



Architectural “Flights of Fancy” in Mixed-Media – December Program by Chicago Artist, *Anne Farley Gaines*

Anne Farley Gaines will begin the December program by giving a PowerPoint lecture on her portfolio, which will include watercolors, mixed-media, acrylic, murals, and ceramic work. She will then give a demonstration on her unique use of mixed-media with acrylic paint, oriental paper and ceramic parts, using architecture and a bit of foliage as her main subject. The demo will be executed on board that she will have shaped previously. Gaines will hopefully have the audience very captivated by her unusual technique as well as her sense of humor.

Anne Farley Gaines received her BA in Studio Art from Principia College, Elsah, Illinois in 1976 and her MFA in Painting from Bowling Green State University in Ohio in 1980. That year she moved to the East Pilsen area of Chicago, now called the Chicago Arts District and has lived there ever since. Gaines is an extremely versatile artist who has worked in a variety of media and subject matter. In recent years her nature-based murals and large mixed-media and acrylic works have become a very important aspect of her production. Although a number of her murals are private commissions, several of her murals have become collaborative, one being a commission in 2011 for the city of Palos Heights, IL on Harlem Avenue in paint, mosaic and ceramic tiles. The largest mural that Gaines designed and organized is 72'x26' and is titled “Progress Happens Here.” It is on the north side of a women's shelter, San Jose Obrero Mission, at 24th and Albany Street in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. A Neighborhood Arts Program Grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs enabled its production.

In late 2015 Gaines designed and produced a mosaic and ceramic mural with students, artists, and other community participants in Wichita Falls, Texas through a grant from the Priddy Foundation. Altogether there were over 500 participants. Measuring 15'x30,' it capitalized on the nature, landmarks and symbolism of the region. Recently, Gaines has produced a series of 10 murals titled the Role Model Series with youth from the Abla Homes at the Jane Addams Family Resource Center, 1254 S. Loomis St., and a mixed-media series titled “Inspired by Africa.” The Role Models Mural Series was dedicated by James Bebley, Acting CEO of the Chicago Housing Authority, on October 17, 2019. Gaines has participated in numerous group and one-person shows throughout the United States and has works in over 50 public collections which include the collection of the Rockford Art Museum, the Kalamazoo Art Museum in Michigan, the Wichita Falls Art Museum in Wichita Falls, TX, and Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, NJ. She has taught in several institutions such as Ripon College in Wisconsin, Principia College in Elsah, IL, and Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, IL. For more information you can visit her website, www.annefarleygaines.com. and at www.womanmade.org. under 'artists