TED T. ELLIS



The past 30 years of my life have been dedicated to pursuing my passion for the visual arts. I have been able to turn my passion for painting, history, and marketing the arts into a viable business.

I personally think and feel that art is a universal language; it communicates and articulates at each individual level of comprehension and understanding. A child or an adult can look at a work of art and find value in it because they can relate to it. Art advocates, it says nothing but says everything. It speaks politically, culturally, economically, and educationally. We learn through art, it is a tremendous tangible treasure that improves our quality of life.

I like to think of myself as a creative historian. My craft has afforded me the opportunity to record history and all aspects of American culture and heritage. My sole purpose has always been to educate and provide cultural enrichment through my paintings.

I am so grateful for the talent that God has blessed me with. And I am so thankful for the years of support from my collectors of my works, patrons, and fans. Thank you.

Ted T. Ellis

BIOGRAPHY



Ted Ellis is a passionate man. He is passionate about his family, passionate about his heritage, and passionate about his art. Just ask him and he proudly declares, “For more than 30 years I have painted subjects that are representative of the many facets of American life as I know it. I like to think of myself as a creative historian. I was put here to record history and all aspects of American culture and heritage. My sole purpose has always been to educate through my art.” T. Ellis grew up and was educated in New Orleans, a degreed Chemist, and graduate of Dillard University he has always been inspired by a city known for its history, style, and artistic exuberance. This backdrop inspired T. Ellis to capture the essence of the subjects of his childhood in the glory of their rich cultural heritage.

In December of 2019, T. Ellis completed his master's degree in Museum Studies at Southern University in New Orleans (SUNO). His continued efforts are to advocate for the importance of visual literacy and continuing his commitment of preserving African American history and culture through art have been paramount. T. Ellis is keenly aware that visual comprehension increases learning. He wants to bring greater awareness to the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace, schools, universities, cultural institutions, and museums, showing how this will provide an enriching opportunity for people in communities throughout the United States. Mr. Ellis, serving in the capacity of Vice-Chair is the first African American artist to be appointed to a federal commission. The 400 Years of African American History Commission established by the Department of Interior is responsible for planning and creating programs that will recognize and advance the historical and cultural contributions of African Americans since 1619 under PL115-102. The official federal logo and seal, as well as the 400th Distinguished Service Award was created by T. Ellis. Each will become part of the U. S. National Archives. T. Ellis artistic talents has provided him the opportunity to be appointed as Scholar-in-Residence at Old Dominion University.

Extremely dedicated to his craft, the artist draws on a style that was born in his childhood from impressions of his native city. T. Ellis is self-taught, his art style is authentic, it boldly blends folk and impressionism. You can see how his work evokes nostalgia and inspiration. The art of this man both reveres and celebrates the traditional values of his culture. He is on a mission to bring even more value to humanity, by increasing human capital through cultural nutrition. Ted Ellis, the man, lives the life he paints about. His past and current contributions of his time and artwork have benefited many service organizations; United Way, ICLS, African American Visual Arts Association, Harlem Fine Arts Show, Black Art in America, Pigment International, Jack and Jill, Inc., the Tom Joyner Foundation, United Negro College Fund, the Links, Inc., and school systems around the country. T. Ellis involvement in the community as an art advocate and educator has earned him recognition from numerous organizations and city officials. One of T. Ellis' exhibits entitled, “Our History, Heritage and Culture, an American Story”, encompasses the diversity and cultural similarities of all Americans. The debut of this exhibit started at the Rosa Parks Museum and was displayed at several schools and universities. Some of Ellis' previous exhibits include, “American Slavery: The Reason Why We are Here”, ''Say My Name', and “Courage of Conviction, African-Americans who Serve in the Military from Colonial Times until Now”, and “Born in the Spirit” were featured throughout the country. The latest series of paintings tell a visual story of African American achievement, “400 Years Then and Now…A Story to be Told” is the next visual storytelling saga of T. Ellis that will be a major traveling exhibition. Arguably, for over 25 years Mr. Ellis has continued to pictorially document the history and culture of

BIOGRAPHY

African Americans that rivals the artistic contributions of Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, Dr. Margaret Burroughs and many more significant artists that has preceded him.

