

# James R. Threalkill

ARTIST

James R. Threalkill, a Nashvillian, began painting at age 13 with an oil painting set purchased by his mother who was the biggest supporter of his development as an artist. He graduated from East Nashville High School and Vanderbilt University in Fine Arts, where he attended on an athletic scholarship offered by legendary football coach, Bill Parcells to play football.

James has shared his talent as an artist locally and internationally. After graduating from college,

James worked with the public housing communities

where he grew up to conduct neighborhood art classes for youth while serving as an instructor for the Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation's art department. He taught art classes at the Centennial Art Center for youth, adults, and seniors.

James also served as the Community Services Director and art instructor for the old South Street Community Center (Edgehill Center, Inc). He developed an award-winning mural program for disadvantaged youth living in the Edgehill public housing community. James won an Emmy-Award in 1994 for a mural

produced with his students for the Viacom Cable Network. James and the students teamed with fellow artist Michael McBride to create murals in downtown Nashville, the Nashville International Airport and the Vanderbilt Pediatric Clinic.

Mayor Phil Bredesen appointed James as the Community Affairs and Arts Liaison for the City of Nashville.

James was a founding Board member of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and also served as a commissioner for the Metro Nashville Arts Commission.

James was an art instructor at Montgomery Bell Academy before accepting his current position as the Senior Director of Diversity



South Africa to coordinate a mural project with students in Soweto, South Africa. It was during this trip that James had the experience of a lifetime when he met face to face with President Nelson Mandela. The mural featuring images of Mandela, Steve Biko, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and singer Miriam Makeba would later be permanently displayed at the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto where Mandela and Biko first started planning the freedom movement to protest the apartheid regime in South Africa.

James traveled to Columbia,

South America in 2010 to participate in an artist's residency program for the Centro Columbo Americana, painting murals and lecturing at local schools and universities.

James' artwork is included in numerous corporate and private collections including; Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, Tennessee State University, The Dollar General Corporation, The Tennessee State Museum, Columbia State Community College, Governor and First Lady Phil Bredesen and Andrea Conte', Cal and Maggie Turner, Actress Kim Fields, NFL stars like Eddie George, and radio personality Tom Joyner.

James R. Threalkill's artwork represents a passion for the beauty of life and the vibrancy of color and movement. His images capture the essence of individuals and their various lifestyles. His appreciation for the spontaneity of jazz is clearly evident in his musical creations. His textured abstracts display the freedom of creativity that he balances with his expressive realism.

Artist Statement:

My blessing of art talent is enhanced by the sheer enjoyment I receive from the creative process and the emotional responses that it generates from the viewer. I am grateful to be able to

share such a gift with those who appreciate the aesthetic qualities that art brings to our everyday lives.

for Skanska USA Inc., a global construction management firm where he promotes opportunities for women and minority-owned businesses.

James collaborated with fellow artist Michael McBride and three Metro Nashville schoolteachers to develop a groundbreaking children's book series entitled; "Visions: African American Experiences" which was featured on Sesame Street. James' creation "Gulf Coast Sunset" was featured



in the Disney Movie "Snow Dogs" with Cuba Gooding, Jr. and James Coburn. His work has also been featured on the television series "The Jamie Foxx Show" and "Living Single".

In 1995, James was invited to travel to

