



Susquehanna Art Museum, 2023

Donna Berk Barlup

King David

Portrait of David Henry, 2022

watercolor on aquaboard

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Within the first few weeks of his life David had a look of love in his eyes that could melt your heart. As a little kid he was super sweet, seriously affectionate, and fiercely overprotective of his twin cousin. He is the only child I have ever known who responded immediately to all requests. As a teen, his interests were usual for boys, but he always had a flair for surprise, like with cooking or comedy. He could really crack you up with his sharp wit and fascinating perspectives even on the mundane. David showed passion for those he loved, by being there and showing up when you needed him to, and you didn't have to ask. He cared. He knew. He was so true. He was love.

- Shanna Williams, David's cousin

Mary Begnardi

Untitled

Portrait of Jasiyah Vazquez, 2022

mixed media on acrylic panel

ARTIST STATEMENT:

It is hard to put into words the pain and suffering faced by her family after a tragic accident ended Jasiyah's life. Her mother, Daisy, could not bear to talk about it. We communicated by text, and she sent me so many beautiful pictures of Jasiyah, who was so clearly loved and cherished. I chose to work from this image because Jasiyah looks confident and unselfconscious, her beautiful smile lighting up her face. The background is baby pink and turquoise because those were her favorite colors, with gold to symbolize her inner light shining out.

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Jasiyah being missed and loved is an understatement! You mean the world to us! Your death has left a big hole in our hearts that can't be filled until we meet again! We all wish the gun didn't discharge! We love you still but Allah (God) loves you most! XoXo Mommy!

- Daisy Vazquez, Jasiyah's mother

Sally Benton

For Terrell. May Your Light Shine Forever

Portrait of Terrell M. Arnold, Jr., 2022

oil on canvas

ARTIST STATEMENT:

While working on his portrait, I was taken by Terrell's gaze that seemed to emote kindness, love, and humanity. It has been a blessing and honor to have participated in this project.

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Terrell was very protective of his family. His fun, loving, prankster spirit is truly missed. The bonds he formed with us all will be everlasting despite the broken chain we're left to live with. We thank you and appreciate you so much for bringing his photo to life in such a beautiful way.

- Deemika Brown, Terrell's mother

Theresa BrownGold

Tyshaun

Portrait of Tyshaun Marquis Darden, 2022

oil on canvas

ARTIST STATEMENT:

Love. Love pours from the family when they share stories about their deceased loved one. Tina Darden's love for her son, Tyshaun, could light up a midnight sky. Thank you, Tina, for sharing stories, pictures, and your son's beautiful soul with me. It was an honor to paint his portrait.

Carey Davis

Kairae

Portrait of Kairae Oakes, 2022

collage

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Kairae had a special love for basketball and so does his nephew, my grandson, whose name is Jabar Kairae. He holds a very special place in my heart. He reminds me so much of my baby boy, they have the same identical handwriting only Kairae was left-handed. Their personalities are the same soft spoken, pleasant personality. Kairae was young, Black, and gifted with so much to give and so little time to live his life to fulfill his dreams. I'm proud of my grandson and see Kairae Dream's being fulfilled through Jabar Kairae, He is gifted and has a real love for basketball, natural talent, a team player and works for the good of the team like his Uncle Kairae. He always gives the best he can give win or lose. When you get to the NBA Kairae will be smiling down on you from heaven because that was his dream.

When you are bouncing that basketball down that court he is right there with a smile on face, and you'll be honoring him with the sport he loved so much. You will be his legacy. There will be triumph over tragedy. Kairae is gone but never be forgotten. What keeps me going is my faith in God, even though my other son Jared was murdered 7 years after Kairae. There is much power in the blood of Jesus and God's grace and mercy carries me every day of my life.

