

## ABOUT THE CURATORS

**CANNON FINE ART GALLERY, LLC** (developing virtual and online only at this time) is a new Evanston entrepreneurial business owned and operated by Rose M. Cannon, June 2019 graduate of the Sunshine Enterprises Community Business Academy, Evanston, Illinois cohort. Rose studied both visual and performance art from grade school in Evanston through 4th year of University, completing requirements for a B.A. in Psychology in 1973 from the University of Illinois at Chicago with minors in performance and visual arts. She spent most of her professional career in government work from which she retired in 2016, having achieved one of the highest levels of independent decision-making in her agency as an Appeals Referee (administrative law judge).

Despite having an active and busy professional career and raising a family in Evanston, Rose longed for the quiet, introspective, and pleasing times of creating her own art and attending gallery shows. She had kept personal contacts in both visual and performance art fields, with the intention of returning. So after retirement, and as an empty nester, she began taking art courses in Evanston under the training of Jack Lerman to refresh her skills. She discovered along the way that creating art and buying other artists' work was pleasing to her. She also discovered that Jack Lerman, teaching her class, was her past Haven Junior High School art teacher. Additionally, she has studied very recently with Sarah Kaiser of Studio 215 and will continue once businesses may again open. She is an active member of the Evanston art community and holds membership in the Evanston Made art initiative.

Since opening her Art Gallery in June 2019, Rose has purchased her art stock directly from an eclectic group of professional and amateur artists, many residing in the Evanston and Chicagoland areas. Rose's gallery is currently representing to the Northshore the artwork of international artists: Michel Delgado, William Kwamena-Poh, and David Niari. She also owns artwork for sale from many other local artists, and her artwork is available to be shown on request online. Rose has curated and exhibited her gallery's artwork in multiple shows in 2019 at the 1100 Gallery of Evanston, and at the Evanston Art Center.

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**FRAN JOY**, recipient of the Evanston Mayor's Individual Artist of the Year Award, is known for her works depicting women's issues and topics of social injustice. Her subjects are wide ranging, including intimate portraiture, ethereal figures, historical portrayals, tribal imagery, scenes of violent injustice, and cosmic vistas.

Fran is a visual artist, curator, designer, and life coach who grew up in a small town in southern Illinois, but who subsequently has called New Orleans, Chicago, Los Angeles and Evanston home, and who makes frequent visits to New York.

Fran's first encounter with creativity began with finger-painting in kindergarten. It ignited her longing for a life of immersion in the arts. She studied her passion at Chicago's Columbia College, but then twenty years of life in corporate America interrupted her dreams. Fran's entre back into the arts was curating a show in a small Evanston gallery several years ago. She went on to produce exhibits for office buildings and sports complexes.

Fran has a depth of experience in curating. She created and curated the "Justice for Peace" exhibit for the Noyes Cultural Art Center, which included local and Chicago artists as well as ETHS art students. She produced and curated shows for the Executive Director of the Illinois Arts Alliance at the time, Ra Joy for the Chicago Home Theater Art and Music Festival. She helped curate one of Evanston's World Lakefront festivals and the Illinois One State Art Convention for the Arts held at Evanston's Orrington Hotel. She curated a show for Art Encounter at the three-story historic home of collectors Ra and Falona Joy in Bronzeville. She collaborated with an Asian art exhibit in Chicago and has curated a series of painters, photographers, poets, performers, and African sculptors.

A full two-term member of the Evanston Arts Council and its Art & Business and Public Art committees, Fran helped select major artworks that are installed throughout Evanston and was closely involved in awarding City grants to Evanston artists and arts organizations for six years. She helped to coordinate and organize the Council's "Art Under Glass" program with Downtown Evanston's Annie Coakley which exhibited art from local artists in vacant local storefront windows; it included a guided tour and a reception. As a member of the City's selection committee, Fran participated in choosing Blessings Hancock as the finalist for the outside public art piece to be installed outside the new Robert Crown Center.

Fran curated and produced "Women Speak," an evening event at the Lorraine Morton Civic Center highlighting women and the power of the female spirit. The packed event included spoken word, vocals, artworks, and inspirational women speakers. It culminated in the unveiling of a new Fran Joy portrait of the historic figure, Emmett Till.

Fran currently serves on the Evanston Art Center's Exhibition Committee and recently co-curated a window exhibit for the City art project "Evanston Art Connects."

Fran and Rose Cannon have recently formed the curatorial team "Soulworks," which has produced exhibits with artists of color for Evanston's 1100 Florence Gallery. Their exhibit for the Evanston Art Center in June of 2020 (which was also presented in virtual format) showcases twelve artists of color who currently live in various cities of the country, each of whom has had a connection to Evanston.

Pending the status of the pandemic in the Fall, another exhibit is scheduled for September of 2020 at the Noyes Cultural Art Center in Evanston titled, the "Glory Days". The exhibit will depict the valued lives and accomplishments of people of color before the enslavement era.

In addition to her robust life within the arts community, Fran is a mom, "Nana" to three beautiful grandkids, a friend, and a life coach.