

## **Bios of RED SPRING Curating the End of the World Contributors**

**RED SPRING is dedicated to  
living legend, Algernon Miller, a Father of Afrofuturist Art.**

**Ekpe Abioto** Ekpe (pronounced “eck-pay), a “musical philanthropist” and artistic director of GENIUS UNLIMITED, who specializes in children’s music and cultural entertainment. Since his career began in 1974, his motivational learning workshops on self-esteem, creative thinking, conflict resolution, drug prevention, and gang awareness have been well received by students, teachers, and administrators. As a musician, producer, recording artist, songwriter and arts educator, he plays African instruments such as the djembe drum, kalimba (thumb piano), shekere, and others, flute and saxophone. He gives entertaining and educational performances at schools, churches, festivals, colleges and universities, and is currently promoting his two CD’s entitled, “I AM A GENIUS” and “THE SPIRIT OF AFRICAN MUSIC.” His interactive music video “DON’T TOUCH A GUN” has been recognized and used as an effective means of keeping guns out of the hands of children. He is a part of **The African Jazz Ensemble**, a 10-piece band made up of some of Memphis' finest musicians. They've played together for over 40 years, and members have toured the world with Michael Jackson, Al Green, BB King, Eric Clapton, the Dells, Luther Allison, and Rufus and Carla Thomas. They formed the African Jazz Ensemble as a way to incorporate African influences into more traditional jazz, soul and R&B.

**Linda D. Addison** is one of the most honored speculative poets of all time. Over the course of more than 300 published poems, stories and articles, Addison has been awarded the Horror Writer Association’s Bram Stoker Award six times. In 2001, she became the first African-American to receive a Stoker for her superior achievement in poetry with the collection *Consumed, Reduced to Beautiful Grey Ashes*. She has since received three more Stokers for superior achievement in poetry—*Being Full of Light, Insubstantial* (2007); *How to Recognize a Demon Has Become Your Friend* (2011); and *Four Elements* (2013, with Marge Simon, Rain Graves, and Charlee Jacob)—as well as the Stoker for Mentor of the Year in 2017. Most recently, she was honored with the HWA’s Lifetime Achievement Award in

2018. In 2020 Addison was named a Grandmaster of Poetry by the SFPA (Science Fiction Poetry Association).

Addison's work has been collected many times, and has made frequent appearances over the years on the honorable mention list for *Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* and *Year's Best Science-Fiction*. Her own writing aside, Addison recently co-edited *Sycorax's Daughters* (2017), a Stoker-finalist anthology of horror fiction and poetry by African-American women. She is also a constant presence at StokerCon, the Northeast Writers' Conference, and numerous other gatherings.

**Adeyemi Adegbesan (Yung Yemi)** is a Toronto based photographic artist whose practice aims to examine the intersectionality of black identity. Reflecting on blackness through pre-colonial – colonial - present day and future timelines, across regions, religions, varying levels of income, and political lines; Adegbesan interrogates the dichotomy of the richness of black experiences with the imposed societal homogeneity of 'Blackness'. Through his work Adegbesan pulls from these varying elements to create Afro-futuristic portraits that embody history, future, and culture all in one.

**Jackie B** is a New York based art director and brand consultant. They are a creative model on the design runway—disciplinary in skill-set, strategically driven, and creatively focused. A Non-binary child of the world, looking to bridge the gap between dreams and reality. **Nicki Monteiro** (Instagram: @nickipreta) was born in burnt areas in the city of Rio de Janeiro. 25, daughter of Ricardo Monteiro and daughter of Márcia Rosa. Her career as a photographic model began at the age of 18, as an artist she brings emotion, passion and gratitude to her work, doing her work with love in every detail requested, with works done nationally and internationally. Roeu nasci em queimados baixada Fluminense da cidade Rio de Janeiro. Tenho 25, filha de Ricardo Monteiro e filha de Márcia Rosa. Minha carreira de modelo fotográfica se iniciou aos meus 18 anos que até este dia tenho total admiração, paciência. Como artista procuro sempre trazer emoção, paixão e gratidão ao meu trabalho, fazendo meu trabalho com amor em cada detalhe solicitado, com trabalhos realizados nacional e internacionais. Por ser carioca, resisto no coração e viajo para lugares que nunca imaginei com minha visão artística. Projetos como este me incentivam a ir mais longe e são um lembrete de que é possível realizar sonhos independentemente da origem. Para acreditar em si mesmo e em seus sentimentos. Lembro-me disso enquanto trabalho em todos os meus sonhos. Quero que O mundo saiba que você pode mudar o mundo por meio da fé, da resistência do normal e da determinação. **Roldan Muradian** (Instagram

@roldanmuradianfoto) lives in Rio de Janeiro since 2013. His current photographic projects revolve around the relationship between nature and the human body.

**S. Ross Browne** is a painter of figurative realism. His neoclassical compositions illustrate the collective narrative of the people of the diaspora. His work is a series of contextual allegories that reveal its overt and hidden socio-political and historical messages in figurative paintings that challenge notions about the collective journeys of all people but with a focus on people of color. I paint these collective, personal and often historical (affirmed and disputed) allegories giving them a framework to challenge the struggles of identity, power and self-actualization. His subjects are in classical pictorial representations, using delineations of factual chronicles and imagined mythology replete with persuasive imagery that defies the common visual library and the often polemic misrepresentations of diasporic people. I use contrasting narratives with symbolism hidden in plain view that feed discourse in an attempt to shed light on the weaponization of race and it's hypocritical progeny. [www.srossbrowne.com](http://www.srossbrowne.com)

**tobacco brown** paints the landscape with the authentic medium of flora and fauna. She initiates living art installations from nature's products and materials with the intention of creating a collective consciousness that results in liberated and healthy communities, focusing on art as a tool for blight remediation and therapeutic healing. Brown has created social environmental art sculptures and installations for public art, permaculture for resilient community projects and blight remediation that results in the restorative healing from socio-political inequalities. She is a TED speaker, Art21 Educator and environmental activist. tobacco brown creates works with, professional artist paints, natures materials, wood, paper, metal and industrial by products. In relationship to her social practice projects, civic engagement platforms and collaborations---we see how the journey of experimentation, small and great triumphs, creates space for new excavations and insights. By inviting local communities to participate in a shared environmental art that combines nature, installation art, written content, and oral history—her art form creates spaces for collaboration, creative problem solving where innovation is born.

