

James W. (“JW”) Harrington

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ARTISTIC STATEMENT

As a painter, my goal is to use color, composition, line, and/or implicit allusion to get the casual viewer to engage with the work *and their interpretations*. Each of my series works toward that goal through a different set of visual elements.

In **figurative paintings**, I bring playful (or at times wry) animation to landscapes, waterscapes, portraits, and even inanimate objects. One of my goals is to bring a little more color to people’s collections by focusing my portraiture on African Americans.

“**The Impossibility of Knowing**” series refers to the strength of memory and imagination, compared to what is “real” or “observed.” In these paintings, a solid shape, figure, or silhouette interacts with its mirrored outline: something that seems substantive is augmented with its mirror, shadow, or luminescence. The interplay creates dynamism, as each shape is pulled in its opposite direction.

The **MBTW** series currently comprises thirty 36”x 36” canvases painted using only Mars Black and Titanium White pigments. By eliminating the associations of colors and their juxtapositions, I can emphasize the non-objective nature of the compositions. Associations abound nonetheless, derived from the interweaving of positive and negative spaces.

I’m continuing each of the series described in the previous four paragraphs, and have begun a new series with the working title “**Imagined Landscapes.**” Its goal is portraying fictional or fictionalized landscapes, developing futuristic, utopian, or dystopian images.

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

JW Harrington is a painter, social science professor, and trained baritone, living, painting, and singing in Tacoma, Washington. Using acrylic and oil paints on canvases or panels, he paints abstract works: some using spare, geometric shapes; some eschewing color for monochrome shades; and some using free, intuitive composition. He also paints portraits and animated landscapes, motivated by the vibrant beauty of the Puget Sound region.

Harrington was born in South Carolina, educated at Harvard University and the University of Washington, and has worked on east and west coasts of the U.S. He is Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies at the University of Washington Tacoma, after a 37-year career of teaching, research and administration there, the University of Washington Seattle, George Mason University, and the University at Buffalo (SUNY).

He’s studied painting and drawing with Sandy Bricel Miller in Seattle. His work has been shown in Seattle at the Seattle Art Fair, Gallery 110, the Red Ochre Studio, ARTS at King Street Station, UW Tower, and the 2017 and 2021 Artists Trust fundraising auctions; in Tacoma at the Tahoma

Center Gallery in Tacoma; and in Bremerton at Collective Visions Gallery. His works hang in corporate collections in Seattle, and the City of Tacoma has purchased two of his works through a juried competition.

Recent & Upcoming Solo Exhibitions (non-juried)

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| Jul – Aug 2023 | “Portals & Portraits: Revealing & Concealing,” Tahoma Center Gallery, Tacoma WA |
| Jul – Aug 2023 | “The Impossibility of Knowing,” Magnuson Park Gallery, Seattle WA |
| Sep - Oct 2022 | “Autumn Scapes,” Tahoma Center Gallery, Tacoma WA |
| Jul - Aug 2022 | “Black & White, Abstracted,” Tahoma Center Gallery, Tacoma WA |
| Jun -Aug 2022 | “The Impossibility of Knowing,” TCC Gallery, Gig Harbor WA |
| March 2022 | “Embracing Black and White,” Gallery 110, Seattle WA |

Recent & Upcoming Group Exhibitions

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|----------------|---|
| Jun – Sep 2023 | “BIMA Showcase,” Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, WA (juried) |
| Feb – Mar 2023 | “Black Art and Black Artists,” Gallery at TCC, Tacoma WA (juried) |
| October 2022 | Fresh Talent 2, Bainbridge Island WA (Greg Robinson, juror) |
| July 2022 | Gallery 110 booth at Seattle Art Fair |
| February 2022 | Gallery 110 Show, Seattle WA (Emily Zimmerman, juror) |
| April 2021 | Benefit art sale for Artist Trust (Washington), Seattle (juried) |
| Jan – Feb 2021 | CVG Show, Bremerton WA (Michael D’Alessandro, juror) |

Galleries

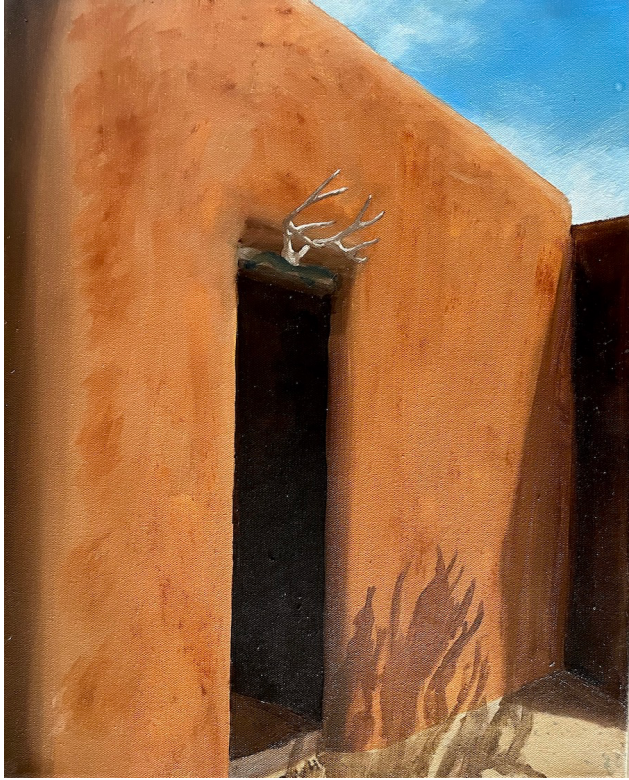
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|---------------------|--|
| June 2022 – present | Represented artist, Berkano Gallery , Seattle WA |
| June 2021 – present | Member, Gallery 110 , Seattle WA |
| July 2018 – present | Ryan James Fine Arts , Kirkland WA: Consignment and rental of selected works |

Written Work

- Harrington, JW. [Suprematism: Revolutionary Art for Revolutionary Times](#). December 2020.
- Harrington, JW. “[Cultural Appropriation in the Arts](#).” Presented to The Monday Club, Seattle, 24 February 2020.
- Harrington, JW. “[Locating Art Worlds](#).” *Conflux*, September 2018.

Publications About

- Walsh, Molly. “Black Art and Black Artists Exhibition at The Gallery at Tacoma Community College.” OlyArts, 6 March 2023. <https://olyarts.org/2023/03/06/black-art-and-black-artists-exhibition-at-the-gallery-at-tacoma-community-college/>
- Gallup, Lauren. “In conversation with Artists JW Harrington and Dorothy Anderson Wasserman.” Northwest Public Radio, 24 August 2022. <https://www.nwpb.org/2022/08/24/in-conversation-with-artists-jw-harrington-and-dorothy-anderson-wasserman/>
- Kelley, Peter. “Academic, administrator, artist: Paintings by JW Harrington to be displayed at UW Tower.” *UW News*, 14 January 2020. <https://www.washington.edu/news/2020/01/14/academic-administrator-artist-paintings-by-jw-harrington-to-be-displayed-at-uw-tower/>



Claudia's room (2022). Oil on canvas, 20"x 16"



Ife iya (2023). Acrylic on canvas, 24"x 18"



The Impossibility of Knowing (35) (2023).



MBTW17 (2021). Acrylic on canvas, 36"x 36"