

Conference Speakers



Bisa Butler
International Fiber Artist
Keynote Speaker
Thursday, November 4th
LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT
7:00 pm, NKYCC Exhibition Hall IIB

Bisa Butler strategically uses textiles—a traditionally marginalized medium—to interrogate the historical marginalization of her subjects while using scale and subtle detail to convey her subjects' complex individuality. Together, Butler's quilts present an expansive view of history through their engagement with themes such as family, community, migration, the promise of youth, and artistic and intellectual legacies. *Bisa Butler: Portraits*, the artist's first solo museum exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago closed September 6th.

Although Butler's finished works are exclusively fabric, her methods remain interdisciplinary: photographs inform her compositions and figural choices, she layers fabrics as a painter might layer glazes, and she uses thread to draw, adding detail and texture. The artist's extensive range of influences includes family photo albums, the philosophies of AfriCOBRA (the African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists), Romare Bearden's collages, Faith Ringgold's quilts, and Gordon Parks's photographs.

Butler made her first portrait quilt, *Francis and Violette (Grandparents)*, while earning a master's degree in arts education at Montclair State University, New Jersey. Trained as a painter at Howard University in Washington, DC, Butler shifted to a textile-based practice to add vibrancy and dimension she found lacking in her paintings. Fabrics also offered her a practical way to pursue artmaking while pregnant and after her daughter was born, when oil paints and thinners proved too toxic. In turning to textiles, Butler also connected with her family history; she had learned to sew at a young age from her mother and grandmother. In revisiting these early lessons and joining them with her formal studies, she found her artistic path.

**** Bio provided by Art Institute of Chicago and Bisa Butler**



Percy King
3D Artist, Shaolin Wood Technique
Friday Keynote, November 5th
Luncheon Speaker
12:00-2:00 pm, NKYCC Exhibition Hall IIB

Percy C. King makes three-dimensional mixed media portraits out of wood, paint, and various mediums using skills he has acquired as a carpenter and furniture maker over the last 20 years. Working from photographs, King digitalizes an image into shapes he can cut from various types of plywood and masonite. Layering these cut strips into a three-dimensional relief, he then recreates the image of his subject. To date most of King's works depict African Americans and experiences of everyday life.

King grew up in Columbus, Ohio raised by his mother with his older sister, younger brother. Growing up drawing was a form of entertainment. He would often visit local libraries to pick up books on artists like Norman Rockwell, Devinci, or Monet. Then he would meticulously copy his favorite image. The more he practiced drawing, the more skilled he became and was eventually enrolled into an Arts based Alternative Elementary school to cultivate his enthusiasm for art. Never having played organized football, King quickly found himself consumed upon entering high school, starting at defensive back as a freshman and eventually team Captain the very next year. King would eventually go on to play defensive back for The Ohio State Buckeyes from 1995-2000, graduate with a BA in Communications and pursue a brief career in the NFL with the Kansas City Chiefs.

King has depicted everyday African Americans, entertainers, as well as political figures such as Barack Obama and Langston Hughes, whose portrait was exhibited at the Columbus Museum of Art during the EXPY winning exhibition 'I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100' (2018-2019) curated by Will Haygood. He currently has a total of 6 works in perpetual collection at the Columbus Museum of Art.



Mark & Jan Wiesner
2x8 Featured Presentation
Friday, November 5th
10:00 am-11:00 pm, NKYCC, Ballroom E

Jan Wiesner, a narrative ceramic figurative sculptor, grew up in Paradise, Texas. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati DAAP where she received her BFA. She served as a high school Art Teacher for the King & Low-Heywood Thomas School in Stanford, Connecticut where she received the Rose Award for Outstanding Teaching. She also taught at the Seven Hills Lotspeich School here in Cincinnati, ending her career at The Summit Country Day Lower School. She received Summit's Schilderink Family Chair Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2013. In 2015 she was awarded the State Elementary Art Teacher of the Year Award from OAEA. She served OAEA as the State's Elementary Division Chair, the Southwest Regional Chair and co-chaired the Jerry Tollifson's Art Criticism Open. She was a regular presenter at state conferences as well as giving frequent workshops for the Southwest region. Also she was an adjunct professor of Art Education at Xavier University. With Mark, her husband, she maintains a working studio and gallery at the Pendleton Art Center. She is represented by the Caza Sikes Gallery, Cincinnati. At retirement from teaching she and Mark walked the Camino de Santiago, a 500 mile journey across Northern Spain. They have five children and seventeen delightful grandchildren.

Mark Wiesner, an assemblage sculptor, received his BA from Edgecliff College in Cincinnati and a MAR from the Athenaeum of Ohio. He was a teacher at The Summit Country Day School for 39 years having taught within the Middle and the Upper School. In 1998 he was the recipient of his school's Schilderink Family Chair Award for Distinguished Teaching. In 2005 he received the State Middle School Art Teacher of the Year Award from the Ohio Art Education Association and in 2015 he received OAEA's State High School Art Teacher of the Year Award. Mark served OAEA as the State's Middle School Divisional Chair, the Southwest Region's Director, the Southwest Regional Newsletter Editor and co-chaired the State's Jerry Tollifson's Art Criticism Open. He was a regular presenter at state conferences as well as giving frequent workshops for the Southwest region. At retirement from teaching he and his wife, Jan, walked the Camino de Santiago, an incredible 500 mile journey across Northern Spain. Now Mark maintains a working studio and gallery at the Pendleton Art Center with Jan, who is also a sculptor. Mark serves as an artist within the Taft Museum of Art's *Artist Reaching Classroom* program. He is represented by the Caza Sikes Gallery, Gallery 708, both in Cincinnati and by Singulart, an international online gallery based in Paris, France. His work is collected by an international audience.

Mark and Jan have five children and seventeen wonderful grandchildren.



Alice Bordenkircher Tavani
2020 Ohio Art Educator of the Year
Friday, November 5th
7:00 pm, NKYCC, Ballroom E

Alice Tavani has been teaching for just over 30 years now. She has taught K-12 in the big city of Chicago and in the suburb Centerville. Her love of teaching art education is easy to see with the enrichment activities she includes with her regular schedule of classes. She has her students trying all different kinds of art from all different cultures in class and after school. She has brought visiting artists who carve wood or ice to demonstrate their skills to her school and has taken her students to see glass blowing live and in the studio. Alice has also been an asset to OAEA by serving on several committees and has had several positions including Western Regional Director, West Region PR/Advocacy Chair, Awards Chairperson, President, Fellow, and currently State Conference Coordinator. You may have attended one of her many workshops at a conference, in West Region, or at the Summer Symposium. With all of this she still finds time to make her own art in bronze through the foundry at Miami CraftSummer over the past 14 years and dabble in a variety of other mediums..