She received her BFA in 1978 at Memphis State University in communications design. She continued to study at School of Visual Arts, when selected by portfolio to study with Milton Glaser. During those SVA years, she also studied advertising design at DDB+O, Young and Rubicam and Mary Wells in invitational classes at professionals home in New York City. She believes that nature principles when

amplified can impact the behavior of global cultures.  
<http://tobacco-brown.squarespace.com/>

**Adebukola Bodunrin** is a Nigerian-Canadian film, & video artist who explores language, culture, and media. In her collage animations, she manipulates film using unorthodox manual and digital techniques in order to produce unexpected cinematic experiences. Bodunrin's animation work has been featured on the television series *Transparent*, and in KCET's "Lost LA" series, for which she also won an LA Area Emmy award for segment direction.

Her short animation, *The Golden Chain*, created in collaboration with award-winning graphic novelist, Ezra Clayton Daniels, is in the permanent collection at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Her work has been screened at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Images Festival, Anthology Film Archives, the British Film Institute, Redcat Theater, Museum of Contemporary Arts Chicago, Festival Animator, and the Black Cinema House.

**Gerardo Castro** was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico raised in New York and earned his MFA from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY in 1997. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Budapest and major US Cities. Castro has exhibited in the following selected art shows, galleries and museums. Jadite Gallery, NY; Biblioteca Nacional, Havana Cuba; Wilmer Jennings Gallery, New York, NY, Bodies SOMArts Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA; The Human Rights Institute, Kean University, NJ; Joyce Gordan Gallery, Oakland CA; Aphrodisiac, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Root Division, San Francisco, CA; Museum of the History of Ponce in Puerto Rico; St. Mary's College Museum of Art, Morago, CA; Contemporary Directions: Niger to Afrofuturism, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA. Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY; Light vs Dark, Gallery 263, Cambridge, MA; The Studio Door, San Diego CA; Dual Art Gallery, Budapest, Hungary.

What is so compelling about Gerardo Castro's work is the way in which he uses the body, consciously or not, to call attention to the Art and artifice of the construction of Identity. Castro's work illustrates the multiplicity of the Afro-Latino experience; forces influenced by Afro-Caribbean religions and spirituality. His work enables a connection to history, meaning and myth, ethnicity and gender. Castro lives and has his painting studio in the Hudson Valley, in the city of Newburgh, NY.

**M James Cooper** is a born national of the twin island of Trinidad & Tobago. He is a graduate of Temple University with a B.A. in English Education & African Studies.

Once a hobby-driven writer, he has a few poems published in some online magazines, including, *Tomorrow, Please God*, a short fiction piece, published by Moko Magazine in 2015. Fictional short stories are one of many ways with which he hopes to achieve success, but more so, shed light on, as well as garner appreciation for, West Indian creative texts. *&BlackIssues*, a collection of "narrative telling" was his intro to the wide public; *Tomorrow, Please God: The Seven Narratives*, a sophomore effort, explores many things, but most important, it is an expression of the human experience. His works are African centered, steeped in Caribbean folklore & cultural narrative styles. Cooper currently resides in the city of brotherly love & sisterly affection, Philadelphia.

(Instagram: @m.jamescooper)

**Creative Soul Photography** is more than just photography. **Regis** and **Kahran** are artists and trusted business partners obsessed with unique, visual storytelling and capturing unconventional beauty, with a goal to tell a unique story through photographs that will last a lifetime. Their **AfroArt series** is a recognition and celebration of the versatility of black hair and its innate beauty. The purpose of this series is to illustrate the story of our royal past, celebrate the glory of the here and now, and even dare to forecast the future. With this series we aim to empower children of color to embrace their natural curls and the skin that they're in. With more than 10 years of working with hundreds of children, families and brands, we specialize in lifestyle photography and authentic, visual storytelling. Our holistic approach to capturing one-of-a-kind moments has allowed their work to be featured in *Teen Vogue*, *CNN*, *Glamour* magazine, *Vogue Italia*, *Black Enterprise*, *BET.com*, on *The Real* daytime talk show, *BBC News*, the *OWN* network and more. Their new book, ***Glory***, that compiles their extraordinary photography was released in 2020 and can be found wherever books are sold.

**Morisha Daneé** is an indie singer/songwriter from the outskirts of Chicago. She made her way in the independent music scene in 2013 with her first EP *ThisIsMe Part 1 Mellow*. Morisha Daneé was nominated for a Blexy Award at the Black & Sexy TV Awards Ceremony for a single on the *ThisIsMe* EP entitled "Baby Baby". Her sultry sounds have made their way to the big screen where her music has been featured on *BET* & *Centric TV*. She also performed live in the *NPR Tiny Desk Concert* series. Her latest singles "I Want You" Ft. Marvin Gaye & the motivating "Go Forward" and "Keepsake" have been holding her fans over until she drops

more music. Morisha Daneé is on her way to success. Her full album Chameleon Soul is coming soon.

**Taylor Deed** is a St. Louis-based artist, designer, writer and more, Deed practices as TAYLORTHEMIRROR: a creative agent translating work across dimensions of the healing arts, spirituality, social justice, and thought provocation

**Bryce Detroit** is the Afrofuturist storyteller, artist, activist, and pioneer of Entertainment Justice. As a cultural designer, he is a national award-winning music producer and curator. Through his work as founder of Detroit Recordings Company, he demonstrates the power of using music entertainment arts and community legacies, to design infrastructure for preserving, producing, and promoting new Afrikan and Indigenous narratives, cultural literacies, and cooperative economies. Bryce Detroit grows self-determined communities as culture director of Center for Community Based Enterprises (C2BE), delegate for East Michigan Environmental Action Council, co-founder of Detroit Community Wealth Fund, and member of Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition.

