



ABOUT ME

Hi! My name is Sylvia, but I also go by Ess McKee professionally. I am a full time visual creator, graphic designer and art educator. I am a current member of The Eighteen Art Collective, and a resident artist at The Harrison Center for the Arts.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Much of what I create is in homage to the people, places, sights, and sounds that continuously mold my style and creative outlook. Inspired by an appreciation for graffiti art and hip hop culture, my artistic expression manifests in the form of abstract paintings, character illustrations, digital design, and the combination of all three within murals. I typically incorporate aerosols, acrylic paints, stencils, abstract lettering and bright colors. My work has journeyed from pen and ink, to graphic prints, and currently to mixed media and acrylic paint on a variety of surfaces. The themes have varied, but often touch on subjects of hip hop culture, race, and social justice.

As an arts educator, I've made it my mission to make the arts and art creation accessible to people of all ages, but especially for youth and young adults from our city's underserved communities. Much of my programming and my teaching in the school setting is facilitated within our inner city, in order to give the youth of these areas inspiration and to be a representation of what is possible.

EDUCATION


Digital Design Certificate
Art Institute of Indianapolis | Indianapolis, IN

Bachelor of Science, Industry & Tech
Studio Art Minor - Printmaking focus
Ball State University | Muncie, IN


ESS MCKEE

MIXED MEDIA ARTIST
ILLUSTRATOR
DESIGNER
MURALIST

CONTACT

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● KEY SKILLS

- General art instruction
- Teaching basic acrylic painting techniques
- Facilitating arts workshops for youth and adults
- Public Speaking
- Completing small and large scale mural projects
- Proficient in Adobe Creative Suite
- Graphic Design, Digital Illustration, Branding and Design Consultation
- Arts Event Organization
- Space Curation and Program Coordination
- Intermediate Photography

EXPERIENCE

**FREELANCE ARTIST
OWNER/OPERATOR**

ess mckee/INAZ Deizgn LLC
January 2013 - present

- Lead one-off paint workshops for churches, youth groups and corporate functions
- Design marketing and branding material for individuals and small businesses, both digital and print
- Quote, manage and complete mural projects for a variety of customer locations
- Create works for both solo and group studio or gallery art showings
- Perform individual artist talks for youth groups and panel discussions
- Member of The Eighteen Art Collective, 2020-present
- Designed and painted the letter "S" in the Black Lives Matter Mural on Indiana Avenue, August 2020
- Expand knowledge and experience via Artist in Residence and Fellowship programs
- Resident Artist member at The Harrison Center of the Arts, March 2021-present
- Display work monthly for First Friday events at The Harrison or other gallery locations
- Contract as Artist/Instructor for After School Programs, Adult groups and Arts Organizations

ART TEACHER

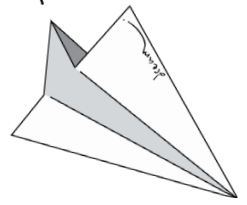
George & Veronica Phalen Leadership Academy
January 2022–present

- Facilitate daily art instruction for youth in K-8th grade
- Design age appropriate lesson plans and curriculum for a school year
- Guide K-5th grade students in after-school, art club projects

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Herron School of Art & Design - IUPUI
January 2022–present

- Curate curriculum around the topic of social justice and advocacy from a graphic design lens
- Facilitate twice weekly lecture, lab, and/or discussion sessions
- Mentor and advise on group and individual projects and community outreach
- Instruct courses related to graphic design and graphics communication as needed.
- Lead discussions on industry standards, critiques, and growth opportunities





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EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

VISUAL ARTS COORDINATOR RESIDENT ARTIST

Ujamaa Community Bookstore
July 2021 - present

- Organize and facilitate an hour of art instruction for youth and adults 3-4 times per month
- Create plans for arts workshops that appeal to creators of all levels
- Point of contact for displaying and selling art in the store
- Curator and creator of The CreatorSpace monthly creator meet-up
- Design signage and social media promotionals for Ujamaa Community Bookstore

TEACHING ARTIST/CONTRACTOR

Arts With a Purpose
August 2021 - present

- Lead an hour of art instruction for youth or adults at community centers or Adult Day Centers
- Create plans for arts workshops that appeal to creators of all levels
- Assist in facilitating other creative projects involving visual arts education or mural work

VISITING ARTIST

Indianapolis Public Library, East 38th
June 2021 - August 2021

- Created and facilitated a 10 week, 2 hour per week Youth Summer Art Series for 12-18 year olds
- Formulated a lesson plan and supply list for each week, with the goal of teaching new art techniques and styles to young artists of all levels

