

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 Shows

- A Million Nells*, Time and Space Limited, Hudson, NY, September-October 2022
- 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

Selected Group Shows

- Conceptions of White*, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan, CA (August-November 2022), Art Museum at the University of Toronto (January-March 2023), Vancouver Art Gallery (October 2023-January 2024), Canada
- Engage with Slavery*, Herron Museum, Indianapolis, IN, November 2022-February 2023
- Womb of Violet, Volume II: Blackness, Resistance, and Being*, fayemi shakur, ed. Project for Empty Space, 2021.
- The Good and the True*, Paul Robeson Galleries, Express Newark, Newark, NJ, February-March 2021
- From Slavery to Freedom*, Newark Museum of Art and Aferro Gallery, Newark, 2020
- Soothing Souls*, Akwaaba Gallery, Newark, NJ, June-July 2020
- Spread Spectrum*, Newark Arts, One Theater Square, 2 Center St., Newark, NJ, October 2018

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

Public Collections

The Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA

Muscarella Museum of Art, William and Mary College, Williamsburg, VA

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. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT William J. Dane Fine Print Collection, Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ W. E. B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Artists' Residencies	Bogliasco Foundation, Bogliasco, Italy, 2020 MacDowell, Peterborough, NH, 2021, 2019, 2016 Ucross Foundation, Ucross, WY, 2016, 2022 (declined) Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, 2012, 2022
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, 2nd ed., 2021

Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol, New York: W. W. Norton, 1996. Korean edition, 2008

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