**Muniyra Douglas** holds a BA degree in English literature from the University of Toronto. She has previously published and presented on science fiction, Black cosplay, Afropunk culture, and much more. From Scarborough, she has been storytelling for over a decade, from spoken word to radio news to genre-bending work on post-colonialism, Black identities, womanhood, intersectionality, and mental wellness. Muniyra's afro-futuristic short animation, "The Glitch," debuted in 2020 at the Toronto Short Film Festival, Cinefam Film Festival, the Toronto Lift-Off Film Festival, and several virtual art exhibitions.

**Arthur Flowers** is a novelist, essayist and performance poet. A native of Memphis, TN, he is the author of novels *Another Good Loving Blues* and *De Mojo Blues*, a children's book, *Cleveland Lee's Beale Street Band*, a memoir/manifesto, *Mojo Rising: Confessions of a 21st Century Conjureman* and a graphic nonfiction, *I See The Promise Land*. Flowers considers himself a contemporary griot, referring to the storytellers of ancient African societies who passed on the history of their people to future generations through the oral tradition. Using spellbinding "performance poetry," Flowers accompanies his presentations with African instruments.

He has published short stories and articles and is a blues-based performance poet. He is a founding member/director of New Renaissance Writers Guild, NYC; The Griot Shop, Memphis; and the Pan African Literary Forum. He has been executive director of the Harlem Writers Guild and recipient of NEA and NYSFA awards in fiction and nonfiction.

His novel in progress, *Rest for the Weary*, is a meditation on prophecy, destiny, fate and the human condition. His newest nonfiction book, *The Hoodoo Book of Flowers* was released in 2020. He has a blog, Rootsblog, a cyberhoodoo Web space.

**Weenta Girmay** (Director/Producer) is an Eritrean-American documentary film producer based in New Orleans. She owns and operates Weenta Productions, a full service video production company.

Her past work as a producer/director has been supported by the City of New Orleans, featured on NPR and selected to screen at the New Orleans Film Festival. In 2019, she was chosen as a Southern Producer's Lab Fellow as supported by the New Orleans Film Society.

She's most excited to tell women-centered stories and collaborate with other female filmmakers.

**Jimmy James Greene** has shown exceptional artistic ability. After apprenticing with acclaimed afro-centric muralist Jon Onye Lockard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Greene graduated from The Rhode Island School of Design. Since then he has gone on to become an accomplished collagist, painter draftsman and designer who also works with stained glass, printmaking and mosaic tile. For the past thirty-five years his work has explored the communal expressions of the African diaspora in general, and those of the African-American experience in particular. "I see myself as a visual storyteller," says Greene. "The styles I use range from tight representation to abstracted forms, depending upon my intent, but the bottom line is communication. Ideally my work will act as a springboard for the viewer into their own imagination, their own experiences, memories and aspirations."

As a fine artist Greene has executed over thirty one-person exhibitions and innumerable group showings. As a commercial artist he has theater posters, CD

covers and many newspaper, magazine and book cover illustrations to his credit. More recently Greene has been commissioned to do public works of art by The New York Transit Authority, New York's City Parks Foundation, MetLife and St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. "Public commissions are like coming full circle," says Greene. "I started out as a mural apprentice and now I'm doing similar large-scale works that have to be fabricated to last for centuries, to be seen by thousands of people yearly!"

"Art isn't like sports – it's not about the fastest run or the most points scored in a game. Art is about expressing a point of view, one's self, and there are a whole lot of points of view," Greene says. "There are many ways of seeing life's experiences. There hasn't been a culture on the face of the earth that didn't express itself through art and, I believe there isn't a person that doesn't respond to art on one level or another. We're just wired that way, thank God."

Greene's latest series, "Ancestral Layers," is a hybrid of his colorful abstract collages layered under representational transparent paintings on plexi-glass. "Miles Davis said the skies the limit when you're creating a new thing, and with "Ancestral Layers" that's what I feel. We all live in layers; our past informs our present. We live within multiple layers. It's personal, it's familiar, it's racial and it's about culture and class. It's all that at once and it affects everyone. You can't swim in the water and not get wet."

For the past thirty years he has resided in New York City as an arts educator and a working artist.

**Zeal Harris** is a LA based visual artist creating colorful urban vernacular narrative fine art. Exhibition venues include; California African-American Museum in LA, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, Prizm Art Fair, Satellite Art Fair, and the Caribbean Culture Center of the African Diaspora. Art bibliography includes *Art News Magazine*, *Pacifica Radio*, *Huffington Post*, *Fabrik Magazine*, *Clocktower Radyo Shak*, *the LA Weekly*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and the book *Creative Souls: African American Artists in Greater Los Angeles*.

*To view resume or additional biographical information, please visit:*

**[www.zealsart.com](http://www.zealsart.com)**

**Winifred Hawkins** is a Graphic Designer/Artist born in Montgomery, Al 1983. Hawkins started drawing at an early age. While in high school, he was commissioned by the Troy University Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama to design 10 bronze roundels for the outside of the museum. He completed the project after graduating from Savannah College of Art and Design. Winfred has been working as a graphic designer since 2007. He has a Bachelors in Fine Arts from Savannah College of Art and Design. After suffering from a nerve injury in 2012, affecting both arms, he has considerably changed his style to incorporate the use of both hands. Winfred mostly uses his non-dominant, right hand, for sketching, but sometimes paints an entire work. The left hand he reserves for work that is more involved, in style, as well as subject matter. With this technique, Winfred creates original characters, incorporating them into his own unique mythology and art style.

