

Pearlie Taylor

Biography

Pearlie Taylor's interest in art began as an adolescent when she found herself in drawing on everything in her surroundings, from brown paper bags to whatever would hold an image. She discovered in third grade that her drawings of women wearing gowns were worth a nickel to her classmates.

She was drawn to watercolor in high school experimenting with still life and landscapes. As a young adult she broadened her art studies to include life drawings and working with oils and pastels. Her initial focus of portraiture and landscape changed during middle age as she began to gravitate toward abstract art, where she found her passion as an abstract painter.

Pearlie Taylor's parents were former sharecroppers who made their way to Chicago from her birthplace of Vance, Mississippi, during the great migration in 1945 when she was three years old.

Pearlie married and raised a family of five while pursuing a career with Sears Roebuck Company of Chicago. She worked as an Advertising Representative and a typographer in the catalog-advertising department at Sears, retiring after 20 years.

Pearlie and her husband opened a UPS Store Franchise in 1997. After his death in 2002 she sold the business and retired to focus on art.

She studied at The American Academy of Art in Chicago and the Historic South Side Community Art Center under Dr. Margaret Burroughs.

Pearlie's artwork has been described as a mixture of abstract, modern and contemporary. Her influences range from Jackson Pollack, Richard Dempsey to Dale Chihuly. Pearlie has worked in a variety of mediums but more often chooses acrylics for the depth of color and her wet in wet painting style.

Pearlie is the recipient of the African American Alliance of the Arts Award for Excellence in Abstract Art. In 2008 her paintings were recognized by The Museum of Science and Industry Black Creativity Exhibit.

Pearlie's art exhibitions include the DuSable Museum, Highland Park Arts Center, Highland Park, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, National Black Fine Arts Show in New York, Chicago Jazz Festival, Macy's, Chicago, Illinois, Cubano International in Toulouse, France.

Pearlie's art work has been published in Brides Noir Bridal Magazine (2007), Chicago GRO and Better Homes and Gardens Magazine (2006).

Her artwork is currently being shown at Gallery Guichard in Chicago.

Artist Statement- Pearlle Taylor 2011

I create art through painting because I must. It means everything to me within this lifetime, to embrace an urge that comes from within allowing me freedom of expression through painting. The fact that it may be profitable has its place but is not the end all. I find that painting provides a form of expression not found in traditional methods of communication that leaves a lasting impact on the viewer.

My passion for painting is inspired by brilliant colors of nature. I value honesty and integrity in my work. When my work is going well I am happy and invigorated by a renewed sense of continuity, and awed by the mystery of the magic that occurs in each painting. My favorite medium is acrylic, it allows me a wide range of flexibility in each painting. Not having a favorite tool allows me a free range of motion on the canvas. There is a pattern in how I select color to paint. I have a tendency to ascribe an emotion with the use of colors, either on the canvas or in the title of the piece. My favorite feedback from others is that my work is open to subjective interpretations and it makes them feel better.

I began this journey painting figuratively. Over the past decade, my work has become abstract. I begin by placing the canvas on the floor and finish when the piece tells me it is done. I characterize my style as organic. It is constantly evolving. I reinvent myself in my styles of work. I am influenced by people, my life experience and environment. The artists I most admire are Jackson Pollock, Richard Dempsey and Dale Chiluly.

My work tends to focus on florals and abstracts. Some of my subject matter involves music and musicians. I will explain my art if asked but am content if each person takes something a little different from the same picture.

Exhibitions

Gold Coast Art Festival, Chicago, IL
DuSable Museum, Chicago, IL, 2010
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (Chicago Chapter) "The Audacity of Art", Chicago, 2010
University of Illinois at Chicago, African American Cultural Center - 2009
Noyes Cultural Arts Center, "Beyond Race and Gender", Evanston, IL, 2009
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (Chicago Chapter) "The Audacity of Art", Chicago, 2009
Sisters and Friends - Fine Arts Show, Bloomington, IL 2009
South Side Community Art Center, 44rd Annual Art Auction, Chicago, 2009
Highland Park Arts Center, Highland Park, IL 2009
University of Illinois at Chicago, African American Cultural Center - 2009
National Black Fine Arts Show - New York, 2008
Macy's – Chicago, IL 2008
Sisters and Friends - Fine Arts Show, Bloomington, IL, 2008
South Side Community Art Center, 43rd Annual Art Auction, Chicago, 2008
Museum of Science and Industry, "Black Creativity" Chicago, 2008
Lake Meadows Art Festival – Chicago, 2008
Hyde Park Art Center, "Not Just Another Pretty Face", Chicago, IL 2008
National Black Fine Arts Show - New York, 2007
South Side Community Art Center, 42nd Annual Art Auction, Chicago, 2007
Mason Murer Gallery, Embrace: National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta, Ga., 2007
Chicago Jazz Festival Art Exhibit – 2007
South Side Community Art Center, "Three Shades of Purple" - Chicago, 2006
Fisk University Alumni Assn. Annual Art Exhibition - Flossmoor, IL 2006
ETA Theatre Exhibition, Chicago, 2006
Chicago State University, Falling Leaves Exhibition - 2006
Chicago Cultural Center "Later Impressions" exhibit – Chicago 2006
University of Illinois at Chicago, African American Cultural Center - 2006
Cubano International – Toulouse, France, 2006
Allerton Crown Plaza, Health for Humanity Opera Gala Chicago, 2005
Northern Trust Bank, Cook County Bar Association - Chicago, 2005
FAMU Arts and Education Gala - Chicago Hyatt Regency, Chicago, 2005
South Side Community Art Center, 40th Anniversary Art Auction - Chicago, 2005
South Shore Cultural Center, Jazz Unites Inc. 1st Annual Awards Gala - Chicago, 2005
Gallery Guichard Grand Opening "Fingerprints Exhibit", Chicago, 2005
R.A.W. - Vision Fine Art Show, Chicago, 2005
South Shore Cultural Center, (Chicago Artist Month) Chicago, 2005
South Side Community Art Center, 39th Anniversary Art Auction - Chicago, 2004
Real Art Work (RAW) - Vision Fine Art Show, Chicago, 2004
Nat. African American Military Academy, 3rd Annual "Art at the Academy" - 2004

Solo Exhibitions

University of Illinois at Chicago, African American Cultural Center – 2009

