



Tracy Stevens

strayinkllc@yahoo.com

Biography

Tracy Stevens, is a native of Baltimore, MD. She started her art career by accident at the age 7. This bookworm had exceeded for 4th grade reading class so, the teaching staff decided to create an extra class for a couple for students, Tracy was one of them. She painted a Christmas wreath, the staff recognized her talent and submitted this image to a greeting card company and the rest is history. She has been a full time graphic/fine artist ever since. Ms. Stevens received a vocational education diploma in Commercial Arts from Carver Vocational Technical High School, and Bachelors of Arts degree in graphic design from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.

In 2010, while working at T Rowe Price, she was summoned to jury duty for 6 months. During this time Ms. Stevens' father was diagnosed with a brain tumor that proved to be fatal, he died January of 2010. The relationship she was in, became mentally abusive and discovered when she returned back to T Rowe Price, she hated her job. Soon after, in November of 2011, Tracy lost her mother to lung cancer. To top off this perfect storm, on Halloween in 2012, Ms. Stevens was in a terrible car accident. Glass was impacted in both eye and skin, she had 2 black eyes, lacerations, a concussion and vertigo. But God! After returning to work, Tracy Stevens decided to submit her resignation. She told her manager that life is too short to live someone else's dream and she had started a business called Stray Ink.

Tracy Stevens has had both her fine and graphic art published nationally by Salem Tobacco products and various book covers. She has designed graphics for Baltimore City DPW, the Baltimore City Police Department, Quantize and Unquantize Recordings, Da Live 5 DJs (which consist of DJ Dice Brooklyn, Rapper Redman's DJ, LS One, Onyx and 50 Cents DJ, and DJ Base, Cee-Lo's DJ), Dukes Culinary Services/Subway Franchise, and various others. Her art has been featured in University of Baltimore, Mount Royal location, XS Restaurant, Indigal Gallery, Maryland Art Place, Larry Poncho's Unsung Art Show, The Gold Room production studio, New Beginning Barbershop/Art Gallery, in a South African sitcom, and NuBohemian Cafe.

In recent years, Tracy has placed her artwork on clothing in which she named her ArtWear series. Her reasoning for this is to transfer people into walking pieces of art. Within a year, Stray Ink's ArtWear was sold in Westminster California's Macy's. This feature has open up doors to create and sell her items in various boutiques, art galleries and big box stores.

In pursuing her philanthropic goals, Tracy helps her friend and infamous art collector, Paul Braswell, CEO of Art Health and Healing and Art Chit Chat and Chew, by donating and volunteering her talents. She also helps small businesses brand their businesses and create a buzz. Tracy's passion is to help and support other black and brown-owned establishments. She truly believes selfless giving is what life is about.

In closing, Tracy's tag phrase is "Stray Away From the Ordinary", Which describes both her fine and graphic art.



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Artist Statement

There are various forms of art and expression. I like to express myself by creating short informative clips, putting my emotions on canvas and making basic information eye-catching.

Sometimes people need an escape from their everyday lives. Through fine art, I use colors that invoke emotions and subject matters that match life experiences. Beautiful artwork can influence everyday life by making you feel joy right where you are.

I see graphics as the key that frees information. My designs promote events, clarify procedures and introduce or reintroduce your product(s) to your public via marketing materials. I also use my artistic graphic abilities to design eye-popping images that are creatively simple, yet effective.

Throughout life, I have run into some extraordinary people who have done extraordinary things. They have inspirational stories that would motivate others; they just need a platform to tell it. By recording, editing and presenting these stories via YouTube, my hopes are that they inspire others. I want everyone to know that you are special, everybody hurts, it's okay if you're not perfect and everyone has an opinion. You don't have to agree but at least you should listen.

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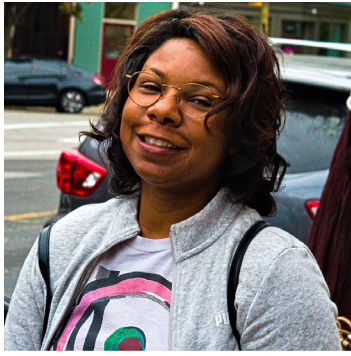
I am an awkward artist with BIG Dreams! That's me in a nutshell.

I realize it's not about me, it's about us and we have to do better with uplifting others. I am trying to empower people to wholeness as Isaiah 61:1-3 states. I know we've all been trials and tribulations, the different is that I share mine through my artwork/graphics. I keep my eyes to the sky and my aspirations turned high letting people know I went through darkness moved toward the light and telling my story.

