

# Nell Painter

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## 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.

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## Solo Show

*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

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## Group Shows

*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

*Datascapes*, Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers-Newark, January-April 2014

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*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

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## Public Collections

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

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## Bibliography

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=I\\_b6qwX9f0c&feature=  
youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_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.stateofheartsnj.com/?portfolio=i-might-be-  
next](http://www.stateofheartsnj.com/?portfolio=i-might-be-next)

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"[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:

[http://www.nj.com/entertainment/arts/index.ssf/2014/10/art\\_review\\_emerge\\_11\\_at\\_aljira\\_a\\_center\\_for\\_contemporary\\_art\\_in\\_newark.html](http://www.nj.com/entertainment/arts/index.ssf/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](#)," *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, *Datascares*, 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.

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Zahra, "[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](#)," *Big Think*, 2010

<http://bigthink.com/users/nellirvinpainter>

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

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## Artist Residencies

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

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## 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**

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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**

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*Old in Art School: A Memoir*, Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint, 2018  
*The History of White People*, New York: W. W. Norton, 2010.  
Japanese edition, 2011  
*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

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**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

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**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