**Ronald Herd II**, a.k.a. Bro. Ron, a.k.a. r2c2h2 the activist is not only an artist but a protean force of nature. He is a man of immense talents and a multi-faceted personality who is also a multi-disciplinary artist: a 21st Century Renaissance Man. A committed artist and activist, hence the term “activist,” Bro. Ron uses his talents to participate in social justice movements and to highlight and address historical wrongs.

A graduate of John Overton High School (1998), Washington University in St. Louis (BFA 2002) and Bethel University (MBA 2009) respectively and currently pursuing his Doctorate of Education at Walden University, for 13 years he has had successful one man and group art shows in the U.S. and abroad. In 2004, his art was featured in a group show in Paris, France, curated by the Hip Hop music supergroup The Roots.

**Hippy Soul** is an independent hip hop duo based in Memphis, TN. With a sound reminiscent and influenced by musical greats, Outkast and A Tribe Called Quest; Hippy SOUL brings an energy and charisma to their music that makes their sound uniquely different from both their influences and musical counterparts. The group consists of founding members, **Idi Aah Que** and **Teco Sensei**. Their debut mixtape, The Pursuit, in 2013, featured a collaboration with nationally signed CMG artist, Zed Zilla, on a song entitled “This Be”. In August of 2013, Hippy SOUL won first place in the Coast 2 Coast Live Event: Memphis Edition and with it a chance to

perform at the Coast 2 Coast Convention in Miami, FL. Their second album, *The Itis EP*, released January 2014.

**Ibura** has been celebrating the powerful and mystical realm of the human spirit through visual art ever since being struck with inspiration during a 1997 trip to Bahia, Brazil. In both abstract and figurative paintings, Ibura employs bold color, inventive form, and varied textures to explore themes of female power, magic, and transformation. Her recent work reimagines paper, stone, and plant matter to create transcendental collages cast in resin. Centering on the female form, the collages are a witnessing to lives, beauty, and transformative power of black women. Her prints can be found on Etsy ([ArtbyIbura](#)) and her paintings can be found in private collections in the United States, Brazil, and Japan.

**Intergalactic Soul** describes the Afrofuturistic multimedia exhibit created by Charlotte-based visual artists **Marcus Kiser** and **Jason Woodberry** and Durham-based performance artist **Quentin Talley**. Their work broadly focuses on presenting contemporary conversations about American black experiences, using the aesthetic and conceptual prisms of popular science fiction and comics to chronicle the various adventures of their fictional protagonists Astro and Pluto. The exhibit utilizes digital illustration, graphic design, product design, music, and installation.

**Janessa Jenkins** is a Visual Artist and Graphic Designer based in Saint Louis, Missouri. She specializes in merchandise design, brand identity and advertising / marketing design. Janessa has her Master's degree in Public Relations from Full Sail University ( FSU — '20) and her Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO — '17). [colortripz@gmail.com](mailto:colortripz@gmail.com).

**Jasteria** is a philosophy student, game designer, songwriter, and Japanese alternative fashion enthusiast. You can see more of her work on her Instagram account [@Jasteria](#).

~~**Jasteria** is a philosophy student, games writer, songwriter, and Japanese fashion enthusiast. She has a strong interest in Critical Theory and moral epistemology. Some of her favorite video games are *BioShock*, *Bayonetta*, and *Professor Layton and the Diabolical Box*. She likes to listen to Siouxsie and the Banshees, Bad~~

Brains, Azealia Banks, and Queens of the Stone Age. She has been wearing lolita fashion since 2019. You can see more of her lolita coordinates on her Instagram account @Hyacinthbulbs. **Synthia Hogan** is a photographer and filmmaker whose short documentary, "Fund Our Transit" focused on activist Justin Davis' fight for better transportation options in Memphis. **Eric Towles** is a chemist and a photographer who plays bass guitar with Autumn House Band in his free time.

**Danian Darrell Jerry** (aka "The Derelick") is a writer, teacher, and Hip Hop musician who holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Memphis where he teaches literature and English composition. He is a 2020 VONA Fellow and a Fiction Editor of *Obsidian*. Danian founded Neighborhood Heroes, a youth arts program that employs comic books and literary arts. He also works with special needs students at the Bowie Reading and Learning Center. He was a featured guest at the 2019 Mercedes-Benz SXSW MeConvention at Frankfurt, Germany. His work is discussed in **This Ain't Chicago: Race, Class, & Regional Identity in the Post-Soul South** (University of North Carolina Press), **Hip Hop in America: A Regional Guide** (two volumes, Greenwood), and other publications. As a professor, he has taught fiction writing and performance reading at Memphis College of Art, and he teaches literature and composition at the University of Memphis and serves as a Writing Specialist at Rust College. Currently, he revises his first novel, **Boy with the Golden Arm**. As a child he read and drew comics, and as an adult he writes his own adventures. His work appears or is forthcoming in **Fireside Fiction**, **Apex Magazine.com** and **Trouble the Waters: Tales from the Deep**.

**Jacqueline Johnson**, is a multi-disciplined artist creating in both poetry, fiction writing and fiber arts. She is the author of *A Woman's Season*, on Main Street Rag Press and *A Gathering of Mother Tongues*, published by White Pine Press and is the winner of the Third Annual White Pine Press Poetry Award. Her work has appeared in: "Revisiting the Elegy in the Black Lives Matter Era," Routledge 2020, *The Slow Down*, American Public Media, October 16, 2019 and "Pank: Health and Healing Folio" 2019. Ms. Johnson has received fellowships from the New York Foundation of the Arts, the Mid Atlantic Writers Association's Creative Writing Award in Poetry and McDowell Colony for the Arts. She is a Cave Canem fellow, VONA Fiction fellow and BEI fellow 2018-2021. Recent exhibitions are: "Yours for Race and for Country: Reflections on the Life of Colonel Charles Young," at the National Afro-American Museum, Wilberforce University. "The Soul of Zora: A Literary Legacy Through Quilts," at The Legacy Museum, Tuskegee University,

Tuskegee Institute and “Kindred Quilts, A Celebration of Stories in Cloth,” Brooklyn Public Library, Williamsburg Branch.

