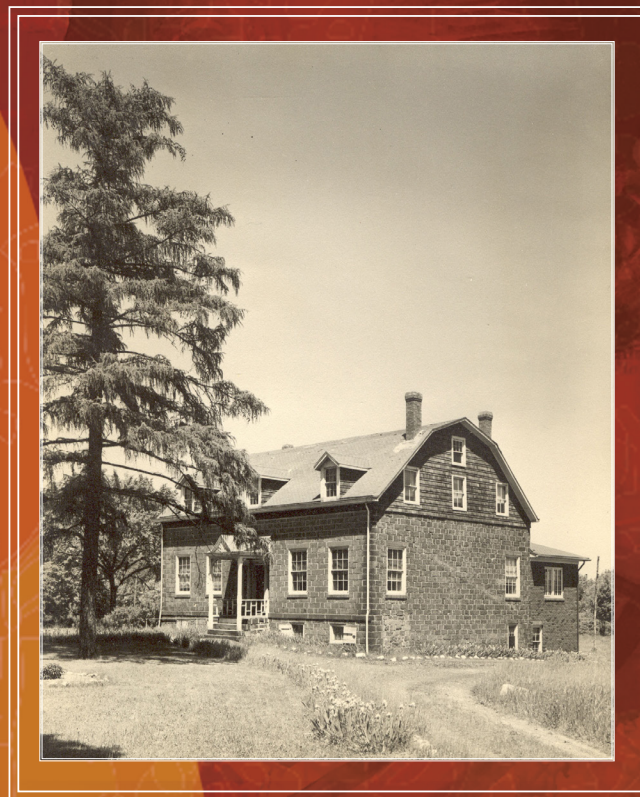


## *About The Exhibition*

The Passaic County Arts Center inaugural show seeks to engage the audience in a creative examination of perspective and interpretation. This exhibition showcases a variety of mediums such as sculpture, drawing, painting, and photography, allowing for an exploration of the artists' understanding of what portraiture means to them.

Featured Artists Include: *Andrea Coloma, Bleriot Thompson, David Fitzgerald, David D'Ostilio, Diane Carbone, Donna Bassin, Eileen Burgess, Jie Li, Juan Ramiro Torres, Maryann Ficker, Niyani Simone, Poramit Thantapalit, Tina Ishihara, and Wil Swink*



## *Our Mission*

The Passaic County Arts Center, under the direction of the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Department of Cultural & Historic Affairs, is dedicated to providing high quality and accessible arts events and educational programming. Through gallery exhibitions, workshops, arts classes, and public programs, the Passaic County Arts Center promotes an appreciation for the visual and performing arts by engaging the community in an environment that nurtures creative expression.

675 Goffle Road  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

973-706-6640

[www.PassaicCountyNJ.org](http://www.PassaicCountyNJ.org)

## **Opening Reception**

June 6, 2019

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm



PASSAIC COUNTY  
**ARTS  
CENTER**  
AT THE JOHN W. REA HOUSE

*To See Each Other*

May 28 – July 22, 2019



**Andrea Coloma**

Peruvian artist **Andrea Coloma**, also known as **Ade Ran**, is a New Jersey-based visual artist concentrating in illustration, mixed media, painting, collage, photography, sculpture and graphic design. Andrea's illustrations investigate the meaning of what identity means to her. Her work is an endless exploration of an uncanny similarity of a human being, and a constant interpretation of the nonentities she creates. In rare occasions, Andrea will depict faces in her work as part of her ongoing series of specific drawings. Since her work is mostly composed of a contrast of light and dark, this creates a juxtaposition in which balance does not exist. Her subjects are born out of mystery and embrace the meaning of an enigma. Andrea's work has been exhibited throughout New York City and New Jersey since 2012. Andrea is currently working for the Passaic County Department of Cultural & Historic Affairs as a graphic designer, and the Arts Program Coordinator for the Passaic County Arts Center.

