

Nell Painter

Artist's Statement Nell Painter (the painter formerly known as the historian Nell Irvin Painter, author of *The History of White People*, *Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol*, and *Creating Black Americans* and the Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita, Princeton University) lives and works in Newark, New Jersey. My work carries discursive as well as visual meaning, and I make it in my characteristic manual + digital process. Using found images and digital manipulation; I reconfigure the past and revision myself through self-portraits. After a life of historical truth and political engagement with American society, my artwork represents freedom. Including the freedom to be totally self-centered.

Solo Show

Freedom from Truth: Self-Portraits of Nell Painter, Smith Center, Harvard University, October-November 2019

White History as Told through Art: Odalisque Atlas, CGIS, Harvard University, October-November 2019

Eye Speak, Lederer Lockhart Bridge Galleries, SUNY-Geneseo, September-October 2016

There! WBGO Gallery, Newark, NJ, April-June 2016

Activate Market Street, Newark, NJ, October-November 2015

Art History Dog Fight: Recent Paintings by Nell Painter, San Angelo Museum of Fine Art, San Angelo, Texas, February-April 2015

She Said, She Said, Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn, NY, June 2014-January 2015

Four Eyes on Place, Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ, April-May 2013

Group Shows

Spread Spectrum, Newark Arts, One Theater Square, 2 Center St., Newark, NJ

Divine Intervention, Sag Harbor, NY, June-September 2019

Process and Practice, Aferro Gallery, Newark, NJ, April-June 2019

Black and White, Galleries at Express Newark, Newark, NJ, March-June 2019

Compassion: Is It The Radicalism of Our Time?, Gallery 14 Maple, Madison, New Jersey, September 2018-February 2019

Share My World, Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ, July-September 2018

Subject Matter, Volume II, 60-64 Gallery, Newark, NJ, May 2017

Holding It Together, Teri Hackett Studio, Dumbo, Brooklyn, May 2017

Metro 31, City Without Walls, Newark, NJ, April-June 2017

Process, Newark Print Shop, Newark, NJ, April-June 2017

Sharp-Tongued Figuration, Stedman Gallery, Rutgers University-Camden, January-April 2017

Back Story, Studio Montclair, Montclair, NJ, May-August 2016

Occupy Art Show@ Newark Open Doors, Newark Arts Council, Newark, NJ, October 2015

I put this moment...Here. E11: Aljira Emerge Eleven, Aljira Gallery, Newark, NJ, September-December 2014

In Site, Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers-Newark, June-July 2014

Datascape, Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers-Newark, January-April 2014

Subject Matter, Volume I, 60-64 Gallery, Newark, NJ, December 2013-January 2014

Right Here Right Now, Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers-Newark, June-July 2013

Call & Re-Call: An Exhibition of Artists Made Books, Yema Gallery, Orange, NJ, May-June 2013

Art Connections 9, Segal Gallery, Montclair State University, January-February 2013

Newark Art, Newark Artists, Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ, January-March 2013

Books for Art's Sake, Dana Library, Rutgers-Newark, NJ, May-June 2012

Through You Into Action, Aferro Gallery, Newark, NJ, May-June 2012

Celebrating Five Years of the Gallery Aferro Studio Residency, Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster, NJ, April-May 2012

Small Crowd, Mixed Greens Gallery, Chelsea, NYC, June-July 2011

Public Collections

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA

Zimmerli Museum, Rutgers-New Brunswick, NJ

Newark Museum, Newark, NJ

National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Collection, Yale University

Robert B. Has Family Arts Library, Yale University

William J. Dane Fine Print Collection, Newark Public Library

W. E. B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University

Bibliography

[PBS Newshour](#) interviews Nell — "A historian tells the story of her 'second act, becoming an art student'" — July 23, 2018 (38 minutes in)

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/this-new-and-old-artist-offers-a-self-portrait-in-starting-over>

NPR Interview with Scott Simon,

June 16, 2018 — Heard on Weekend Edition Saturday

"'Old In Art School': An MFA Inspires A Memoir Of Age"

