



Mike Easton

I fell in love with art from an early age. Growing up in Washington, D.C. with a single mother of four boys, she knew she had to find our passion early. As a result I discovered a passion for art after seeing a portrait of Frederick Douglass at the Frederick Douglass home in Anacostia. I was later mentored by renowned portrait painter Simmie Knox who was the first African American portrait artist to paint a sitting President and was the very artist who painted the Frederick Douglass portrait that captivated my passion. Since that time, I sojourned to Africa, Brazil, the Caribbean and Europe where I had an opportunity to

experience the world's artist first hand and to allow that experience to cultivate my artistic view. To ensure that the next generation of artist were educated, challenged and literally thrust to the next level, I have taught all manors of art for over 20 years and now chair the Visual Arts Department at the prestigious Duke Ellington School of the Arts. My work includes painting, drawing, photography and mixed media as a means of documenting the experiences of people of color throughout the African diaspora.