[www.AndreaColoma.com](http://www.AndreaColoma.com)



**Bleirot Thompson**

**Blerirot M. Thompson** is a contemporary painter who recently attained a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art, class of 2018 at William Paterson University of New Jersey. He uses his paintings to represent minorities through an explosion of color and design. His work has appeared several times at William Paterson University, including a solo show *The Mind and Body Through Color*, where he exhibited 18 paintings. In April, 2018 Thompson was one of sixty artists selected for the Creative Capital Professional Development Program, a program that assists artists with their career, projects, goals, productivity, and personal management. Thompson was also selected for the Early Art Practitioner's program at the Joan Mitchell Foundation. This program assists artists early in their career with goals, projects, and how to navigate as artists. Thompson is now working on a new mixed media series *The Autobiography*.

[www.BmtArts.com](http://www.BmtArts.com)



**David Fitzgerald**

**David Fitzgerald** is a sculptor based in Montclair, NJ. David makes figurative work painted with encaustic. About 8 years ago David decided to make a series of portraits of female sex offenders. He would make them out of clay and paint them with encaustic. Eventually, he decided to do portraits of people he knew and then of public figures from movies and elsewhere. David wondered what is it about a face that is so compelling and could an object provoke a fraction of the same interest. From that question, he started a series of boxes using images from movies focusing on actresses in particular roles. David is now working on a new series of sculptures of owls and hopefully, there will be a brief moment when the viewer imbues them with an inner life of their own.

[www.DavidFitz.com](http://www.DavidFitz.com)



**David D'Ostilio**

**David D'Ostilio** lives in Brooklyn, NY where he is a father, husband, and educator. He was in Brooklyn and New Jersey producing his own work, programming robots, and teaching at William Paterson University. David focuses on digital sculpture, augmented reality, and performance; creating work that addresses the role of technology on labor, ecology and culture. David has exhibited his work internationally including Florence, Italy, Venice, Italy, London, England, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kansas City, and Tempe.

[www.DavidDostilioart.com](http://www.DavidDostilioart.com)



**Diane Carbone**

**Diane Carbone** is an artist, who has lived in Northern New Jersey her whole life. She has always had a passion for drawing and painting. As a young adult, she studied illustration at F.I.T. in NYC. She has a degree in Illustration and Art Therapy, and has worked as an art teacher in Alternative Middle and High Schools. Diane is a figurative artist who uses feminist and religious iconography in her art. She works in several different mediums; such as watercolors, pastels, acrylics, oils, and stone sculpture. Her artwork has evolved over time from feminist, religious themes, body image, sensuality, to portraits of friends and images of the natural world. Diane finds inspiration in the human figure, florals and tranquil land and seascapes from the places that she has traveled.

[www.Facebook.com/DianeCarboneArtist](http://www.Facebook.com/DianeCarboneArtist)



**Donna Bassin**

**Donna Bassin, Ph.D.** is a fine art photographer, clinical psychologist/psychoanalyst, published author, and award-winning documentary filmmaker who examines what is hidden within. She specializes in loss, grief, and mourning, and teaches "Mourning as Transformation: The Creative Edge of Traumatic and Ordinary Loss" at New York University's Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. Her photographs have been featured in exhibitions on both coasts, including galleries and museums, and are part of several private collections.

[www.DonnaBassin.com](http://www.DonnaBassin.com)



**Eileen Burgess**

Eileen Burgess's goal as an artist is to capture the viewers' attention and draw them in, triggering emotional responses and bringing back memories. Her intention is so people will have a visual dialogue of her work. Eileen chooses a subject matter that is evocative, whether of a particular place or moment in time, in hopes of being moved to view their surrounds with a new perspective. Her subject matter varies - still life, portraits, and cityscapes. She translates an image onto a canvas by using a grid system. This technique allows her to capture the precision of line inherent in a photograph, yet it is only the image. Eileen Burgess graduated with a BFA in the School of Visual Arts and went on to earn her MFA at Brooklyn College. Her biggest influences are Pop Art and Photorealism.

