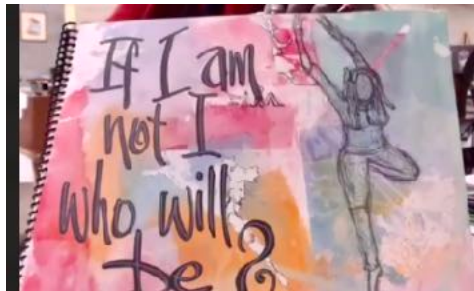


## Demonstration on Zoom February 7, 2022 Gwendolyn Garth - "Let Art Create Itself"

Many thanks to multimedia artist, **Gwendolyn Garth** for her outstanding presentation in recognition of Black History Month at our February Zoom meeting. She shared her huge art studio and several different art techniques with an audience of 25 who zoomed in to watch. The first technique she shared used acrylic paints of various colors inside a salad spinner to create interesting abstract designs on paper masks, plates and note cards. "This is a good ice breaker when working with kids and adults. It's a coming together to create something beautiful," she said.



A second technique, she dubbed "bleeding tissue paper", the transfer of colors to another surface. She soaked a variety of colored tissue paper with water and then smashed them together on another surface, like watercolor paper, using a paper towel, creating a colorful watercolor wash. She then scanned both the watercolor wash and saved tissue papers (nothing goes to waste here) into her computer, using these images as background for her creative journaling....another technique she shared. Her creative journal, called "Notes to Self", is a technique she learned while incarcerated. It shows off her beautiful handwriting and her ability to combine all these techniques using layering in computer graphics. Garth ended the evening by doing a pencil sketch. . . pencil being her favorite medium . . . of EAA Vice President, Rozenia Cunningham, who visited her studio.



A native Clevelander, Gwendolyn has lived in four Eastside neighborhoods. She is the owner of Kings & Queens Art Studio in Cleveland, where she gives art lessons to all ages and introduces art to children in her "kids summer art program." Having recently turned 70, she now considers herself an 'elder'. Her art piece "Crossing the Bridge to 70", combines all her techniques, including 'bleeding tissue paper', watercolor, marker & pen figure using computer graphics. Her artist statement: "Art is the name of my game; art is in the middle of my last name and in the middle of me and I have No Plan B."



Gwendolyn overcame major obstacles in her life, alcoholism, addiction and incarceration, which led her to become the accomplished artist and community activist she is today. She developed her artistic expression while incarcerated. "The butterfly is my talisman because of the transformation." She works to reinvent communities and change perceptions, working with countless neighborhood and art organizations, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture among them. A tireless advocate for Black artists, she says, "My name has gotten around, so I'm everywhere." Besides being a multimedia artist, Gwendolyn is a Certified Creative Arts Therapy Specialist and member of the Chagrin Arts Advisory Board. She is a founding member of Ohio Prisons Arts Connection Program System. As a

Cleveland Votes Advisory Board Member she represents and supports African Americans and others with voting rights. Pertinent to one of her fights, Blacks struggle to receive grants or funding, so she is an activist for this cause. Here is her website for more information: <https://www.kqoa.org>. Studio visits are encouraged. Any artist can participate in Kings and Queens of Art on the first Sunday of the month, from 3:00 - 7:00p.m. at The Art Palace, 1385 East 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland 44114. Contact her at [gwendolyngarth@gmail.com](mailto:gwendolyngarth@gmail.com).

