



These eight artists were contracted to work in all 100 North Carolina counties and worked with a total of 500 individuals represented on the Wall of Oath and Community Columns in North Carolina State Veteran's Park located in Fayetteville, NC.

Marcela Casals was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and has lived in the US since childhood. A professional actor, Marcela is presently studying sculpture as a full time student at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina to earn a Bachelors of Art in Sculpture. Marcela comes from a family of practicing artists and has been a professional actor/director for over twenty-five years. Since her academic experiences at Fayetteville State University she has exhibited her sculptures regularly and won numerous awards. Her specific interest is in metals and ceramics.

Diane Hughes. After graduating from Southampton College in Southampton, NY with a BFA in graphic design, Diane began her 12-year career as a designer and commercial & portrait photographer. Having captured the likes of Mary Boone, Martha Stewart, Ben Long, Hugh McColl, Ethan Hawk, and Annette Doisneau, Diane's fine art photography further evinces her exquisite eye through its inclusion in *Great Unknowns: An Exquisite Collection of Black and White Photography*. Her mixed media works combine the use of photography and organic mediums to create images of natural color and texture, and *Trees*, a seven-year project of creating several 1/1 editions of single images is her present obsession. During an 11 month residency at The McColl Center for Visual Art Diane's interest in sculpture took shape and the creation of a new body of work emerged.

Alexis Joyner born in Southampton County, VA on October 4, 1955, where he was educated the public schools. He attended Virginia State University, graduating in 1978 with a BS Degree in Fine Arts. Joyner attended graduate school at Norfolk State and Old Dominion Universities, receiving an MFA in Sculpture in 1984. He taught Art in the Isle of Wight County Schools from 1979 – 89. Joyner, a professor and chair of the Dept of Art has worked at Elizabeth City State University since 1989. He and his wife Robin have three children: Chenay, Tarsha and Jameel.

Joyner's latest work has been influenced by his travels to West Africa. He has created several works that are mixed-media, abstract, figurative sculptural forms that incorporate found and fabricated objects for visual interest and surprise. These objects also aid in narrative clarity. Joyner's pieces are meant to be transmitters of morals and old-fashioned values. He considers them to be visual sermonettes.

He was commissioned to create a new mace (cast bronze, walnut) for Elizabeth City State University. The mace was unveiled at the inauguration of Chancellor M. L. Burnim in 1996. He also created a 14 foot tall site-specific sculpture for the university called, "Ananse." Ananse is made of welded steel and cast bronze. It was unveiled in 2006.

Joyner has exhibited extensively- locally, regionally and internationally. His works are included in many public and private collections. His works are in the collections of Chattanooga State Technical College, Lynchburg College, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York City Public Library.

Soni Martin earned a Bachelor's of Art from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is a professor of art and has taught at Fayetteville State University for the past twenty years. In addition to being an arts educator, she is a practicing artist who has completed many commissions, exhibited extensively regionally and nationally, awarded grants for research, and has received many awards for her works of art and as an advocate in visual arts. For the past ten years Ms. Martin's two main areas of interests are sculpture and printmaking.

Dwight Smith is a professional artist and lecturer in the Department of Fine and Performing Art at Fayetteville State University. His work involves a continued investigation of the art making processes of painting, drawing and collage making. Smith borrow elements of design through images and symbols from African forms to create art, that act as a catalyst to bring forth the artistic voice in his work as he moves along the creative path as a nonrepresentational artist. Smith's newer works are revealing a quest or focus that is part of an intergenerational pursuit of creative ideas, thoughts and observations, ways of seeing spatial realities, textures, color and light. Many works are celebrations of life or tributes to artists he knows or has been fortunate enough to meet.

Jill Smith has earned an Associate's Degree in Architectural Technology at Fayetteville Technical Community College. She has been employed for over 20 years in the field of commercial and residential construction. During that time she was a field supervisor for Player Construction, Riddle Commercial Properties, and Bill Harbert International. The majority of the projects included the forming and pouring of concrete to include horizontal and vertical pours.

For the last seven years Ms. Smith has been self employed as a general contractor which includes carpentry, tile and concrete. For the last two years Ms. Smith has assisted in the studio of artist Soni Martin in the construction of stained glass panels, mold making and mixed media sculpture.

As an artist, Ms. Smith works in wood by designing/fabricating furniture and wood carving. Her most recent pursuit is learning how to fabricate abstract sculptures in metal.

Amanda E. Stephens received her undergraduate degree in sculpture from Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC. Currently she is enrolled at Western Carolina University in the MFA program where she was granted a graduate assistant-ship in the school of Art and Design. Stephens' work presently investigates a multi-sensory experience between art and audience.

Aaron Wallace was born in Lufkin, TX and developed an interest in three dimensional forms early on with emphasis in clay as a medium in middle school and high school. In 1997 he joined the US Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He served on active duty until late 2006 having served in campaigns in Albania/Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. After meeting Fayetteville local potter, Greg Hathaway, Aaron was once again inspired to continue with his passion for three dimensional forms and in 2009 had earned his Associate Degree in Fine Arts at Fayetteville Technical Community College. He is currently finishing his Bachelor of Arts in Visual Art with a concentration in Sculpture at Fayetteville State University. Aaron and his wife Kelly (Hathaway) Wallace own Greg's! Art, Pottery & Gifts in Downtown Fayetteville. Aaron's mixed media sculpture Dream Viewer is currently displayed at the North Carolina Community Colleges Art Exhibit (2009-2010), several sculptures displayed at Fayetteville Technical Community College Gallery for multiple shows and works displayed at Greg's! Art, Pottery & Gifts in Fayetteville, NC.