Ellis, who currently resides in Friendswood, Texas, has been recognized as an artist of historical importance. Several of his paintings are in the permanent collection of the DuSable Museum, McKenna Museum, The Free People of Color Museum, the Barry Museum, and the Amistad Research Center. His trailblazing efforts will continue to build his artistic legacy and garner even more recognition. In the last 30 years, many corporations and private collectors have continued to admire and collect his work. A few of the prominent individuals who enjoy his creations are as follows; the late Johnny Cochran, Angela Bassett, Judge Henry Wingate, Roland Martin, Ed Gordon, Blair Underwood, Susan L. Taylor, Bryant Gumbel, Joyce Roche, Spike Lee, and Brad Pitt. Several major corporations have commissioned T. Ellis; a few of which include Walt Disney Studios, the Minute Maid Company, Coca-Cola, Phillip Morris, and Avon, Inc. He has also been featured on local and regional television programs, in magazines such as Upscale and Southern Living, Newsweek, and is featured in newspaper articles throughout the country. His popular art images have been found on book covers and collectible prints. Mix a man with conviction and something happens. In the case of Ted T. Ellis, a man of artistic passion and purpose with the gift of science, history, and knowledge, that is something special. That, alone with his art is priceless. Learn more about the art of T. Ellis at www.tellisfineart.com

T. Ellis







Ted T. Ellis

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832-385-2249

EDUCATION

- 1986 B.S. Chemistry: Dillard University — New Orleans, LA
- 2020 M.A. Museum Studies, Southern University New Orleans — New Orleans, LA

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2018-Present Vice Chair of the Federal 400 Years of African American History Commission

AWARDS

- 2012 Coalition of 100 Black Women New Orleans Chapter — New Orleans, LA
- 2009 Pinnacle Award, Houston Citizen Chamber of Commerce — Houston, TX
- 2001 Community Leader for The Arts, The Links Inc., TX — Webster, TX
- 2000 Outstanding Service to Community- Jack & Jill of America, Inc. — U.S.A.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 "Capturing History and Culture", St Mary's Purification Catholic Church — Houston, TX
- 2012 "The Art of Ted Ellis Serving Our Community", McKenna Museum — New Orleans, LA
- 2011 "Our History, Heritage and Culture: An American Story" Rosa Parks Museum — Montgomery, AL
- 2010 "Something to See: Native Son Comes Home" N. O. African America Museum — New Orleans, LA
- 2008 "The Art of T. Ellis", the Congressional Black Caucus — Washington, D.C.
- 2002 "Capturing Our Culture and Heritage", Yale University — New Haven, CT
  "Capturing Our Culture and Heritage" University of Texas Medical — Spring Branch, TX
- 2001 "Capturing Our Culture and Heritage" Arts Alliance Center — Clear Lake, TX
  "Honoring Thy Father", Douglas Memorial Baptist Church — Baltimore, MD
  "Buffalo Soldiers", Minute Maid Corporation — Houston, TX
- 2000 "The Gentle South", the Groovy Grill Mansion — Houston, TX
  "Born in the Spirit", UTMB — Galveston, TX
  "Born in the Spirit", Penn State University — Harrisburg, PA *
- 1999 "Buffalo Soldiers", Enron Corporation — Houston, TX
  "African-Americans in Law", Southern University, — Baton Rouge, LA
  "African-Americans in Law", New Orleans City Hall — New Orleans, LA
  "We are on Our Journey", UTMB Galveston Library — Galveston, TX
  "Done Got Over", Black African National Diaspora, Inc. — New Orleans, LA
- 1998 "A Study of Edward Bannister from the 1870s to 1888" Southern University — Baton Rouge, LA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Group Show at Purvis Young Museum — Miami, FL
- 2009 Tom Joyner Art with A Purpose — Galveston, TX

- 2002 Deltas Go Texan Gala — Houston, TX
  Black Heritage Arts Festival — Baltimore, MD
  Black Heritage Arts Festival — New York, NY
  National Fine Arts Show — New York, NY
  General Motors Minority Dealers Association — Austin TX

- 2001 Black Heritage Arts Festival — New York, NY
  "Black History Celebration", Walt Disney World Epcot Center — Lake Point Avista, FL
  Project Row House Arts Festival — Houston, TX
  New York Arts Expo, Vargas Fine Art Publishing, Inc., — New York, NY
  National Fine Arts Show — New York, NY

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COMMISSION PROJECTS

- 2013 Awarded Centennial Commission by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
  National Headquarters for the completion of 22 individual portraits of each founder — Washington, D.C.

