

# VALERIE DEAS

## Biography

Valerie Deas was born in the Bronx, raised in Harlem, and has resided in the Bronx for more than three decades. Valerie 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. Valerie 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.

Valerie has participated in more than 25 group shows. Valerie's work has also 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. Valerie's solo exhibition, *Thread and Paints*, took place at Gallery M in Harlem, New York. Valerie's work has been on exhibition at Lincoln Center, Rush Gallery, Kente Royal Gallery, and Blue Door Art Gallery. Valerie's quilts have been touring with the African American Fiber Art Exhibition throughout the country. In 2021, Valerie was awarded a City Artist Corps Grant to bring some of her artwork to her community. Valerie has been a Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) Community Engagement Grantee for two consecutive years (2022 and 2023). In 2022, Valerie 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.

Valerie is the current 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, and Harlem Girls Quilting Circle (HGQC).

**[www.ValerieDeasArt.com](http://www.ValerieDeasArt.com)**

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