

STEPHEN TYSON, ARTIST STATEMENT:

STEPHEN J. TYSON WAS BORN AND RAISED IN NEW YORK CITY. HE GRADUATED FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC & ART, ATTENDED THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN, EARNED HIS BFA FROM MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE, AND HIS MFA FROM THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK.

HE WAS TENURED AS AN ART TEACHER WITH THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND AS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF STUDIO ART AND ART HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH IN JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA. HE HAS BEEN A FINE ARTS FACULTY MEMBER AT SIENA COLLEGE, SUNY-ALBANY, UNION COLLEGE, AND HE IS CURRENTLY AN INSTRUCTOR OF FINE ARTS AT SUNY-SCHENECTADY AND SUNY-ADIRONDACK.

IN 1988 AND 1995, HE WAS AWARDED FULBRIGHT-HAYS FELLOWSHIPS TO STUDY IN NIGERIA AND IN NAMIBIA AND BOTSWANA, RESPECTIVELY. THOSE EXPERIENCES FURTHER INSPIRED HIS INTEREST IN PATTERN DESIGN; EVIDENT IN A SERIES OF PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS HE HAS CONTINUED TO PRODUCE SINCE 1994. HE HAS ALSO DRAWN INSPIRATION FROM THE FIELD OF CELLULAR BIOLOGY, ASTRONOMY, ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS, AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ART, THE MURAL DESIGNS OF THE KASSENA IN WEST AFRICA, DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY, AND MUSIC.

HIS WORK HAS BEEN FEATURED AT VENUES SUCH AS THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM, THE SCHENECTADY MUSEUM (NOW MISCI) AND THE NATIONAL BLACK FINE ART SHOW (NBFAS) IN NEW YORK CITY, AND IS INCLUDED IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE, THE SCHENECTADY MUSEUM (MISCI), HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SIENA COLLEGE, AS WELL AS IN NUMEROUS PRIVATE COLLECTIONS.

MR. TYSON HAS ALSO SERVED AS A CURATOR, LECTURER, ARTS CONSULTANT, PANELIST (INCLUDING NYSCA'S SPECIAL ARTS SERVICES), MODERATOR, AND GALLERY ASSISTANT.