- 2012 One of 44 artists selected to paint on an individual bust of President Obama
  Visions of Our 44th President, Charles Wright Museum — Detroit, MI

CORPORATE PROJECTS

- 2008 Marathon Oil Corp. art diversity program — Houston, TX
- 2006 ExxonMobil exhibition and case study — Reston, VA
- 2004 State Farm, Inc. Commission Art Project — Bloomington, IL
- 2003 Merck Pharmaceutical Commission for the NBMBAA — Houston TX
- 2002 Deltas Go Texas Gala — Houston, TX
- Red Cross Fundraiser, "America United" — Houston, TX
- 2001 "Congressional Black Caucus Annual Session- Hip Hop Melodic Blues",
  Sponsored by Phillip Morris Corporation — Washington, D.C.
  "Keeping the Dream Alive", Guide to Black Organizations,
  Sponsored by Phillip Morris Corporation — Washington, D.C.
  Jack & Jill of America Fundraiser — Houston, TX
  Avon Products, Inc. Commemorative Poster, Inspirational Prints — New York, NY
- 1998 Walt Disney World Commemorative Black History Poster — Lake Point Avista, FL

TEACHING/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2020 Scholar in Residence, Old Dominion University — Norfolk, VA
- 2014 Presentation: The Economy of Art sponsored by Comerica Bank — Houston, TX
- 2014 Judge for the NAACP ACT-SO National Arts Competition — Las Vegas, NV
- 2013 Student Mural Project-Mainland Preparatory Academy — Lamarque, TX
- 2013 Southside Cultural Art Center Fundraiser — Chicago, IL
- 2012 Art & Health project with Ambassador Preparatory Academy — Houston, TX
- 2009 ARRA Federal grant: art partnership with HISD — Houston, TX
- 2002 Art Workshop, Black Heritage Arts Festival — Baltimore, MD
  "Tribute to Dr. John Biggers", Deltas Go Texan Gala — Houston, TX
- 2001 Donation to the Detroit African-American Museum — Detroit, MI
  Donation to the Southside Cultural Arts Center — Chicago, IL
  Art Workshop-Heritage Christian Academy — Galveston, TX
- 2000 Judge for the NAACP ACT-SO National Arts Competition — Atlanta, GA
  Donation to the NBMBAA — Houston, TX
  Donation to the 100 Black Women of New Orleans — New Orleans, LA
  Donation to the Buffalo Soldiers Chapter of NOLA — New Orleans, LA
  Donation to UNCF — Houston, TX
- 1999 Judge for the NAACP ACT-SO National Arts Competition — Baltimore, MD
  Donation to the 100 Black Women of New Orleans — New Orleans, LA
- 1998 T. Ellis College Scholarship Award — Friendswood, TX
  Donation to St. Johns Church — Baltimore, MD
  Donation to the 100 Black Women of New Orleans — New Orleans, LA
- 1997 Donation to the 100 Black Women of New Orleans — New Orleans, LA