- Ada Oakes, Kairae's mother

Lene Dronen

Jamal

Portrait of Jamal Lamon Campbell, Jr., 2022

mixed media

Terry Freemark

Untitled

Portrait of Kenneth Littles, Jr., 2022

watercolor on paper

ARTIST STATEMENT:

This is my second time painting for the Souls Shot Portrait Project, and it has been so meaningful—not only in getting to know about the person Kenneth was, but putting a face, a family, and love on an abbreviated lifetime. His father died from a broken heart, three months after Kenneth's murder. Kenneth had a young daughter, but he never got to meet his son. It is hard to think about the pain and loss that his family has endured.

Dale Goldberg

Maurice

Portrait of Maurice Geter, Jr., 2022

fabric and thread

ARTIST STATEMENT:

It has been an honor for me to work on this portrait. Through our conversation, his family described Maurice as a jokester with a nice smile, family oriented, happy, full of life, and someone who looked out for the underdog. Maurice had a tattoo across his chest that said, "So much drama, so many blessings". Those words, and their meaning to Maurice led me to include them in his portrait... Love never dies - neither does grief, although we learn to live with it. My hope is that my portrait of Maurice will provide some healing for his mother and his family. My deepest hope is that when Michelle sees the portrait, she will think "that's him."

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Maurice Geter, Jr. had many accomplishments in his short 21 years of life. He was a football star, served his country in the Army National Guard, and fathered two handsome sons that he left behind to share his legacy. He was very charismatic, loved to smile and joke, and placed much value in family, friendships, and loyalty. For those that loved him, November 19th will be a day that we will never forget, and November 15th will be the day we celebrate his life and acknowledge his time spent on earth. We appreciate programs like Souls Shot that help to bring comfort to families and help us to keep his name alive.

- Michelle Wilson, Maurice's mother

Jeaninne Harbin

Justice for Al

Portrait of Adeleno Jamar Oliver-Horton, 2022

fabric paint on denim

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Adeleno Jamar Oliver-Horton was a young, Black, innocent, unarmed man, whose life was tragically brought to an end by Harrisburg City Police officer Raymond Lyda during a traffic stop on February 5, 2006. Although there were many versions of what happened, the final story was the officer thought that his cell phone was a gun, so he shot and killed him. A loving man, who was full of love, who was funny, who loved to help others, and who was preparing to be a father for the first time lost his life on the streets of Harrisburg by someone who was sworn to protect us, not murder us. Now his son is growing up without his father. Adeleno had the right to live, to see his son be born and grow up, to get his degree in culinary arts, and to do everything he wanted to do if he didn't get shot down. Adeleno Jamar Oliver-Horton's family will not stop seeking justice for him and all innocent lives taken by the hands of corrupt cops who are allowed to stay on the force after many complaints and failing to abide by the police code of conduct and rules and regulations that are set up to protect everyone. If we as a people, as a country, would have stood up long ago with Rodney King, and those officers would have been criminally punished, Adeleno Oliver-Horton, Mike Brown, Freddy Gray, George Floyd, and many others would still be alive. Let's end police brutality and misconduct and hold those officers who break the law and who kill innocent people criminally accountable for their actions. "Justice for Al is Justice for All!"

So for all those who lost a loved one by hands of police officer, remember this: "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or terrified for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you!" Deuteronomy 31:6

- The family of Adeleno Jamar Oliver-Horton

Rebecca Jane Hoenig

Untitled

Portrait of Lindsay Alexis Johnson, 2022

watercolor and graphite

ARTIST STATEMENT:

I am deeply grateful to my partner Leah Johnson for her consistent willingness to help me to get to know her sister Lindsay and to make a meaningful double portrait of this brilliant young woman as a five year old girl and a 22 year old woman. At the very start of the project, Leah and Lindsay's mother Stacey Johnson graciously invited me to her home and shared dozens of photos and memories of Lindsay, affectionately known as "Lady Bug".

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Lindsay, our daughter our Ladybug...

