

VALERIE DEAS

Biography

Valerie Deas was born in the Bronx, raised in Harlem, and has resided in the Bronx for more than three decades. Deas has professionally taught art for more than 25 years with the NYC Board of Education and is proud to share that under her encouragement and artist skill, many of her students have been winners of the Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Contest and Alliance for Young Artist & Writers and have exhibited at the Tweed Courthouse and MoMa PS1. Valerie has a BA and a BS from City College of New York and an MS from Bank Street College of Education. Deas has taken painting and drawing classes at The Art Students League of New York; drawing, film, and mask-making classes at the School of Visual Arts, and textiles classes at The City Quilter.

Touted as “the fabric whisperer” by Textile Artist, Deas has participated in more than 25 group shows. Her work has appeared in two international shows: *Book Art* in Brazil and the International Textile Biennial: *Beyond Category - Visions of Jazz in Fiber* in San Jose, Costa Rica curated by Carolyn Mazoolmi. Deas solo exhibition, *Thread and Paints*, took place at Gallery M in Harlem, New York. Her work has been on exhibition at Lincoln Center, Rush Gallery, Kente Royal Gallery, and Blue Door Art Gallery. Her quilts have been touring with the African American Fiber Art Exhibition throughout the country. Awarded a City Artist Corps Grant to bring her artwork to her community, Deas is also a Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) Community Engagement Grantee for two consecutive years (2022 and 2023). In 2022, Deas restored six Gee’s Bends Quilts for SoHarlem’s exhibition at the Malt House. In 2023, her artwork, *The Three Women*, was selected as the cover art for the second edition of the novella, *My Xanthi* by author Stephanie Cotsirilos.

Deas was the Programming Board Chair of the Riverdale Art Association and a member of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQUA), Blue Door Art Center, Bx 200 Visual Artist Directory, Harlem Girls Quilting Circle (HGQC), and SoHarlem Collective.

www.ValerieDeasArt.com

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