<https://www.npr.org/2018/06/16/620105093/old-in-art-school-an-mfa-inspires-a-memoir-of-age>

Interview with the [American Association of University Women](https://www.aauw.org/2018/07/17/never-too-late/) (July 17, 2018)
<https://www.aauw.org/2018/07/17/never-too-late/>

Interview with *Press-Republican*, newspaper of Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties, NY (Plattsburgh, NY):
"[Report on an encore career by a celebrated historian](#)—Following retirement, Nell Painter pursued BFA, MFA in art school in her 60s", By Robin Caudell (June 13, 2018)

BookPage Interview with Nell Painter (July 2018)
<http://bookpage.com/interviews/22845-nell-painter#.Wy2BkC2ZPmG>

The Atlantic Interview: "[The Wisdom of Going Back to School in Retirement](#)—The historian Nell Painter discusses her lifelong love of art, and how it felt to finally pursue her dream after she left the workplace" by Lolade Fadulu (June 22, 2018)

Paola Morsiani, "Nell Painter: Working in the Year 2017" *Art in Print*, September 2017

Carol Jenkins, [Black America-Through a Painter's Eye with Nell Painter](#), CUNY-TV, 10 May 2017
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_b6qwX9f0c&feature=youtu

Alexandra Hill, *The Art of Nell Painter*, WBGO, May 2016

One on One with Steve Aduato, NJTV, March 2016

Essay by Nell Painter, "[I Might be Next](#)," NJ State of the Arts TV, December 2015
<http://www.stateoftheartsnj.com/?portfolio=i-might-be-next>

"[Historian and Artist, Nell Painter](#)," *Dime and Honey art blog*, November 5, 2015
<http://www.dimeandhoney.com/art/practice-nell-painter/>

Blumenbach Symposium, Gottingen, Germany, 04 2015
<http://www.blumenbach-online.de/index.php?id=95&L=1>

Lisa Intrabartola, "Mother of Reinvention Alum Nell Irvin Painter reflects on her late-in-life transition from academia to the art studio," *Mason Gross School of the Arts Spring 2015 Magazine*, 2015: 12-13

"Nell Painter on Beauford": *Les Amis de Beauford Delaney*, November 2014
<http://lesamisdebeauforddelaney.blogspot.fr/2014/11/nell-painter-on-beauford.html>

Dan Bischoff, "[Art Review: Preserving Memories](#)", *Star-Ledger*, 28 October 2014: 26
https://www.nj.com/entertainment/arts/2014/10/art_review_emerge_11_at_aljira_a_center_for_contemporary_art_in_newark.html

NJ State of the Arts visits the Emerge 11 exhibition and studios of Emerge Fellows, 24 October 2014
<http://www.stateoftheartsnj.com/?portfolio=emerge-11-aljira>

Jorge Rojas, *I put this moment...Here. E11: Aljira Emerge Eleven Catalog*, Newark, NJ, 2014

Jacqueline Trescott, "[Both Sides Now, Historian and Artist. Nell Painter Bridges Her Two Passions](http://iraaa.museum.hamptonu.edu/page/Both-Sides-Now%2C-Historian-%26-Artist-)," *International Review of African American Art Plus*, May 2014
<http://iraaa.museum.hamptonu.edu/page/Both-Sides-Now%2C-Historian-%26-Artist->

Colleen Gutwein, Newark Arts Photo Documentary Project,

<http://www.newarkartsphotodoc.com>

Anonda Bell, *Datascapes*, Paul Robeson Galleries, Rutgers University-Newark, 2014

Jill P. Capuzzo, "Paintings by Painter," *Rutgers Magazine*, Fall 2013, 25-26

"What's It Like to Leave Scholarship for Painting?" *Perspectives on History: Newsmagazine of the American Historical Association*, May 2013

"Top 10 NYC Artists Now," *Revolt Magazine*, Issue 4

Zahra Johnson, "Newark, Nell; Nell, Newark: An Artist to Remember and Support (Photos)" *Examiner.com* 1 March 2013

