

"Shared Vision"

ALBERT M. SHAW AND EALY MAYS

The idea for "Shared Vision" originated four years ago at a cocktail party in Paula Collins' townhouse on the 18th floor overlooking Central Park in New York City. Ealy and I were introduced to each other earlier that day by Ed Clark, a mutual artist friend. We were in New York attending the National Black Fine Arts Show.

Ealy was living in Paris, France, but we discovered that he and I were both born in Marshall, Texas. I knew his grandfather the "Candy Man". A few months later, Ealy and I met in Dallas and discussed creating a joint show that would originate in Marshall. We traveled there and I introduced him to Brooks Little, Director of the Marshall Visual Art Center. Plans for the exhibit got underway.

Ealy and I both use historical symbols that relate directly to the African American quest for freedom and dignity. One example is Ealy's use of snow as a metaphor of white American society in the painting "Passport in the Snowstorm". White garments on the floor of the installation "The Irons" are my symbol of white society. Ealy's figure with the knapsack and his Aunt Jemimas are comparable to the pea and the hoe in my pieces "Black Eyed Pea" and "Black Hoe".

At a time when many artists are creating work that is predictable, repetitious, and comfortable to look at, our "Shared Vision" seeks to examine the core of our American and Texas roots. The result is quite often the uncovering of hidden truths, delayed humor, and shocking reality.

Albert M. Shaw, Exhibit Curator



Albert's art studies began at H.B. Pemberton High School and continued at North Texas State University (University of North Texas at Denton) where he earned a BFA Degree in 1973. He completed additional studies in photography and printmaking at The University of Texas at Arlington.

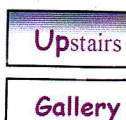
Albert has exhibited in the United States, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. His other achievements include being selected as a consultant for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit System and completing artistic designs for three rail stations. As a curator, Albert coordinates shows for the South Dallas Cultural Center, Upstairs Gallery in Chicago, and other organizations. He is also a well-known speaker on African American art history and has given numerous lectures. He has been honored with awards from The National Conference of Artists, and the Carver Museum in San Antonio. Albert resides in Dallas, Texas.

Ealy's family moved from Marshall, Texas to Dayton, Ohio where he attended Fairview High School. He later returned to Marshall and earned a B.S. Degree in Chemistry and Biology at Wiley College. Ealy began medical studies at the University of Autonoma de Guadalajara in Mexico, but his commitment to art grew. In 1996 he received a residency at the prestigious Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Skowhegan, Maine. He would later study with artist Jacob Lawrence.

Ealy has exhibited in the United States, France, Finland, Italy, and China. His work has been shown at the Guggenheim Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He received many awards including the Camille Hanks Cosby Fellowship for Artists of African American decent. Ealy resides in Paris, France.



Upstairs Gallery
7247 S. Langley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60619



www.upstairsgallery.biz
Phone: 773-846-9791
Email: ivy@upstairsgallery.biz