T. Ellis
FINE ART STUDIO

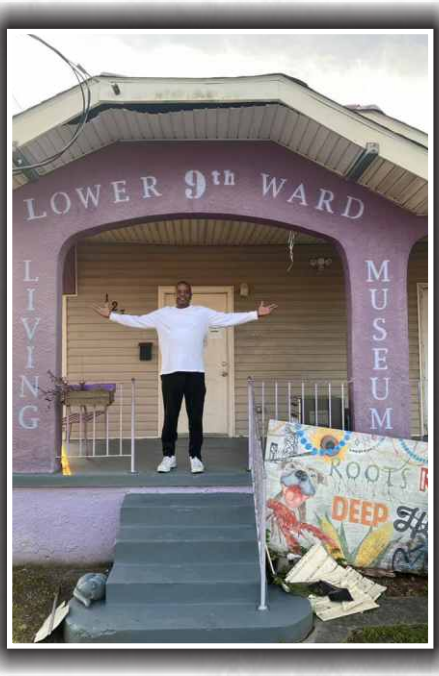





PROUD


ONE MAN ONE VOTE
PLESSY vs FERGUSON
1896
WHITE
COLORED

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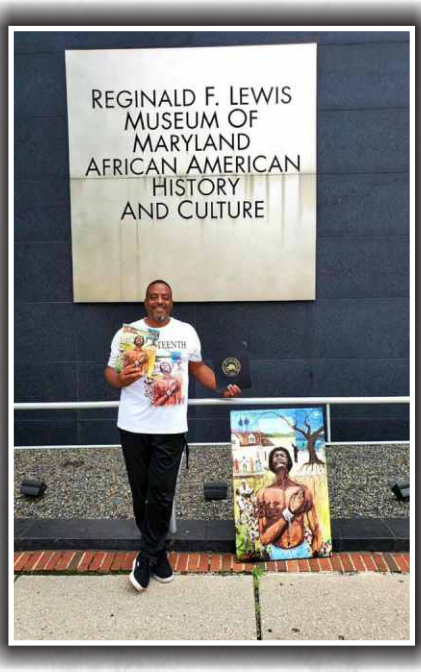
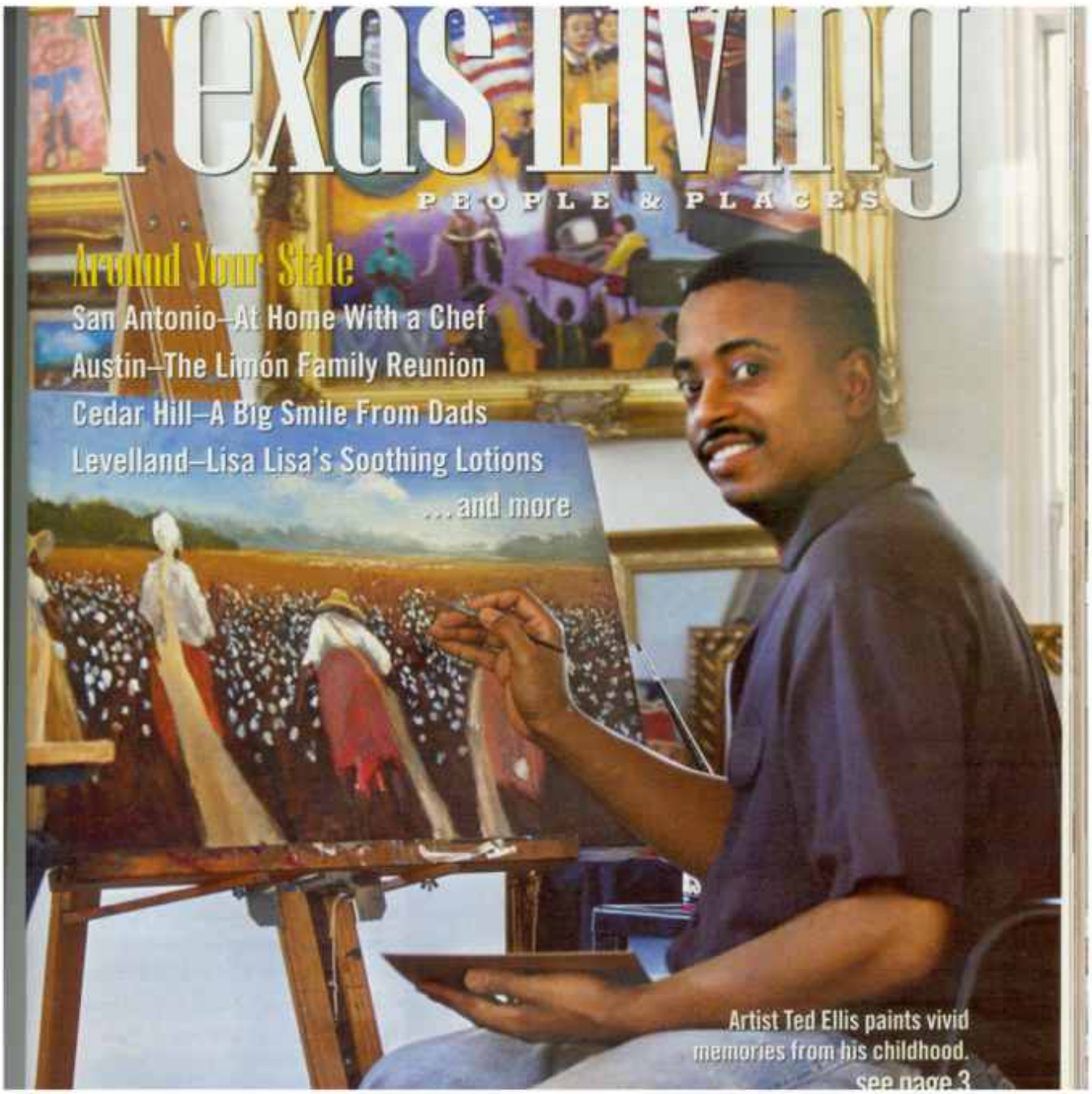
LIVING MUSEUM
DEEP


REGINALD F. LEWIS
MUSEUM OF
MARYLAND
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY
AND CULTURE



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