[www.EileenBurgess.com](http://www.EileenBurgess.com)



**Jie Li**

She believes "art has no boundaries" and sometimes a picture is more powerful than a thousand words. Also, she believes that one of the most important functions of art is to enlighten others. She believes realism helps her accomplish her goal. She got the inspiration for her artwork "Joy" when she was on vacation. She was shocked when she found an unclear photo in which a medieval-looking man was laughing towards the sky. Therefore, she decided to draw it because she believes that her audience would be enlightened with his pleasant smile as she had experience. It took her almost 20 days to finish the work. She analyzed every detail to figure out what she should keep in the image and what should be discarded. A favorite quote of her is from the famous artist, Edgar Degas. "Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." This saying provides inspiration for all of her art.

[www.NiyaniSimone.MyPortfolio.com](http://www.NiyaniSimone.MyPortfolio.com)



**Juan Ramiro Torres**

**Juan Ramiro Torres** was born in Lima Peru and has lived in the United States since 1984. He graduated from Parsons School of Design (NY) in 1991, since then he has worked as Art Director of many newspapers. He currently works as fine artist, art teacher, graphic designer and journalist. His artwork has been exhibited in major events and galleries in the United States and other countries (Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Argentina, New Zealand, Italy and France). He has been recognized with numerous honors and awards, and his works are part of important private and public collections. In 2014 he was among the 100 artists selected to show their work on a giant screen in Times Square, in New York City. In 2016 and 2017 he participated in the Salon International D'Art Contemporain at the Carrousel du Louvre in France.

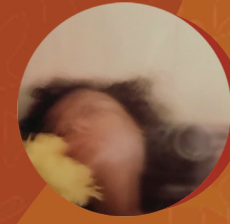
[www.JuanRamiroTorres.com](http://www.JuanRamiroTorres.com)



**Maryann Ficker**

**Ficker's** portraits explore the intense and intimate process of sitting for a painted portrait. Her works reflect the relationship between artist and sitter as well as the conversations that occur while sitting in each other's presence. Ficker's works are primarily, but not limited to, oil paint. The artist has been exhibiting since 2010 and received her MFA from Montclair State University in 2016. She lives and works in New Jersey.

[www.MaryannFicker.com](http://www.MaryannFicker.com)



**Niyani Simone**

**Niyani Simone** is a photographer based in her hometown Newark, New Jersey. In 2014 she began documenting the beauty of life and all that surrounds it. While Niyani was in college, her passion for photography grew and this is when she gained a great appreciation for the art form. In 2018 she received her B.A in Fine Arts with a studio concentration in photography.

[www.NiyaniSimone.MyPortfolio.com](http://www.NiyaniSimone.MyPortfolio.com)



**Poramit Thantapalit**

A native of Thailand, **Poramit Thantapalit** graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He worked as a video producer and in television for three years before he decided to continue studies in US. He received his master's degree in computer graphics from NYIT. He has over 15 years experience as a graphic designer. He has produced works in various mediums such as recycled arts, mixed media, photography, cyanotype and installation arts. His works have been exhibited at the National Academy Museum, IPCNY PrintFest, Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition (BWAC), Plaxall Gallery, Pleiades Gallery, and the Tivoli Artists Gallery.

[www.Pixibition.weebly.com](http://www.Pixibition.weebly.com)



**Tina Ishihara**

**Tina Stonefield Ishihara** is a traditional painter who works in oil on canvas. Although her true love is historical portraits, she also enjoys doing paintings of children, pets and local landscapes and historical sites. Her paintings have been displayed in the New York Historical Society Museum and Lambert Castle Museum. Her artwork can also be found at the Hermitage, Historic New Bridge Landing, Dey Mansion along with many private collections locally.

[www.FineArtAmerica.com/Profiles/Tina-Stonefield.html](http://www.FineArtAmerica.com/Profiles/Tina-Stonefield.html)



**Wil Swink**

**Wil Swink** was born in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1981. Swink is a self-taught artist who began painting in 2011 while living in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His paintings are typically a result of many layers of paint, maps or blueprints, wood stain, epoxy, etching and wood. These materials serve to provide richness and meaning in the sensory process. Swink's work is a product of a variety of life experiences and a vehicle for self-expression. Having a background as social worker, teacher, and therapist, Swink's art captures themes related to the complex nature of the human experience.

[www.WilSwink.com.com](http://www.WilSwink.com.com)