Works in progress include: “*The Privilege of Memory*,” and “*How to Stop a Hurricane*,” a collection of short stories and “*This America*,” a poetry collection. She is a graduate of New York University and the City University of New York. A native of Philadelphia, PA., she resides in Brooklyn, New York.

**Patience Lekien** is an artist who focuses on communicating stories and experiences through design, illustration, writing, and more. He considers himself a storyteller and conceptual artist challenging concepts of identity and representation. He currently works full time as Production Designer and Maker at MONO agency in Minneapolis. He also works as a freelance artist, focusing on areas of illustration, motion graphics, visual design, and storytelling.

**Jorge Elecier Bermudez Lemus** was born on August 13, 1982 in the port city of Buenaventura, Colombia (South America). He is an Architect and Visual Artist who is passionate about creating and painting. He is inspired by the beauty of his culture and the landscapes of the coast of Colombian Pacific. That is why he characterizes himself as an artist who includes vivid colors in his palette, such as yellow, red, green, etc. that are inspired by the land. He wants the world to know his passion through art. He has had the fortune of being able to take his artistic work to countries like Mexico, Peru, and Argentina. With those experiences, he hopes to continue traveling around the world with original artistic creations and to find people who support him on this path of art. His great dream is to open his own art gallery.

**Danielle L. Littlefield (Elle L. Littlefield)** is an Afro-Mississippi writer, editor, and professor. A regular contributor to creative and literary projects in the “MemphisSippi” region, she works to document and preserve Black vernacular and culture from the American South. A two-time Callaloo Fellow, she holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College and extensive graduate work in African American Literature. She currently serves as Assistant Professor of English at HBCU Rust College and as a Fiction Editor at Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora.

**Julia Mallory** is a poet, children's book author, and screenwriter.

**Nicole M. Mitchell** is an award-winning creative flutist, composer, bandleader and educator. She is perhaps best known for her work as a flutist, having developed a unique improvisational language and having been repeatedly awarded “Top Flutist of the Year” by *Downbeat Magazine* Critics Poll and the *Jazz Journalists Association* (2010-2017). Mitchell initially emerged from Chicago’s innovative music scene in the late 90s, and her music celebrates contemporary African American culture. She is the founder of *Black Earth Ensemble*, *Black Earth Strings*, *Sonic Projections* and *Ice Crystal*, and she composes for contemporary ensembles of varied instrumentation and size, while incorporating improvisation and a wide aesthetic expression. The former first woman president of Chicago’s Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, Mitchell celebrates endless possibility by “creating visionary worlds through music that bridge the familiar with the unknown.” Some of her newest work with Black Earth Ensemble explores intercultural collaborations; *Bamako\*Chicago*, featuring Malian kora master, Ballake Sissoko, made its American debut at Chicago’s Hyde Park Jazz Festival in September 2017, and *Mandorla Awakening* with Kojiro Umezaki (shakuhachi) and Tatsu Aoki (taiko, bass, shamisen), was just recently released on FPE records (Chicago) last spring. Recently she celebrated a compositional premiere with *Procession Time*, a suite inspired by the work of Harlem Renaissance artist Norman Lewis, that was performed by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and conducted by Steve Schick in October 2017.

Mitchell has also recently been interested in multidisciplinary work, through the incorporation of original video art with her music (*Mandorla Awakening I and II*, *Interdimensional Interplay* for Solo Disklavier and Prerecorded Flute). In January 2018, Mitchell was recently the Artist in Residence at New York’s Winter Jazz Fest, where she performed four suites of her compositions, including *Art and Anthem* (for poet Gwendolyn Brooks), *Maroon Cloud* (inspired by her writing “What Was Feared Lost” from *Arcana VIII* edited by John Zorn), *Pteradatyl*, a new trio with vocalist Sara Serpa and Liberty Ellman, and her latest Afrofuturist suite, *Mandorla Awakening*, which was cited as a top jazz recording in the *New York Times* and the *LA Times* for 2017. As a composer, Mitchell has been commissioned by the French Ministry of Culture, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Art Institute of Chicago, the Stone, the French American Jazz Exchange, Chamber Music America (New Works), the Chicago Jazz Festival, ICE, and the Chicago Sinfonietta. Mitchell has performed with creative music luminaries including Craig Taborn, Roscoe

Mitchell, Joelle Leandre, Anthony Braxton, Geri Allen, George Lewis, Mark Dresser, Steve Coleman, Anthony Davis, Myra Melford, Bill Dixon, Muhal Richard Abrams, Ed Wilkerson, Rob Mazurek, and Billy Childs, and Hamid Drake. She is a recipient of the Herb Alpert Award (2011), the Chicago 3Arts Award (2011) and the Doris Duke Artist Award (2012). Mitchell was a Professor of Music at University of California, Irvine, teaching composition and improvisation in the graduate program of Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology for several years. Now, she is the new William S. Dietrich II Endowed Chair in Jazz Studies Professor, Director of Jazz Studies, and the Director of Creative Arts Ensemble at the University of Pittsburgh. Visit [www.nicolemitchell.com](http://www.nicolemitchell.com) and learn more about her approach to her work at <https://www.music.pitt.edu/people/nicole-mitchell-gantt>

**Mawhyah Milton** is a New York based illustrator with a deep south background. She incorporates her bold, loud & colorful personality and culture into her art to express as vividly as possible, the reality of Black existence in The United States. You can see her work on Instagram: @mawhyah or her website: [mawhyah.com](http://mawhyah.com)

**Yasin Allah AKA Mmilk** was conceived in Chicago and born in Memphis. His father, a Vietnam veteran, died when Yasin was in elementary school. His widowed mother moved from apartment to apartment, searching for home, a place where she could raise Yasin and his younger brother Dante and give them better lives. By the late eighties, Hip Hop culture flooded Memphis like crack cocaine, and the violence that stirred in the projects and the nightclubs. Like many black boys, Yasin approached a crossroads. Finding his true path was challenging. Most times life pulled Yasin in all directions at once. He worked the block, sold dope, shot pistols, read *Message to a Black Man*, and *The Final Call*. When he went home, where no one in the streets could see, he pulled his pencil and notebook from under his bed and spent hours writing the rhymes that would change his life and alter Memphis Hip Hop forever.

