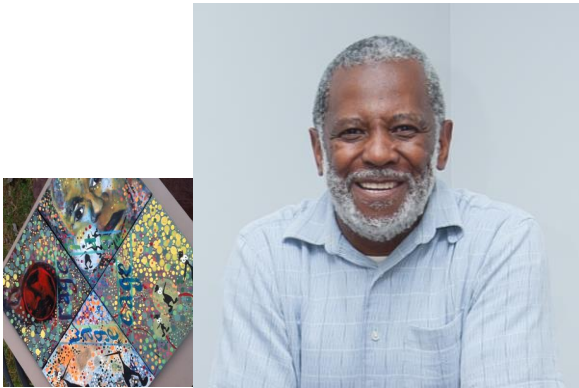


About the artist

Keith Tolen is a lifelong art teacher. He spent thirty years teaching at Camden Middle School. He is a native South Carolinian. He grew up in Batesburg-Leesville, SC. He later attended South Carolina State University. He currently resides in Columbia, SC.

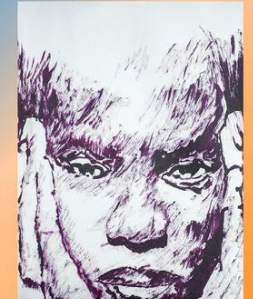


“Four Letter Words”

Through it all I RISE! - An Exhibit by Keith Tolen



Presented by the Arts Center
of Kershaw County



In the Bassett Gallery
September 17 - October 16

Contact Us

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Redbowtie Group LLC
Columbia, SC

Relent, LORD! How long will it be?

Have compassion on your servants.

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.

¹⁶ May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.

¹⁷ **May the favor^[a] of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.**

Psalm 90

The Butterfly Tree

I am certain THAT a TREE has SOUL. Branches always lifted upward in praise. Scripture tell us if we don't GIVE praise rocks WILL cry out to him. So, I REST in assurance THAT a TREE rejoices daily.

Now the Butterfly TREE is different. No matter how you cut it, break it, BEAT it DOWN, upward it strives. WHY? It is fed by the souls of the innocent.

Since Cain and ABLE, the innocent ones are set FREE, riding, rising, soaring FREE.

In Loving Memory of

Tamir Rice, a 12-year old

Emmett Louis Till was 14-year-old

Trayvon Benjamin Martin a 17-year-old

Eljiah Jovan McClain was 23

our girls,

Addie Mae Collins (age 14, born April 18, 1949)

Carol Denise McVair (age 11, born November 17, 1951)

Carole Rosanond Robertson (age 14, born April 24, 1949)

Cynthia Dianne Wesley (age 14, born April 30, 1949)

And MANY Others

Images & Services



To print this booklet two-sided, click File and then click Print. Under the option that defaults to Print One Sided, select a two-sided print setting. This booklet is setup to flip on the short side of the page.

"Through is all I RISE!"

The focus is on how regardless of what we do as human beings, there is a greater power. The greater power transcends all physical, even visual forms. The three faces that I have shared reflect attempts to call on higher forces. The two black and white images reflect the action of just trying to hold yourself together. You have a closeup of a face with hands placed near the face in an act of frustration, but that is not the end of the story. The blue man is symbolic of both a silhouette and a mugshot. The face is in the position of the mugshot, but that does not mean there is guilt. The use of blue with the orange background challenges the viewer to consider oppositions and possibilities. There is an upward gaze that calls on hope as having the final word. Let's keep HOPE alive is a popular phrase for the downtrodden. The total exhibition is divided into three major parts, past, new and next. The art pieces that symbolize the past are created using an assemblage technique. Found objects are mixed to create a visual story. The stories both individually and collectively represent glimpse, like a time capsule into the past. The new and the next stages in the exhibition act as their own assemblage using color and shapes. Lines and colors blur the separation between thoughts both real and imaginary. The images play the roles of fatigue, pain and hope.

The final section represents "Four Letter Words". The four-letter words act to unify the entire exhibition.

"LOVE, Will BEAT HATE".

These four small words hold a powerful meaning. Whether we believe it is true or not the message of these four words will always ring true.

SO, we highlight the power of a simple message and it is our HOPE to plant a seed of LOVE using the power of visual communication that is watered from our community to feed the fruits and flowers that will transform our times.

Overview of Artwork

Art work Inventory (not in order of exhibition)

1. "Wanted Portrait", acrylic on paper, (male image in blue with orange back ground) \$700
2. "Rest From Here 1", acrylic on paper, (male face), \$950
3. "Rest From Here2", acrylic on paper, (female face), \$950
4. "Soon" acrylic on paper (male figure), \$650
5. "The shirt off MY BACK", Origami and acrylic on paper, \$850
6. "LOVE", acrylic on board, 24-inch square, \$900
7. "STOP", acrylic on board, 24-inch square, \$900
8. "HELP/AMEN", acrylic on board, 24-inch square, \$900
9. "NEXT/TIME", acrylic on board, 8 x 46 inches, \$800
10. "4EVER", acrylic mixed media, 24 x 46 inches, \$1800
11. "AMEN", acrylic on canvas, 48 x 48 inches, \$4200
12. "Da Game", acrylic mixed media, shadow box, \$1100
13. "RISE", (Butterfly), acrylic on canvas, \$950
14. "WORDS wont HURT", acrylic on canvas board, 9 x 12 framed \$550
15. "Love Will Beat Hate", Diptych, acrylic on canvas, \$1250
- 16.