When you were born on Sunday December 6, 1998 @ 2:22 AM, our lives were forever blessed. Your smile lit up a room and those hugs were unforgettable! To this day, your hugs are fondly remembered with a warm smile and sense of how much you loved others. Standing all of your 5'10" frame with your big hair, big personality, your presence filled a room with laughter, unmistakable warmth and sincere concern and love. Your gentleness, kindness and caring nature was who you were. You showed others their self-worth and the endless possibilities this world has to offer them. You always told your friends "We will figure it out." It was in those times I loved you the most, when you gave unselfishly of yourself to others. I knew when you needed to retreat and recharge, it's when you called me momma, curled up on my lap and of course asking for food, it was then you became my ladybug once again. Knowing all that you gave in your 22 years and 11 months of life, your light will forever shine brightly to many - like stars in the sky! We will continue to choose LIGHT over darkness.

Love you always, Mom, Dad, Stacey, and Bruce Johnson

To my sister, I love you.

Your presence and involvement in my life has always extended past sisterhood. You were a mentor, role model, and lifelong friend of mine. Even departed from earth, you continue to inspire and encourage me to go beyond limits that I have set for myself. You taught me to take up space in every aspect of life and leave my mark in all that I pursue, unapologetically. In my development as a young woman, I watched you strive for goals that most wouldn't even attempt to pursue. Your tenacity, passion, and love helped me become the woman I am today.

Lindsay was a remarkable sister, daughter, and friend. Her presence in any space electrified the room. She was unable to be missed, none the less heard. She had a deep love for her family and friends and was always there to support and nurture the people closest to her when they were down. Her legacy and impact are everlasting efforts that continue to inspire people to keep moving forward. She will continue and never stop being the light in the dark.

- Leah Johnson, Lindsay's sister

Tyler Kline

Alsharay Above

Portrait of Alsharay Ford, 2022

mixed media

FAMILY STATEMENT:

I will never say RIP to you because you are within us daily. Guiding us through life, sharing special memories, subtle reminders, peace, and love. You live through me, you live through we, you live through us. We love you and we miss you Al. #ALLivesthroughUS

- Matrea Thomas, Alsharay's brother

Janine Lieberman

Self-Portrait: Then and Now

Portrait of Janine Lieberman, 2022

mixed media

ARTIST STATEMENT:

I am a survivor of gun violence. The small image at left represents my 18-year-old self when I was shot. In archeology the past is buried, and here my image is buried too but peeking through to the present. Every minute we live we learn we are layer after layer of our past ages. Pages of ages peek through to the present. That day my friend, Michael, was also shot. He did not survive. This work is a contemplation on the question: Who dies and who gets to live? There is always the temptation to say, "Things happen for a reason". But there is no reason for today's shooting deaths. There are causes but not reasons. There is only the meaning we choose to make of it going forward. This painting meditates on that meaning for me.

Anni Matsick

In the Language of Flowers

Portrait of Jerron E. Lewis, 2022

watercolor on paper

ARTIST STATEMENT:

Jerron's mother described him as an accomplished athlete, signified here by the hyacinths. For Victorians it was a symbol of sporting activities, indicating sport or play, and thus a fitting tribute. My reference was a posed selfie of a confident and stylish young man presenting himself as he wanted to be seen, and now, lovingly remembered.

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Our beloved Jerron had a smile that would light up a room. He was a phenomenal athlete, played basketball and football for the Central Dauphin East High School Panthers and then football for Thaddeus Stevens College in Lancaster. His favorite teams were the Philadelphia Eagles and Penn State Nittany Lions. Most of all, he loved spending time with family and friends, always smiling and doing for others.

-Yolonda Y. Lewis, Jerron's mother

Robert Papp

I Want to Experience Life

Portrait of Milan Loncar, 2022

oil on linen

Kari Roslund

Jared's Echo

Portrait of Jared Enos, 2022

cotton, fabric, wool, angora, reclaimed woven textiles, hand-dyed textiles, bamboo

ARTIST STATEMENT:

After talking with Tondalaya Enos, Jared's younger sister, I learned of Jared's love for family, his zeal for life, and the influence he had on those around him. Wanting to capture the role he played in his family's lives, I chose to depict him in his youth, transitioning from childhood to adulthood. Working in natural fibers and textiles, I compiled repurposed and hand-dyed textiles, along with natural fibers to represent the unique fibers of Jared's life. The bottom of the portrait is left unfinished to represent a life cut short, while the reverse side of the portrait is the memory or echo of his life that lives on in his family's memories.

