

CONVERSATIONS
in the ARTS
Arts Education

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PANELISTS



ANU ANNAM

Anu Annam, is an award-winning, internationally acclaimed exhibiting artist, art educator and curator. She is faculty at the *Art League of Long Island*, artist-in-residence for the *Huntington Arts Council JOURNEY* program and conducts artist development programs at her studio, *Anu Annam Arts & Illustration*. Nominated for *LI Press' Best Artist on Long Island* and recipient of multiple grants from the *New York State Council on the Arts* for her work with at-risk and special needs populations, Annam also is on the Advisory Board of the *Patchogue Arts Council/MOCA of LI*.

Annam, recognized for her community-based arts programming and fundraising, is co-creator and director of *Fantastic Funhouse* bringing age appropriate cinema-themed art experiences to children, and co-director/co-founder of *POP! Draw*, a pop-culture drawing group. Annam also created and directs *Art Center for Sphoorti Benefit*, raising funds for arts-based education in her original hometown of Hyderabad, India.

Annam has worked with queer advocacy groups since 1990. She has continued social justice work through the arts as a Film & Event Programmer/Arts Director for the *Long Island Gay and Lesbian Film Festival*. She is Curatorial Director of the *Best Gay Event on Long Island's* Queer Cultural Visual & Performing Arts Event *Born This Way & the MOSAIC Exhibition*. Her queer organization *BOPPI* (Bisexual, Open, Pansexual, People of the Islands) has been the Community Sponsor for this event. Annam has been honored for *Tireless Support of the Arts on Long Island* by the *Long Island Gay and Lesbian Film Festival*. In 2019, she began an arts-based movement to fight mental health stigma called *SEA of Visibility* (*SEA = Support Expression through the Arts*).

Annam earned her BA from *Tufts University* and *Boston Museum School* in English Literature and Fine Arts. She will be completing her Computer Art Master's thesis, *Skinny Fingers: a Motion Comic*, which depicts the daily lives of neurodiverse characters and how they are treated..



NICOLE FRANZ

Nicole Franz is a mixed-media artist and art educator, living and working on Long Island, New York. She holds a degree in Illustration and Design from the Fashion Institute of Technology and a Masters Degree in Art Education. She has worked in the fashion industry, hip-hop music industry, and taught various art forms for over 20 years. Nicole's art is created using mostly recycled materials. The materials are collected from various towns on Long Island. She uses local publications, advertisements, magazines, napkins, cardboard, menus, cork, rocks, metals, glass and other interesting found objects.



DIEGO GARCIA

Long Island born and raised, self-taught painter Diego Garcia has had a passion for art since childhood. Diego began his artistic journey finding inspiration in popular icons like Michael Jackson and Walt Disney. The graffiti culture and honors art classes at Brentwood High School catalyzed Diego's talents at a very young age. He started to take his craft seriously around 17 with commission work and local group exhibitions. Vivid use of color, childlike handwritten lyrics and poems, graffiti style references and abstract imagery of children have become the artist's recognizable motif. Since 2015, he has had four successful solo gallery exhibitions alongside many group and solo highlighted artist showcases. His solo shows were, *Fire Away*, Huntington NY, *Leaving*, The Covenant House NY, Chelsea and *Clarity*, Muñeca Arthouse, Patchogue.

Diego has been nominated for best painter by Bethpage Best of Long Island, 201/2020. He has been awarded the *Long Island Young Professionals award*, 2019 by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce. Diego was presented with two grants from the Huntington Arts Council. One was to support and fund his fourth solo show, and the other was to do a creative arts workshop in his hometown of Brentwood, NY. As Diego continues to grow as an artist and public figure he realizes more and more how important it is to advocate for culture and community through his work. In part, he states "I am a vessel and that I feel is a more accurate title for who I am and what I do. I think my works are studies of emotional, cultural and sociological intelligence. I translate feelings and turn them into paintings and exhibition experiences for people to examine and enjoy. That's my goal, to innovate and create fine art experiences that move people in a real way."



MARIE SAINT-CYR

Marie E. Saint-Cyr is a Visual Artist, Educator, and Arts Administrator. Marie received a BFA in Fine Arts and a minor in Art History from the Fashion Institute of Technology. In 2018, Marie participated in The Downtown Brooklyn Arts Management Fellowship, a collaboration between four prominent Brooklyn arts and culture organizations: where she learned about core areas of arts management, including Development, Marketing/Community Engagement, Education, Curatorial/Programming, Production/Tech, and Administration/Finance.

As a Haitian immigrant, Marie was deeply impacted by various art cultural organizations, through their free workshops and educational programs. These experiences not only enabled her to learn to express herself through art, but she also became very interested in the work it takes to make these programs happen.

In 2018 Marie started a project management company, *Saint-Cyr Art Studio*, with a focus on designing, implementing and managing art and cultural programs/projects throughout NY. *Saint-Cyr Art Studio* was born out of Marie's passion for Art, Education, Business and her desire to give back to her community.

Within her art practice, Marie creates paintings which explore how we interact within imagined space and evokes the charm and vibrancy and Caribbean pastorals alongside the urgency and layered energy of urban landscapes.

MODERATOR



CONSTANCE SLOGGATT WOLF

Constance Sloggatt Wolf is an award-winning artist and educator who lives in Huntington, NY. Constance studied at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY (BFA, Painting) and at Long Island University (MFA, Painting) where she was awarded a teaching fellowship with NYC Artist Robert Yasuda. She considers Robert Munford, Rudolph Baranik, Robert Yasuda and Stan Brodsky to be her early mentors.

As an active artist and an art educator on LI for over three decades, Ms. Wolf most recently exhibited at the Alex Ferrone Gallery on the North Fork of LI. The show received an outstanding review by art critic Charles Riley, PhD. Ms. Wolf teaches International Baccalaureate Visual Arts and Drawing and Painting in the prestigious Fine and Performing Arts Department of Northport Senior High School.

She has been inducted into the National Association of Artists, honored as Suffolk County Art Educator of the Year by New York State Art Teachers Association and is a long time member of the National Art Education Association. Wolf has received significant recognition for her exhibited work: Award of Excellence/Works on Paper, *130th Annual NAWA Members Exhibit*, First Place, *Driven to Abstraction* Juried Exhibit, Huntington Arts Council, and Honorable Mentions for Printmaking at the Art League of LI and Huntington Arts Council to name a few. As an original ABAD (A Book About Death-Mail Art Exhibit Homage to Ray Johnson) at the Emily Harvey Gallery in Chelsea, her mail-art is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Islip Art Museum, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Karuizawa New Art Museum, Japan.