

## Euclid Art Association November 6, 2023 Meeting Demonstration by Anna Arnold

President, Rozenia Cunningham introduced **Anna Arnold**, our demonstrator for the evening. Anna is a painter, educator and current director at Wasmer Gallery at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Art. She is recognized for her lush, exuberantly colorful expressive portraits, plus ceramics, masks, beads, painted furniture and even jewelry. A prolific artist, her artworks have been exhibited in over 200 galleries, museums, and exhibit spaces across the United States. Also known as an innovative and engaging educator, having obtained her art education degree from Case Western Reserve University, she received the 2020 Northeast Ohio Art Education Association Distinguished Educator Award. Rozenia said her resume was so extensive that “you can not even roll it all out!”



Rozenia also thanked **Aaron Parker**, professional photographer, videographer and owner of Parkerfotos Photography, and his wife, **Beatrice**, both new members of EAA. Aaron was responsible for the amazing A/V setup which allowed everyone to watch Anna’s demo on the big screen. Anna said she felt like she was in Hollywood! He also recorded the evening using three different cameras with the intent of posting it on EAA’s YouTube channel.

Anna’s demo, which she titled, “**Expressive Portrait Painting from the Imagination!**” was definitely imaginative. “Start with nothing,” she said....a method she calls organized chaos. Other than knowing it would be a portrait, she lets it evolve from the energy she felt in the room from the 27 members and guests in attendance. Tonight this energy moves her brush from acrylic paint to canvas, but at home she gets into her ‘painting vibe’ by sitting on the floor, lights down low, listening to old radio shows!



While talking to us about her life experiences, Anna starts with a quick sketch, a large black oval. She and her sister were caregivers for her mom and “that takes a lot of energy”, she said. “You need to take care of yourself; you need to paint.” She always took her paints with her. Showing us her brush, she said, “I’m terrible with brushes. I don’t take care of them and so I never buy expensive ones.” Liquitex golden acrylics is her favorite paint, especially the bright colors and she always buys them on sale. She uses disposable Bienfang palettes and lets the paint dry, which she peels off and often uses as texture in her paintings.



Continuing to talk and paint, Anna adds the eyes. She tells us the portrait is not a particular person nor has a specific gender, but rather a spiritual being. Feeling the energy flowing, Anna adds curly hair to the painting and continues making marks, adding orange lines and her favorite cobalt teal color. When asked by a member what artists inspire her, she mentions

Jean-Michel Basquiat and Frida Khalo. Music, radio and old movies also inspire and create emotions in her. Living in an apartment now, she has a studio where she lives, but misses going outside to paint until dark and hearing the crickets!

Someone asked how it all started for her. "I'm more of an introverted person." She remembers being inspired by her uncle's Dutch Masters cigar box filled with paints and how she would draw with crayons on her bedroom walls, even drawing the Flintstones on the garage. She always knew she wanted to be an artist and had lots of family support. Her parents were protective and wanted her and her sister to be kids, be creative! She received an art degree from the CIA, became an educator, went to Case and ultimately became the director of Wasmer Gallery at Ursuline College. So what's next for her?

In the back of her mind she says, "I have this crazy dream." She wants to have a museum with NE Ohio artists which includes classes, spirituality and health...no doubt it will eventually manifest for her! Anna wraps up the evening's demo by adding florescent violet gouache to the image. "Us being together and the energy here, created this while we were talking." Anna promises to send us a picture when it's finished. But first, "I have to put it somewhere and let it talk to me." We thank Anna for sharing her art and life experiences with us. *(Below are a few of the artworks she brought to share with us.)*



**Cheri Gardiner and Lillian Anderson** provided the evening's refreshments.....a charcuterie board shaped like a turkey, with fruit, veggies, cheese and salami properly placed and there were crackers, peanuts and cookies, too. We thank you both!