FAMILY STATEMENT:

As I look into the sky above

I'll remember my Uncle

The one I will always Love

On the Lords lap his head shall lay

In my mind and heart he will always stay

REST IN PEACE UNCLE JAY

- Chanel Harris, Jared's niece

Cassandra Sassaman

Untitled

Portrait of Daniel Puskas, 2022

acrylic

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Daniel Joseph Puskas, 3/5/2002 - 1/8/2022 To my dearest son Danny:

From the day you were born you always wore a smile, brought joy to the hearts of those who knew you, and helped those who didn't. You gave me strength that I didn't know I had, and I will never forget that. There are not enough words to express how much I miss and love you. You live in my heart every day, Danny. Love, Mom.

- Laurie Puskas, Daniel's mother

Celeste Schor

Treasure Maps, or, My Dad Adopted a Gorilla

Portrait of my father, 2022

oil on canvas

ARTIST STATEMENT:

This painting represents my dad's life. He loved his children, my mom, his parents (I think they came from The Pale of Settlement in Russia), competitive badminton, and programming computers. In his early career, he was a teacher of science and math. After he died, my sister and I went to his apartment. There was a photo of a baby gorilla with an adoption certificate. He shot himself, and the world froze.

FAMILY STATEMENT:

He certainly had his demons, but was always in search of angels. He showed his love much the same way I show mine now: by feeding, nurturing, and sharing wisdom.

- Natalie Rebecca Ethington, daughter

Gary Sieling

Untitled

Portrait of Alan Womack, Jr., 2022

mixed media

ARTIST STATEMENT:

This piece is a print made from several woodcuts printed in layers, by hand. The design is inspired by the aesthetic of the portrait artist Kehinde Wiley, who paints rich, naturalistic images of Black men, using references to master artists. The print reflects the character of Alan Womack, Jr., who was

passionate about family, fitness, and fashion. It places imagery of him on a backdrop that references William Morris, but with a more modern and fashionable color scheme.

B. Douglas Smith

Ascension

Portrait of Jared Oakes, 2022

mixed media print on satin paper

ARTIST STATEMENT:

The incredible loss and immense pain that the Oakes family experienced, especially that of Ada Oakes, had a powerful impact on me. Ada is a powerful and loving mother who has led her family to success even in the face of losing two sons. I created the background of this portrait to exemplify the impact and joy Jared had on his son and the rest of his family. The white visage of Jared and his son Keon in the middle is symbolic of the light Jared shined from his beautiful soul into his family and of his ascent into heaven. I thank Ada and the Oakes family for trusting me to create this piece of art and wish them peace and love.

FAMILY STATEMENT:

Jared was a very hyperactive, energetic, and adorable baby who was always smiling, which continued into his adulthood. He was a personable individual with a big heart who made friends everywhere he went. A big kid at heart, he enjoyed playing with his nieces, nephews, and his son Keon. I'm so blessed to have Keon in my life and his father's legacy will live on through him. While in the ambulance with Jared, I was praying every prayer I could say and the EMT told me to just keep praying. I told Jared to call on God and when I got to church the following Sunday, I received an answer from God saying, "I did save him; He is here with me in heaven now." Jared is now safe in heaven with his baby brother Kairae, and they are my angels who watch over me, Keon, and all their loved ones.

- Ada Oakes, Jared's mother

Souls Shot Portrait Project is on view at Susquehanna Art Museum January 12 – April 16, 2023.

A resources page on the Souls Shot Portrait Project website facilitates action and provides resources to help those coping with grief: www.soulsshotportraitproject.org