



COLIN QUASHIE ART



BIOGRAPHY: Colin Quashie was born in 1963 in London, England, and raised in the West Indies until his family settled in Daytona Beach, Florida, when he was six. In 1980, he was awarded a full academic scholarship to the University of Florida but dropped out after a year and enlisted in the United States Navy. He served as a submarine sonarman until honorably discharged in 1987 in Charleston, South Carolina, where he remained.

A self-taught artist, Quashie's lifelong interest in art emerged fully. His creative journey was fueled by a fascination with the efficient messaging of advertising. Motivated by a rage to address social issues, his art became the conduit through which he explored challenging social, political, and cultural issues affecting Black America. A provocateur, his use of "wit and passion" often uneased audiences. Which led to a series of censored exhibitions. In 1996 he quit making art and transitioned to screenwriting. Starting with MadTV in 1996, his credits include associate producer and a 2001 Emmy for documentary writing. By 2006, he had resumed creating art but exposure and sales were not enough to sustain him. He quit art for a second time, returned to academia in 2013 and earned a bachelor's degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. Quashie now works full-time as an RN specializing in both pediatric and adult vascular access while continuing to produce his unique brand of art.

While Quashie acknowledges that nursing has had minimal influence on the content of his art, the reverse is strikingly true—his background in art has profoundly shaped his approach to patient care. Artistic qualities, such as the ability to embrace failure, the continuous reassessment of the mundane, the identification of creative opportunities beyond the confines of the studio, and, most importantly, listening to patients, have become integral to his healthcare practice. These traits encourage a more innovative and empathetic approach to caregiving.

Quashie has had solo exhibitions at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art and Redux Contemporary Art Center, both in Charleston, South Carolina. His work has been included in group shows at the Columbia Museum of Art, the 701 Center for Contemporary Art, Redux Contemporary Art Center, and the African American Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His works are in the collections of the Smithsonian National African American Museum of History & Culture, the Greenville County Museum of Art, the Columbia Museum of Art in South Carolina, the University of North Carolina School of Government in Chapel Hill, the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, and the Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.



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EDUCATION

- Mainland Senior High School, 1980
- University of Florida, 1980 - 81
- Trident Technical College, 2015 - Associate Degree, Nursing
- Medical University of S. Carolina, 2017 - Bachelor's Degree, Nursing

EXHIBITIONS (edited)

- 2023 Signs of the Time - Guerrilla Art Exhibition, Charleston SC
- 2023 Southern Voices, Global Visions - Art Fields, Lake City
- 2020 Linked - Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, College of Charleston, SC
- 2016 REMIX - Columbia Museum of Art - Columbia, SC
- 2015 SOLO: Plantation (plan-ta-shun) - African American Museum of Art - Philadelphia, PA
- 2012 SOLO: Plantation (plan-ta-shun) - Redux Contemporary Art Center - Charleston, SC
- 2011 S.C. BIENNIAL - 701 Center for Contemporary Art, Columbia, SC
- 2010 SOLO: Selected Works - Benedict College, Columbia, SC
- 2005 Dialogues From The Diaspora - The City Gallery at Waterfront Park, Charleston, SC
- 2005 Residency - McColl Center for Visual Art - Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2004 Triennial 04 - South Carolina State Museum - Columbia, SC
- 2003 New South, Old South, Somewhere in Between - Levine Museum, Charlotte, NC
- 2001 Evoking History - Rehearsing the Past - Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston, SC
- 1999 100 Years / 100 Artists - South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC
- 1995 Triennial 95 - South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC
- 1993 SOLO; The Politics of Perception, SC State University, Orangeburg, SC
- 1990 Diversity and Directions - Halsey Gallery, College of Charleston, SC

COMMISSIONS (edited)

- 2009 Missing History Mural - University of North Carolina, School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC
- 1996 Medical University of South Carolina - McClellan Banks Hospital, Charleston, SC

PRINT (edited)

- Foner, Eric - 'Give Me Liberty', Art History Textbook, 2019
- Fallon, Roberta - 'Colin Quashie Burns Down The Plantation', Artblog - July 15, 2015
- Dobrin, Arthur - 'Am I Right? How to live ethically' - Psychology Today - May 21, 2012
- Martin, Frank - 'Service: Colin Quashie's Mural' - Daily Serving, August 17, 2010
- API News - 'Reading Room; O.J. Simpson Coloring & Activity Book', February 2005
- Maschal, Richard - 'O.J. as Art' - Charlotte Observer, February 20, 2005
- Kinzer, Stephen - 'Arts in America; Leading Charleston to it's Past - New York Times, August 14, 2001