

In 2021, *Creating Art in a Time of Grief and Loss* included workshops open to the public. While people are experiencing many kinds of loss, particularly during the pandemic, the *Cool Colors* series was Deas' response to a personal loss. Deas shares, "It was very healing. I wanted it to be in memory of my husband; he was good at seeing other things in my paintings by looking at the negative space; I used that approach in all these paintings, asking 'How would he see these?'"

Cool Colors is one of several series she has recently developed, which allows Deas to continue to explore themes, shapes, and colors from her earlier works but with a different approach, guided by a new purpose. The color palette and gentle curves may be calming, but she reminds us that art can be more than soothing; it can be lifesaving.



**Exhibition artwork
is available
for purchase:
Large pieces: \$125.
Smaller pieces: \$50.**

Contact:

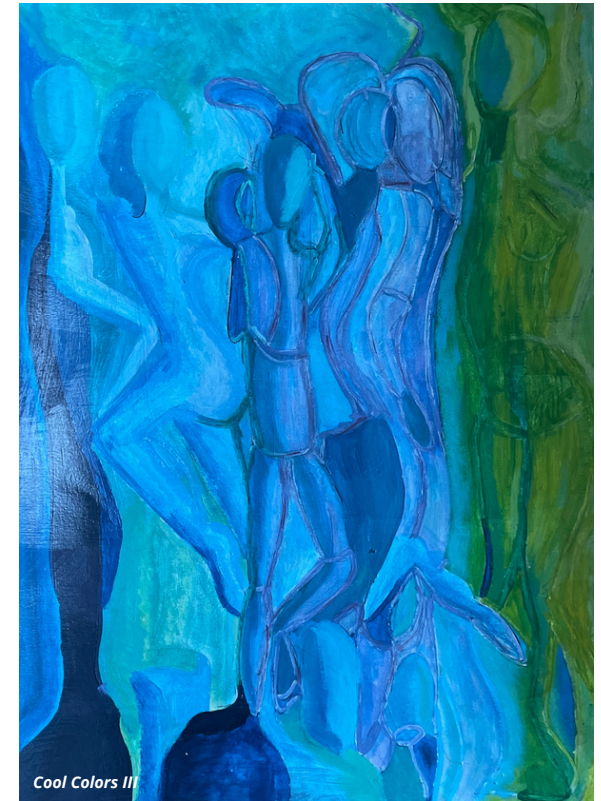
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Share images of Valerie's work!
Instagram @valerie_deas_artist
#ValerieDeas #AnBealBochtExhibition



Valerie Deas' *Creating Art in the Time of Grief and Loss* exhibition is made possible by the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) 2022 Community Engagement Grant.



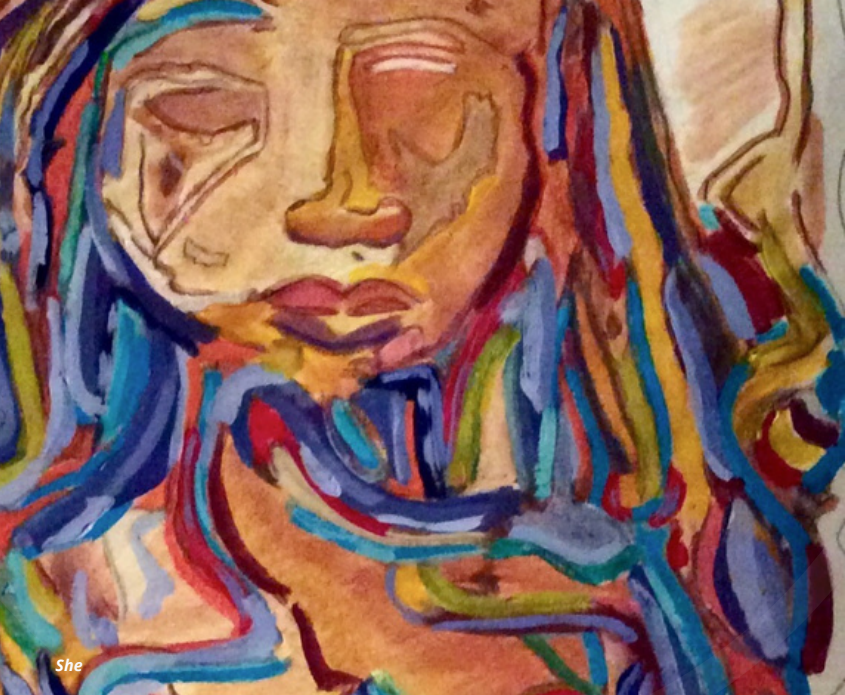
VALERIE DEAS

Creating Art in the Time of Grief and Loss

Exhibition
July 1 to July 31, 2022

An Beal Bocht
445 W 238th Street

Opening Reception
July 9, 2022, 3pm - 5pm



"My signature work consists of bold colors and organic shapes that could be flat, textured, or dimensional.

My focus is to give an illusion of reality in a surreal way."

~ Textile Artist, Valerie Deas: The art of breaking rules

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 New York City Board of Education. Deas has a B.A. and a B.S. from City College of New York, and a M.S. 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.

Deas has participated in group shows across the globe including Brazil and the *International Textile Biennial: Beyond Category – Visions of Jazz in Fiber* in San Jose, Costa Rica. She has also had solo shows, including *Thread and Paints* at Gallery M in Harlem, New York. Deas work has been exhibited at Lincoln Center, Rush Gallery, Kente Royal Gallery, and Blue Door Art Gallery. Deas quilts have been touring throughout the U.S. with the *African American Fiber Art Exhibition*. In 2021, a City Artist Corps Grant allowed Deas to bring her artwork to the Bronx community.

Deas is the current Programming Board Chair of the Riverdale Art Association and a member of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQUA), Blue Door Art Center, BX200 Visual Artist Directory, and Harlem Girls Quilting Circle (HGQC).