Yasin started rapping in street corner and backyard cyphers after school. He found other emcees, deejays, and dancers all over the city, but no encounter was as fateful as a chance meeting with a young Jackie Braden, aka "DJ Kojack." The pair formed a partnership that has lasted two decades and raised an alternative Hip Hop scene, including practitioners, a healthy fan base, and community organizers. They call Yasin Allah the Memphis God Emcee. He has worked with some of the greatest voices in Hip Hop and dropped underground hits like the gritty "What It

Is?” recorded with Iron Mic Coalition, as well as “Dipped in Soul,” a posse cut that Yasin produced, *featuring* Memphis rap giants 8 Ball and MJG.

Now Yasin presents his first solo release, *The Album I Owe*. He wanted to focus on lyrics for this project, so he recruited underground legend Paragon Assassin to produce the beats. Yasin returned to his Iron Mic Coalition roots and collaborated with DJ Capital A. For recording and mixing, he went back to the essence and grabbed DJ Kojack. Finally, he added his own deadly acrobatics, a style of rapping he calls Tennessee Hill Repertoire. The result is Yasin’s best work to date, a classic album for devout backpackers, grimy trap rapper, and every other music enthusiast riding the spectrum, locked in struggle, critical rhymes for critical time.

**Meighan Morson** is an artist/ animator whose work explores concepts of identity, polarity, fantasy/fiction, human consciousness and mental health. Although born in Toronto, Canada, she grew up in the twin island state of Trinidad and Tobago. She has completed a BFA Drawing and Painting, with a specialization in Digital Painting and Expanded Animation at OCAD University, achieving an honours distinction. Her preferred medium is digital painting, however she also works in acrylic paint, charcoal and graphite pencil. From childhood, she has always had a love for science fiction and comics. As a result, her work mainly revolves around the idea of imagining and broadening horizons for the African diaspora, using fantasy, futuristic and sci-fi themes with black protagonists. She is inspired by many things: current events, personal experiences, nature, dreams, Caribbean folklore, and her Afro-Caribbean heritage.

**Roldan Muradian** lives in Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL, since 2013. His current photographic projects revolve around the relationship between nature and the human body.

Ashunda Norris is an award winning filmmaker, feminist, archivist and poet living in Los Angeles. Her honors include fellowships from Cave Canem, the New York State Summer Writer’s Institute and a residency at The Lemon Tree House.

Ashunda’s writing has appeared or is forthcoming in Fence, [PANK], Trampoline, La Presa, Bayou Magazine and elsewhere. Her most recent film work, MINO: A Diasporic Myth has screened nationally and internationally including in Amsterdam, Berlin and Nairobi, Kenya. The artist is a proud alumna of Paine College and Howard University. She holds MFAs in both Poetry and Screenwriting. Born and raised in the heart of rural, red clay Georgia, Ashunda loves hot water

cornbread, obscure cinema, stargazing, the ocean and celestial Sirius. Link her at ashunda.com

**Pickett Fence (Jay Webb)**, is a veteran MC from Dayton, Ohio has been involved in Hip Hop Culture for over 30 years. In the early 80's he started b- boying (break dancing). Later in the 80's he started doing small tags (graffiti) on abandoned buildings around the city. Along with tagging he found a passion for MC'ing and Dj'ing. **Cudda Mack** is a Hip Hop Producer born and raised on the south side of Chicago, Illinois. Moved to Dayton, Ohio in 2002. **Mike Cooley** is a Hip Hop MC and audio engineer from Dayton, Ohio. **A. Slate** is a Poet, Spoken Word Artist, Actress, 2019 TEDxDayton Speaker/Performer, Mother of Grace, and Founder of The WRITelife Village Organization- where young people can express themselves, creatively, without judgment, bias or fear through poetry. <https://www.facebook.com/A.SlatePoet/> **Audra D. "the poetess"** was born Audra Danielle Williams raised in Dayton, Ohio. She has been writing since the age of 11. She first discovered her gift of writing after winning a young writers prose contest. She found her love for poetry and song that later grew into a passion to express through spoken word. Audra has been ministering her work for the last 7 years and has had the privilege to bless local churches, correctional facilities, colleges and local venues including Dayton, Cincinnati, Yellow Springs, Columbus and other surrounding areas. She has also competed against some of the Nations top poets in The Last Poet Standing II contest at the Loft Theater as well as Metaphorically Speaking. She enjoys sharing her inspirational quotes and bringing her poetry to life on canvas, glass art, and tshirts. She has managed the play "Irreconcilable Emphasis" in which she carried a co-star role, written the hit song "Muddy Shoes Blues" as well as performed poetry. She also joined the 2016 cast of spoken word stage play "Coochie Chronicles" an expression of women from all walks of life with a vision to inspire and encourage women to overcome their life's struggles. She joined the cast of " The Inconvenient Truth" in 2017 with her song and poetry and looks forward to continuing to contribute to the community and collaborating with creative alike

**Dacia Polk** is an award winning Poet and philanthropist who works and resides in St. Louis MO. Her scope of work is as wide as her interests; which includes writing, curating, community organizing, event planning/production, hosting/MC, public speaking, acting, modeling and graphic design.

