

Artist Statement-Essex Garner

I am an American artist for more than four decades. I was born in Kansas City, Missouri, a few blocks from 18th & Vine and I believe I like Jazz and Blues for this reason. During the 70s & 80s, my [great uncle, Boston Daniel](#), was the first [Black Chief of Police in Kansas City, Kansas](#). My latest work is in his memory and life's work, *Life to Bronze*, a commission through the Missouri State Highway Patrol (Missouri Troopers Monument Fund). I retired from active duty service from the Army and AGR in 2003 with twenty-five years' service. I have been teaching as an Instructor of the Arts in the Humanities at my Alma mater Lincoln University located in Jefferson City, Missouri from 2007 until today. Graduate studies completed at the University of Missouri (M.Ed) in Leadership Training & Curriculum Development with an emphasis in Art Education.

I have two beautiful daughters that I continually use as studio models and I truly enjoy painting them. They do not expect compensation for modeling nor want some exorbitant amount of money pre and post. I paint only those things close to me, and I have learned to honor and cherish my time painting. I try to illustrate positive messaging through my work and I stay away from social injustice issues, there are more than enough artists contributing to that visual realm. If I tell you the wonderful things art has brought into my life, and the price paid for it, you would not believe me, so I will not. This exhibition is about time, something that I have less of than yesterday. Time is harder for the human race to understand than space, I think because space is infinitely smarter. If God gives you a special intelligence at birth, then man cannot take that intelligence from you, but he can hinder it. If you are squandering that precious gift given unto you by the maker, always be mindful that it is just a gift. Time might take that gift away. My next exhibition is titled *Time Travels* (2021 - 2022). So, for the time that you are here, enjoy the show.

www.essexgarner.com