My hopes are that my artwork, regardless of what form, helps people. Make them understand that there IS victory after this. That yesterday is in the past, today is temporary and tomorrow is a new beginning. Everything you see or hear isn't everyone's point of view and even though it looks its worst, it's preparing you for the best.

My humble beginnings...

In grade school, around 1st grade, we learned how waltz. A photo of me and my teacher actually ended up in the Baltimore Sun. A year after that, I learned to square dance and my sister started going to modern dance classes. In the 4th grade, I was pulled out of class because I was ahead of the rest of our classmates and attend an art class. We learned how to paint with watercolors by painting a Christmas wreath and my painting ended up on a Hallmark card. That's when I realized, I was an artist.



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Artist Resume

Education Completed

- Carver Vocational Technical High School, Major: Commercial Arts
- Baltimore City Community College, Credits: Dimensions in Behavior
- Maryland Institute College of Art, Continuing Studies, Major: Graphic Design

Design

Acting

- An extra on the Wire for the 1st and 2nd seasons (non speaking)

Dance music videos

- Control the World
- We will Continue
- Power to the Mutha Funk'n People
- Blac Magic
- The Revolution

Movies/ Documentaries

- Broken House (Dancer)
- Touch the Sky (Festival Goer)
- Baltimore House Music Documentary (Dancer)

Artwork

- Photography featured in Ground Root Inc.'s Community Walk Through Theatre
- Salem Tobacco Products 2000
- Artwork shown in the Penn Ave Film Project
- 6x6 Showcase Rochester Art Gallery, Rochester NY
- Maryland Art Place Out Of Order (Group Showcase) 2001-2019
- Showcase at the American Museum in Prince George's County (Group Showcase)
- Unsung Art showcase with Larry Poncho (Group Showcase)
- Showcase at the Arena Players, Baltimore, MD 2012 – 2019 (Group Showcase)
- Showcase at New Beginnings Unisex Barbershop & Art Gallery (Group Showcase)
- Social Media Promotion from New Day Campaign
- Showcase at Nubohemia Café (Group Show/ Silent Auction)
- 2 paintings featured in a South African Sitcom (Individual Showcase)
- Illustrations for a Spoken Word Book
- Showcase at the Hollywood Diner in Baltimore, MD (Individual Showcase)
- Book Cover design for A Palm Tree Story Journey
- Illustrations for Sista Worth Greeting Cards
- ArtWear line in The Market @Macy's (Orange County CA) 2019
- Illustrations (Clip Art Look) for Where Is It? (Children's Book)
- Photography for DPW's 2019 & 2020 Calendars

Artist's Assistance

- Layout and Design for Unsung Art Showcase
- Layout and Design for Mateo Blu's Look Books
- Social Media Advertisement for Penn Ave Film Project

ArtWear

- The Market at Macy's
- Lisa's Consignment Shop
- Indignal Art Studio

Graphics

- Collective Minds Music Festival Flier (2017)
- Dance & Music Festival Ads, Flyers and, Logo
- Flyers for One House One Nation (OHON)
- Flyers for The Gathering (Philly)
- Flyers & T-Shirt Designs for CMK Productions (Coney Island NYC)
- EP Cover for DJ Oji Morris & Carolyn Victorian
- EP Cover for DJ Pope
- Logo for Essence Radio
- Logo for No Requests Please, Music Management Services
- Logo for Dana Weaver, musical artist
- Logo for London Based Label, Solid Ground Recordings
- Logo for JT Soundz
- Logo for WDMF Online Radio

Modeling

- Ruben Brown Photography (Artistic)
- Splashing Lights Photography

Teaching Experience

- S.T.E.M. & S.T.E.A.M. Teaching Artist Future Makers (Baltimore City & PG County)
- Teaching assistant for the Baltimore Office of Promotion, 2014 - 2016.
- Substitute Teaching Artist for Concepts By Cash
- Teaching assistant at Jubilee Arts, 2013
- Training associate at T Rowe Price Financial Firm, 2011 through 2013

Video Editing

- The Cultural Arts Stage @ Collective Minds, 2015
- Collective Minds Go Fund Me Video, 2016
- Baltimore Basics
- Art Health & Healing
- The Gathering (30 sec Video Ads)
- Stray Ink LLC (30 sec Video Ads for Macy's)

Web

- Concepts By Cash
- Ground Root (Non-profit)
- Quantize Recording