Better known by her stage name **InnerGy**, she has written work in the African News World, African American Voice, and has been featured in quarterly visual arts magazine All The Art and A grimoire of Black Speculative Discontent: Cosmic Underground. A professionally performing Poet, she has headlined events in Detroit, Pittsburg, Washington, Orlando, Chicago, and Las Vegas. Acclaimed Actress she plays a superhero in a blaxploitation web series called "Blackman and Super Sista," ,made her theatrical debut in Sir Ervin III' s "Zella" (2019) and has starred as supporting lead in Moses Weather's short film "Love in all the Wrong Places (2018) as well has her first lead Starring role in her highly anticipated, latest full length film, Sangray's thriller/action/drama titled "Siren's Song' to be released 2021.

For her work as a young entrepreneur, activist, and community organizer she received Delux Magazine's 30 under 30 award, Global 1000 Black's in Tech Poet of the Year (2017), Michael Brown Memorial Foundation Chosen For Change Community Service Award, and honors for philanthropy from Anthony Shahid's Tauheed Youth Group.

Inspired by "Humans of New York," Humans of St. Louis has profiled Polk, her work and creative process. She has also been nominated for St. Louis UnderGround Music's Poet of the Year award (2019).

Dacia has been an organizer for The Black Speculative Arts Movement for over 4 years and is a lead coordinator for its St. Louis based annual festival and convention. She uses her background in Digital Arts and organizing to manage the BSAM website and Instagram account and is Admin for Afrofuturism 2.0.

She currently runs a weekly open mic that runs locally Tuesday nights and online Sundays. As well as manages her own couture handmade jewelry collection CopperStone. She can be found @innergyinme in all social media.

**Kristina Kay Robinson** is a writer, curator, and visual artist born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her practice centers and interrogates the modern and ancient connections between world communities. Robinson's work focuses on the impact of globalization, militarism, and surveillance on society and their intersections with contemporary art and pop culture. Her ongoing installation and performance

art project, Republica: Temple of Color and Sound has been presented in exhibition at “Welcome to the Afrofuture” during Miami Art Week, New Museum’s residency program, Ideas City and the New Orleans African American Museum. Robinson is the co-editor of *Mixed Company*, a collection of short fiction and visual narratives by women of color. Her writing in various genres has appeared in *Guernica*, *The Baffler*, *The Nation*, *The Massachusetts Review* and *Elle* among other outlets. She is a 2019 recipient of the Rabkin Prize for Visual Arts Journalism. Currently she serves as the New Orleans editor at large for the Atlanta based, Burnaway magazine.

**Tokie Rome-Taylor** is a Georgia-based artist whose work has been published in *Behind the Shutter Magazine* as well as *Art-iculate Magazine*. She has been featured on several podcasts discussing her practice including *StudioNoize* and *National Black Arts Festival:ReImagined*. She was shortlisted for a TILA fellowship and is a Funds for Teachers Fellowship recipient, studying photography in Santa Fe, New Mexico and in San Francisco, California. She is an Honorable Mention recipient for the International Photography Awards (2019) sponsored by the Lucie Foundation. She is a 2019 recipient of the 2019 Virginia Twinam Smith Purchase Award.

Rome-Taylor’s portraits have been featured in several museums, galleries and exhibitions including the Masur Museum (LA), ArtFields (SC), Johns Creek Art Center, (GA) *The High Rise Exhibition* (GA), *Emerging Photographers Exhibition* curated by Mechi Mecho (GA), Zuckerman Museum of Art (GA), Auburn Research Library (GA), Callanwolde Fine Arts Center (GA) Hartsfield Jackson International Airport (GA), the ArtXchange (GA) and Alan Avery Selects: APG Gallery Show (GA). Taylor's work is held in several private collections as well as by the Fulton County Arts Council and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Georgia. She has five bright, beautiful children, a wonderful husband, a love of science fiction, and learning new things.

**Andrea Rushing** was born in Virginia in 1960. At an early age his drawing showed promise, catching the praise and encouragement of his parents and of a family friend who gifted him with materials and advice. By fourteen he was painting in acrylics, and in both execution and subject matter his work was considerably more sophisticated than his years. Yet by his own choice Rushing left college, and painting, for a stint in the Navy and after that for a short stay in the defense industry. It was this detour that broadened Rushing’s perspective and provided a

great catalyst for change: he learned, traveled, let the world educate him, and then finally came to understand that painting was his future.

Rushing returned to creative work, studied at the Academy of Art in San Francisco and for the first time found himself around other artists, and other people, who thought and felt as he did. From there the artist began to paint and recognition followed: he has had one man shows at San Diego State University, San Marcos State University, and at the San Diego Museum of Art. Currently his work hangs in the Michael J. Wolf Gallery in San Diego, and in the Heritage Art Gallery and the Reginald Ingraham Gallery in Los Angeles.

His is a distinctly European sensibility, driven by a profound interest in the human condition and by the insights humanity displays in response to that condition. At its lightest Rushing's work suggests Magritte, showing life in an amused juxtaposition; at its most intense, Dali or Rousseau, where man and image confront each other in unnerving contrast. Rushing's great power as a painter lies in his insights into human nature — sometimes as in studies of rich symbolism; other times in straightforward portraiture, where his brushwork reveals the sitter's truth and destiny. And always things are rendered with compassion and elegance.

**Dedren Snead** is the creator/ writer of the Glyph Comics Award-nominated comic book series, Sorghum and Spear, and creator-writer of the upcoming Turnkey comic book series. He is a writer, content creator, and being both a Futurist and Retroist, his mind wanders throughout the space-time continuum, with at 10 year +/- around 1993 as the focal point of his many fandoms. He is the co-host of the New Wakanda podcast and head writer at RAZRWING, Inc.

**Street Genius** is a software innovations firm founded in Missouri striving to bridge the gap between people and technology by building tools to make life easier with an aim to design and create the future. Developers of the cutting edge app Loop and the brains behind Red Leopard & The Great Rift (Afrofuturism, Zombie Apocalypse, Future Dystopia, Coming Of Age, Sci-Fi).