CURATORIAL FELLOW

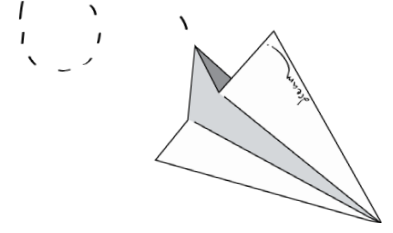
10 EAST ARTS
March 2020 - May 2020

- Created an 8 week, 1 hour per week virtual self-care series called Self-Care Monday
- Curated Self-Care Monday to be inclusive, diverse and accessible for different age groups and experience levels
- Contracted and paid practitioners to submit recorded 1 hour sessions in their field for Self-Care Monday
- Submitted and worked within a budget for the duration of the Fellowship
- Promoted series via social media and YouTube
- Originally submitted and was selected to complete a 12 week proposal of a variety of free workshop and event ideas, focusing on arts and culture for the Near Eastside community. Covid-19 forced a reimagining of the program



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EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

SPARK City Market
August 2018 - May 2019

- Curated a proposal to engage visitors and activate the space by way of the arts at the Indianapolis City Market
- Created and moderated a series showcasing local artists called The Legacy Makers, in conjunction with the already in place - Art at the Market series
- Worked alongside two other professional artists to advertise and share art at the weekly Farmer's Market
- Built a community art piece that still lives on the second floor of the City Market called, The Inspiration Desk

PAINT INSTRUCTOR

Pike YMCA, Indpls, IN
June 2017–December 2019

- Lead monthly "Punch & Pallet" workshops for families and the YMCA Active Older Adult group
- Guided participants through step-by-step paint instruction of a provided or chosen image in the span of two hours

EXHIBITIONS & PUBLIC ART

TINY XI

GROUP SHOW

Gallery 924, Indianapolis
December 2, 2022 - January 12, 2023

XVIII: PERSPECTIVE

GROUP SHOW

The Harrison Center, Indianapolis
November 4-28, 2022

WE. THE CULTURE: Works by the Eighteen Art Collective

GROUP SHOW

The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields
September 22, 2022 - September 24, 2023

BUTTER ART FAIR

GROUP SHOW

GANGGANG - The Stutz Building, Indianapolis
September 1-4, 2022

FUTURE FORWARD

GROUP SHOW

Saks Fifth Avenue Art Gallery, Indianapolis
August 9 - September 6, 2022

THAT FEELING WHEN

SOLO SHOW

The Harrison Center, Indianapolis
June 3, 2022 - June 30, 2022

MEET THE ARTIST XXXIV

GROUP SHOW

The Indianapolis Central Library
January 26, 2022 - April 2, 2022

THE EIGHTEEN: 365+

GROUP SHOW

The Indianapolis Art Center
August 27, 2021 - October 15, 2021

LILLY DAY OF SERVICE

MURALIST

Garfield Park, Indianapolis
September 2021



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BUTTER ART FAIR GANGGANG - The Stutz Building, Indianapolis
GROUP SHOW September 3-5, 2021

THE ART WALK AT CLAY TERRACE OPENING Clay Terrace, Carmel
MURALIST/GROUP SHOWING August 18, 2021

"HAPPY DAZE" Clay Terrace, Carmel
MURALIST August 2021

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY: THE ART OF PROTEST
GROUP SHOWING The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
August 7, 2021 - present

"KIDS STUFF", "ODE TO VINYL", "UNTITLED"
MURALIST Ujamaa Community Bookstore, Indianapolis
July, 2021

PAREIDOLIA KIND Gallery - The Indianapolis International Airport
GROUP SHOW June 16, 2021 - present

MURALS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE: ONE YEAR LATER
The Arts Council of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Public Library
PANELIST June 12, 2021

GRIND CULTURE The Harrison Center, Indianapolis
GROUP SHOW April 2021

DISTRESS SIGNAL Purdue Black Cultural Center - West Lafayette
SOLO SHOW April 2021

THE GROWTH ADVENTURE PODCAST Gregory & Appel, Indianapolis
GUEST March 18, 2021

"WELCOME TO INDY" Gregory & Appel, Indianapolis
BANNER ILLUSTRATOR/DESIGNER March 2021

"POWER TO THE PATIENTS" Bluebeard Restaurant, Fountain Square
MURALIST March, 2021

DISTRESS SIGNAL The Harrison Center for the Arts, Indianapolis
SOLO SHOW November 2020

THE ELEPHANT GARDENS The Elephant Gardens, Indpls
MURALIST November 2020

"ALICE CARTER PARK MURAL" Alice Carter Park, Indianapolis
MURALIST/CREATIVE LEAD August 2020

"S" - BLACK LIVES MATTER MURAL Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis
MURALIST August, 2020

"THE FUTURE IS NOW" MURALS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
The Arts Council of Indianapolis, Indianapolis
MURALIST June 12, 2020

"SHINING LIGHT" - ART & SEEK (ARTS COUNCIL)
MURALIST New York & Rural, Indianapolis
May, 2020