Zahra, "[My Conversation With Legendary Historian & Artist Nell Painter: A Must Read Interview For Black Women](http://madamenoire.com/263922/my-conversation-with-legendary-historian-artist-nell-painter-a-must-read-interview-for-black-women/)" *Madame Noire*, 28 February 2013

<http://madamenoire.com/263922/my-conversation-with-legendary-historian-artist-nell-painter-a-must-read-interview-for-black-women/>

"A Historian Bids Farewell to Her Past," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 1 February 2013

Through You Into Action, 2012

RISD MFA Painting 2011, 2011

"[Nell Irvin Painter/Professor of History, Princeton](https://bigthink.com/videos/big-think-interview-with-nell-irvin-painter)," *Big Think*, 2010

<https://bigthink.com/videos/big-think-interview-with-nell-irvin-painter>

Wesley Brown, "Nell Irvin Painter," *Artists and Influence*, James V. Hatch et al., eds. XXVI, 2007: 163-180

Artist Residencies

Brodsky Center, New Brunswick, NJ, February-April 2017

MacDowell Colony, Peterboro, NH, November-December 2016

Ucross Foundation, Ucross, Wyoming, October 2016

Aljira Emerge 11 (professional development for visual artists by Creative Capital), Newark, NJ, February-April 2013

Artist in residence, Newark Public Library, December 2012-January 2013

Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, NY, October 2012

Artist-and-scholar in residence, Yale University Department of African American Studies, January-June, 2012

Artist residency, Aferro Gallery, Newark, NJ, August 2011-August 2012

Fulbright scholar in Edinburgh and Newcastle Universities, UK, October 2011

Virtual Artist in Residence of the Creative Research Center of Montclair State University, 2009–2012

Education

Rhode Island School of Design, MFA painting, 2011
Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey, BFA painting, 2009
Harvard University, Ph.D., American history, 1974
University of California, Berkeley, B.S., Anthropology, 1964

Selected Honors

American Historical Association 2018 Award for Scholarly Distinction
Honorary Doctor of letters, Colgate University, 2017
Honorary Doctor of letters, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2016
Fulbright Scholar, United Kingdom, October 2011
Centennial Award, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2011
Honorary Doctorate, Metropolitan University, New York, 2010
American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow, 2008
Honorary Doctor of Letters, Yale University, 2003
Honorary Doctor of Letters, SUNY–New Paltz, 1998
Honorary Doctorate of Letters, Dartmouth College, 1997
Honorary Doctor of Letters, Wesleyan University, 1996
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 1992-1993
Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, 1991
1989 Alumnus/a of the Year, Black Alumni of the University of California, Berkeley
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellow, 1988-1989
Candace Award, National Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, 1986
Graduate Society Medal, Radcliffe College Alumnae, 1984
Guggenheim Fellow, 1982-1983

Authored Books

Old in Art School: A Memoir, Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint, 2018. Chinese edition, 2019. Finalist, National Book Circle Critics award for autobiography, 2018-2019
The History of White People, New York: W. W. Norton, 2010. Japanese edition, 2011, French edition, 2019
Creating Black Americans: African American History and Its Meanings, 1619 to the Present, New York: Oxford University Press, 2006
Southern History Across the Color Line, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002
Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol, New York: W. W. Norton, 1996. Korean edition, 2005
Standing at Armageddon: The United States, 1877-1919, New York, W. W. Norton, 1987, 2nd ed., 2008

The Narrative of Hosea Hudson: His Life as a Negro Communist in the South,
Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1979

Exodusters: Black Migration to Kansas After Reconstruction, New York: Alfred A.
Knopf, 1976

Edited Books

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, New York: Penguin Classic edition, 2000

Narrative of Sojourner Truth, New York: Penguin Classic edition, 1998

Employment

Princeton University, Professor of History, 1988-1991; Edwards Professor of
American History, 1991-2005; Director, Program in African American Studies,
1997-2000; Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita, 2005-present

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Professor of History, 1980-1988

University of Pennsylvania, Assistant and Associate Professor of History, 1974-
1980