**Shawn Theodore** (*b. 1970, Germany*) is an award-winning photographer whose work opens broad conversations regarding the role of the photographer in the shaping of agency and imagery, engages in new forms of storytelling, and impacts the trajectory of the collective black consciousness.

Theodore has participated in exhibitions at various institutions, galleries and fairs, including the African American Museum in Philadelphia (2017, 2018), Mennello Museum of American Art (2018), The Barnes Foundation (2017, 2018, 2019), Steven Kasher Gallery (2018), AIPAD (2018, 2019), Hudson Valley Community College (2018), Catherine Edelman Gallery (2017), The Bakalar & Paine Galleries at MassArt (2017), Snap! Orlando (2018), Richard Beavers Gallery (2018), PRIZM Art Fair, Scope Art Fair, Philadelphia Photo Arts Center, Rush Arts Gallery (2017, 2018), and the University of the Arts (2019). His commercial projects include works for Apple, Showtime Networks, RocNation, PAPER Magazine, New York Magazine, Smithsonian Magazine, The Atlantic, The New York Times, PDN and others.

Theodore was awarded the prestigious PDN's 30 New & Emerging Photographers to Watch (2019), the Getty Images / ARRAY 'Where We Stand' (2018) grant and a grant from the Knight Foundation for 'A Dream Deferred' (2018). He is a two-time nominee of The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage Fellowship, and a nominee of the Magnum Foundation Fund.

Theodore earned his BA in JPRA (Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising) from Temple University. He currently attends the MFA for Photography program at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD Atlanta). Theodore is a current trustee of the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation and the Philadelphia Photo Arts Center.

**Sheree Renée Thomas** (Black Pot Mojo) is an award-winning editor and the author of three collections, *Nine Bar Blues: Stories from an Ancient Future* (Third Man Books, May 2020), *Sleeping Under the Tree of Life* (Aqueduct Press, 2016) and *Shotgun Lullabies: Stories & Poems* (Aqueduct Press, 2011). She is a Marvel writer with an original story in the groundbreaking anthology, *The Black Panther: Tales of Wakanda* edited by Jesse J. Holland (February 2021). Her multigenre collections have been longlisted for the Otherwise Award and honored with a Publishers Weekly Starred Review. She is the editor of the groundbreaking anthologies, *Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora* (2000) and *Dark Matter: Reading the Bones* (2004), which earned the 2001 and 2005 World Fantasy Awards for Year's Best Anthology, making her the first Black author to win the award since its inception in 1975. With *Dark Matter*, Thomas was the first to introduce W.E.B. Du Bois's science fiction stories.

Sheree is the editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, founded in 1949. She also edited for Random House and for magazines like *Apex*, *Strange Horizons*, and is the Associate Editor of the historic literary journal, *Obsidian*:

*Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora*. As a fiction writer and poet, her work has been supported with fellowships and residencies from Smith College as the Lucille Geier-Lakes Writer-in-Residence, the Cave Canem Foundation, Bread Loaf Environmental, the Millay Colony of Arts, VCCA, the Wallace Foundation, the New York Foundation of the Arts, the Tennessee Arts Commission, ArtsMemphis, and others. Widely anthologized, her work was nominated for a 2020 Pushcart Prize and also appears in *The Big Book of Modern Fantasy* and *The New York Times*. Sheree was honored as a 2020 World Fantasy Award Finalist for her contributions to the genre and will serve as a Special Guest and a co-host of the 2021 Hugo Awards Ceremony with Malka Older at Discon III in Washington, DC.

Visit [www.shereereneethomas.com](http://www.shereereneethomas.com) and [www.fandsf.com](http://www.fandsf.com)

**Paul Thomas** known as the “Recycle King,” is an artist and designer based in Memphis, TN. As the Artist In Residence (AIR) for ArtUp, the first space that Thomas helped to activate through ArtUp was a former liquor store that he transformed into what is now OMG: Orange Mound Gallery. This initiative pays homage to Thomas on many levels. First, OMG is located in The Historic Orange Mound neighborhood, the birthplace of Thomas and home to six generations of his family. Second, Thomas was the first artist featured at OMG on February 19, 2016. He is a resident-artist at the South Main Artspace Lofts in Memphis and its Memphis Liaison in charge of community engagement and outreach. Thomas is a strong advocate for cleaning up the environment and encouraging people to be creative with their resources. As his appellation and commitment to advocacy suggest, Thomas uses recycled materials and discarded items to create beautiful and unique pieces of art that have been exhibited in renowned museums and fashion shows throughout the United States

**Quentin VerCetty (Lindsay)** is a multi-award-winning, multidisciplinary visual griot, artpreneur, educator, activist, and an ever-growing interstellar tree. He is the Winner of the 2020 Joshua Glover Memorial competition, Toronto's first monument of a person of African descent, a 2020 Fellow of Monument Lab, and the Governor-General's Bronze Medal recipient. With a Bachelor's in Fine Arts from OCAD University and a Master's in Art Education from Concordia University, he is one of the world's leading Afrofuturist a/r/tographers. His scholarly work looks at Afrofuturism as a teaching tool, coining the terms *Sankofanology* as a lens and *Rastafuturism* as a concept. His creative works speculates addressing social issues and the imaginative futures of representation and preservation of the

memories of people of African descent. VerCetty's is one of the foundational leaders of the international Black Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM) and started the BSAM Canada Institute chapter in 2016 to help combat anti-Black systemic erasure and improve the art industry for artists of African descent in the creative industry of Canada. VerCetty is the co-editor of the first Canadian Afrofuturism art anthology, *Cosmic Underground Northside: An Incantation of Black Canadian Speculative Discourse and Innerstandings (2020)*, which includes the contributions from 30 writers and highlights works of over 100 Black Canadian artists documenting the growing contemporary art movement of Afrofuturism in the country. Through his work, he hopes to engage minds and inspire hearts to help to make the world a better place not only for today but for many tomorrows to come.

[www.vercetty.com](http://www.vercetty.com)