Baltimore MD
May 2013 LandSCRAPes - Roman's Place, Baltimore, MD
March 2013 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Grant
January 2013 Anamnesis - School 33, Baltimore MD
October 2102 Sense/Memory - Laughing Pint, Baltimore MD
October 2011 Canyon Walls - Gallery die Botschaft, Baltimore MD
May 2011 Images of Peru (with Martha Simons) - Laughing Pint, Baltimore MD
April 2010 City Birds, the Gull edition - Laughing Pint, Baltimore MD
July 2007 Strength and Grace - Gallery G, Baltimore MD
March 2007 City Birds and Empty Bowls - Gallery 1448, Baltimore MD
August 2006 Urban Flora - Gallery at Liriodendron, BelAir MD
May 2005 House - Paper Rock Scissors, Baltimore MD
November 2004 Inward Gazes (invitational exhibit) - Goucher College
October 2004 Points of Contact - The Creative Alliance, Baltimore MD
September 2003 Landfall - Paper Rock Scissors Gallery, Baltimore MD
October 2002 For the Birds - Paper Rock Scissors Gallery, Baltimore MD
May 2001 New American Paintings - Work selected for national publication
August 1999 Harvest (with Rebecca Bafford) - Halcyon Gallery, Baltimore MD
June 1998 Bible Studies: Personal Visions - Hood College, Frederick MD

Collaborations

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

October 1998 READINGS - Columbia Art Center , Columbia MD
September 2000 READINGS 2 - Mill River Gallery, Ellicott City, MD