

Paintings for Justice



By Gwynne Duncan

In Partnership with Herstory Writers Workshop



Statement

Over the years I have been searching through my art for hope and beauty in a world of disconnection and sorrow, painting flowers, birds and women in my landscapes of dreams. Right before 911, I was working on a lush painting of an Empress dreaming of a better world, but after the terror attack devastated NYC, I decided to close her eyes, and change the name of the show I was curating from “Witness” to “From the Ashes.”

I am currently working with Herstory Writers Workshop on a series of illustrations for their online publication of stories by immigrant writers, visited by 10,000-15,000 people each month. I painted the Statue of Liberty with a tear in her eye for the cover of *Brave Journeys*, Herstory’s newest book. I also created a series for the people of Puerto Rico who suffered the devastation of Hurricane Maria. I have made a policy of donating my work where it can reach the people for whom it will have meaning and give courage. If I am awarded the fellowship, I will use it to develop an ongoing body of work to help people in the struggle for justice and peace.



1. Empress Oil/Collage, 36"x46", 2001

Featured in The Los Angeles Times by Paul Leiberan, October 2001: The Hue and Cry of Art: Responding in N.Y. to the Terrorist Attacks"...Gwynne Duncan, a 32-year-old Brooklyn artist, did change her work. Duncan was not finished with two lush paintings, one titled "Empress," showing a saintly woman in repose, "dreaming of a better world." Before the attack, her eyes were open. "After, I felt the need to close them," Duncan said. "It took over a week for me to return to those paintings. I wanted to do something new but felt frozen, and obligated to finish what I started. I wanted them as peaceful and calm as possible after what happened." Her new works will be on display Saturday, in a show that may be the most direct attempt to tie art to the events of a month earlier..."



2. Yema (Second Sister) 2006 14"x18" Acrylic

This has become one of Herstory's signature images, used for the organization's facilitator manuals and other publications.



3. Brave Journeys 2017-26"x36"? acrylic

Cover painting for Brave Journeys/ Pasos valientes, 15 stories by young people who crossed the border by themselves, published by Herstory Writers in 2018. This book, which Gwynne Duncan illustrated, is being used by 15 school districts on Long Island and is reaching a national audience through First Book, an organization dedicated to bringing books to children for whom the ownership of books is a luxury. <https://www.fbmarketplace.org/brave-journeys-pasos-valientes-bilingual-english-spanish>



4. Welcome Home Primo- acrylic, 10"x8", 2017
created for "Stories for Liberation," a weekly Herstory series on the website of Long Island Wins, which through advocacy, education and hope welcomes new Americans into the community. Whenever a story must be published anonymously to protect the author, Gwynne Duncan illustrates it.



5. Dreams of Childhood, oil 14"x18"?, 2011

Cover image for Latinas Write/Escriben published by Herstory Writers Workshop in 2011



6. Taking Back our Children? acrylic 18"x24"?, 2013

Commissioned by Herstory Writers Workshop, which used a story based strategy to support the campaign to end the incarceration of minors in New York State.



7. I Will Walk to the End, acrylic, 10"x8" 2018

Stories for Liberation: in celebration of the journeys of the young high school heroes who had to publish their stories anonymously, to protect their families and themselves - became the front piece for Brave Journeys, and has been reprinted many times in publicity around the book. This painting and those that follow are permanent parts of the Long Island Wins website archive.



8. Now its my Turn, acrylic 10"x8" 2018

Stories for Liberation: created to illustrate the story of a pregnant teenager who had to cross the Rio Grande by herself, to take her baby to safety on the other side.



9. I Have to Continue My Journey, acrylic, 10"x8" 2018
Stories for Liberation: A boy saying goodbye to his mother.



10. The Emptiness We Carry in Our Hearts, acrylic, 10"x8" 2018

Stories for Liberation: commissioned by a high school girl whose father was killed by a gang in her country. She requested that I depict her underneath a tree looking sad.

RESUME

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

The Pie Shop, Brooklyn, NY 2009; Hootenanny Art House, Brooklyn, NY, 2008; Gallery on Dean, Brooklyn, NY, 2004; 2002 Tillies of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY; Australian Femininity, Sag harbor, NY; The East End Ensemble, Brooklyn, NY; 2000 & 1998 Fall Cafe, Brooklyn, NY; 1997 Cedar Tavern, NYC; 1996 Chelsea Hotel, suite 303, NYC; 1990 Canio's Bookstore, Sag Harbor, NY; Proctor Art Center, Bard College, Annandale, NY



GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2005- HOWL! Fest- CSV Center, NYC; 2003 Martinez Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; 2002 *Tiny*- Adobe Books, San Francisco, CA; *Generations III*- A.I.R. Gallery, NYC; 2001 *Witness & From The Ashes*- C.U.A.N.D.O., NYC; *Pictures to Prove It*- CB's 313 Gallery, NYC; *Illuminated Interiors*- Rubulad, Brooklyn, NY; 2000 *Diptychs & Triptychs*- Locus Media, Inc., NY; *Apparitions*- Merkin Concert Hall, NYC; *BWAC Pier Show 8*- Beard Street Pier, Brooklyn; *Generations II*- A.I.R. Gallery, NYC; 1999 *Paintings and Sculpture*- Gale Gates, Brooklyn, NY; 1998 *Cartouche*- CB's 313 Gallery, NYC; 1996 *LICK!*- Emerging Collector, NYC; *Paper Works*- Cursio Spector Gallery, NYC; 1995 *\$800 Show*- Einstein Gallery, NYC; *Sexy Show*- 612, Brooklyn, NY; *International Salon*- Ward-Nasse Gallery, NYC; 1994 *Beyond Bard*- National Arts Club, NYC; *The Independence Show*- Galeria El Bohio, NYC; *What I Love About America*- Wisteria Gallery, Brooklyn; 1993 *Organism*- Mustard Co., Brooklyn, NY; 1992 *Human Harvest*- Westbeth Gallery, NYC; *Group Show*- Cold Fish Gallery, Brooklyn; *Consecration*- CB's 313 Gallery, NYC; 1991 *Choice*- A.I.R. Gallery, NYC; 1986 *Small Works Invitational*- Bowery Gallery, NYC

EDUCATION

1986-90 Bard College (BFA) Annandale, NY; 1988 Syracuse University/ Bard Florence, Italy; 1982-86 Music & Art High School NYC; 1994-95 N.Y. Studio School NYC; 1994- Vermont Studio Center Johnson, VT; 1992- Art Student's League NYC

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

2001 *"Smith & 9th"* Mural in the Clinton/Washington Subway on the G line, Brooklyn, NY- Clinton Hill Society/ MTA Arts for Transit; 1998 1998 *"We Are Globally Connected"* Mural in Washington Irving H.S., NYC

ART FOR MEDIA

2003- "Uptown Girls" MGM Studios Inc.

2001- "Margarita Happy Hour" Fox Lorber Studio

CURATING

2001 *Witness*- C.U.A.N.D.O., NYC; *From The Ashes*- C.U.A.N.D.O., NYC; *Illuminated Interiors*- Rubulad, Brooklyn, NY; 2000 *Cartouche II*- CB's 313 Gallery, NYC; 1998 *Cartouche*- CB's 313 Gallery, NYC

ASSISTANTSHIPS

1990-present Louise Kramer, sculptor NYC; 1989-summer Mary Frank, sculptor Lake Hill, NY

GEOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Born in New York City in 1968. Currently lives and works in New York City.