

EPHRAIM UREVBU

b. 1955 Warri, Nigeria

Lives and works in Tennessee

EDUCATION

2003 Leadership Memphis Executive Class

1987 MFA, University of Memphis

1983 BFA, University of Memphis

1980 Memphis College of Art

1977 National Degree, Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2000-2004 Owner, Zanzibar Restaurant

2000 Founding Member, South Main Arts District

2000 Founder of the South Main Neighborhood Association

1991 Founder, Art Village Gallery, Memphis TN

1991 World Art Founder/President – an organization dedicated to the education and promotion of fine art from developing nations

1987 Teaching Assistant, University of Memphis

AWARDS & HONORS

Founding Member, South Main Arts District

Founder of Art Village Gallery

Founder of the South Main Art Walk, *Art Trolley Tour*

West Tennessee Veterans Home Association, 2016

Arts & Humanities Award, Germantown Arts Alliance, Nov 2008

First Ever Individual Vision Award – Memphis Center City Commission

Pioneer Award, Downtowner Magazine, Memphis, TN

Indie Award, Association for Independent Music, Album Cover Design

Certificate of Excellence – Bill Clinton, Governor of AR

Selected Artist, *Memphis in May* International Festival Poster – Republic of Kenya 1989

Tennessee Board of Regency 1987 (Grant)

2nd Place 5th Annual Juried Student Show – University of Memphis

Bendel State Ministry of Education – Nigeria, 1983 (Grant)

Federal Ministry of Education – Nigeria 1976 (Grant)

Operation PUSH Award of Excellence, Jessie Jackson – Illinois

Best of Show Annual Mount Dora Spring Festival – Mt. Dora, FL

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau – former Board Member

Memphis Arts Council, former Board Member

Urban Arts Council, former Board Member

Memphis in May, former Board Member

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Memphis, former Board Member

South Main Arts Association, former Board Member

International Children's Heart Foundation, former Board Memphis
Special Olympics, former Board Member
Co-Founder Urevbu Foundation for sickle cell awareness
Established inaugural South Main Arts Festival (2001)
Facing History and Ourselves Upstanders Mural Committee (2017)

COMMISSIONS

2018 – National Civil Rights Museum, *E Pluribus Unum (Out of Many, One)* MLK50 Tribute
2001 – National Civil Rights Museum, *Sown From Despair to Hope* 10th Anniversary
2000 –Downtown Memphis Commission (Bike Rack Project)
2000 – Family Ties Nonprofit, *Before the Sun Sets*, Pancreatic Cancer Research – Poster Artist
1999 – Special Olympics, *Hearts of Gold*
1996 – Urban Retail Properties Company – Wolfchase Galleria Mall Project
1996 –Women in Spirit and Flight Organization, *Emerge*, 1996 Olympics – Poster Artist
1996 – Black Family Reunion Celebration, *And Together We Rise*
1995 – Mount Dora Spring Arts Festival, *The Flutist*, Poster Artist
1991 – 100 Black Men of Memphis, *Where's Dad?*
1990 – Africa in April, *The Drums*, Honored country of Nigeria – Poster Artist
1989 – Memphis in May, *Drums Echo Back To Back* Republic of Kenya – Poster Artist

SELECT EXHIBITIONS

2021 – Solo Exhibition – The Naked Truth: An American Story in White, Red and Blue, Belmont University's Leu Gallery (Nashville, TN)
2018 – Multiple exhibitions at Art Village Gallery, South Main Arts District (*from 2000-2018*)
2014 – Askew, Nixon & Ferguson Architects – Memphis, TN
2000 – The Madison Hotel – Memphis, TN
1999 – 10th Anniversary Exhibit at Art Village Gallery
1999 – Askew, Nixon & Ferguson Architects – Memphis, TN
1998 – Art Village Gallery Memphis
1997 – Art Village Gallery Memphis
1996 – Bethune Cookman College, Daytona Beach, FL
1996 – Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Foundation, New York, New York 1996 -
1996 –Askew, Nixon & Ferguson Architects – Memphis, TN
1995 – Delta State University – Cleveland, MS
1991 – City Hall, Atlanta, GA
1990 – Grand Opening Art Village Gallery, Beale Street, Memphis, TN
1989 – Apex Museum – Atlanta, GA
1989 – Gestine's Gallery –Memphis, TN
1989 – UT School of Medicine – Memphis, TN
1988 – Oak Court Mall – Memphis, TN
1988 – Ariel Gallery – Soho, New York
1988 – Eaton Gallery – Memphis, TN
1987 – University of Memphis Gallery – Memphis, TN
1986 – Arkansas Arts Center – Little Rock, R
1985 – Downtowners/Uptowners Art Club – Memphis, TN
1985 – Germantown Civic Center- Germantown, TN
1984 – The Omni Gallery – Memphis, TN

CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Sedgwick Claims Management Service - Memphis, TN
Paragon Bank, Memphis, TN – Memphis, TN
The Marston Group, PLC – Memphis, TN
West Clinic – Memphis, TN
Memphis Pediatrics – Memphis, TN
The Madison Hotel – Memphis, TN
The National Civil Rights Museum – Memphis, TN
Q3 Stamped Metal, Inc. – Columbus, OH
Phillip Morris, New York, NY
Southern Bell Corporation – Atlanta, GA
Belz Enterprises – Memphis, TN
Tennessee Valley Authority – Knoxville, TN
Federal Express, Inc. – Memphis, TN
Methodist Hospital South – Memphis, TN
Women’s Pride Restaurant Group – Lagos, Nigeria

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chris McCoy, “Great, Great Potential” *At Home Memphis*, May 2003
Theresa Blechard. “Some Things Happen On Their Own.” *Memphis Business Journal*. Nov 2001
“Absolute Vodka” feature article, *Great African-American Artists*” Savoy Magazine, April 2001 & May 2003
Julia M. Johnson “*21 Century*
Michael Donahue “Portrait of an Artist” Commercial Appeal, April 17, 1994
Baron Byrne “Understanding Human reaction” Social Psychology 7th Edition – Cover
Michael Lollar “Urevbu’s Artist Vision Charts Closed World of the Homeless Men” Commercial Appeal, December 1991
Susan Pierce “New Gallery Showcase Africa Artist” Arkansas Democratic, September 1990
Richard Garner “Gallery Inaugural” Commercial Appeal, September 1990
Janas Jackson “Artist Opens Studio/Gallery” Tri-State Defender, September 1990
Nancy Hart “Nancy Hart Show” Channel 4 (NBC Affiliate) 1989
Marge Thrasher “Marge Thrasher Show” Channel 13 (ABC Affiliate) 1989
“Wake Up Call” Channel 4 (NBC Affiliate) 1989
Ceel Pasternak “Artist’s Work Honors Kenya” American Vision – Washington DC 1989
Toyin Ogunsalein “Nigerian Artist Honored” The Nigerian Guardian, February 1989
Memphis State University Magazine, “Vol. 8 No. 1” – Cover 1989
Mary Ann Busby “Nigerian Born Artist’s Proud Painting Chosen for Poster” Arkansas Democratic, January 1989
Susan Madona “Memphis in May Salutes Hardwood” Southern Lumberman Magazine 1989
John Beifuss “Artist Bridges Memphis, Kenya” Commercial Appeal, December 1988
Miles Unger “Abstract Perspective” Manhattan Arts, Vol.5 No. 10 – New York, July 1988
Larry Kusniewski “Memphis Magazine” – August 1988
Donald LaBadie “Students Work Exhibited at MSU Gallery” Commercial Appeal, April 1987