

THE ART OF DEMOCRACY: 2008

CELEBRATING THE ARTS, ELECTIONS, AND EDUCATION
IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ALABAMA



THE ART OF DEMOCRACY: CONNECTING THE ARTS AND ELECTIONS

The Art of Democracy was created by the Montgomery Election Center, a division of Judge Reese McKinney's office, during the 2008 election cycle. Using the Depression era Works Progress Administration's civic art initiative as a template, Judge McKinney and Trey Granger, Director of Elections invited renown artists to paint at polling places, rural and urban, on Election Day during the February Presidential Preference Primary. Fourteen local artists created mural-like renderings on masonite boards in four foot squares. Each

work represents the diversity of our democracy. The collection embraces the unique aspects of community and the dedication of our “election family” especially the wealth of civic responsibility that is demonstrated on those Tuesdays we call Election Day. The works of these fourteen artists, which will hang in the Montgomery Election Center, have been and shall be utilized to celebrate and contemplate the importance and historical significance of the arts, elections, and education in the community we cherish—Montgomery, Alabama.

THE ART OF DEMOCRACY: CELEBRATING THE ART

29 SEPTEMBER 2008

Welcome and Opening Remarks | **Judge Reese McKinney**

Pledge of Allegiance | **State Treasurer Kay Ivey**

The Initiative and the Artists | **Trey Granger**

Dedication of the Works | **Judge Reese McKinney** and **Commissioner Elton Dean**

Appreciation and Recognition of those who made the Initiative Possible

Benediction | **Commissioner Jiles Williams**

Camilla ARMSTRONG



Mixed media of election images, voters and historical icons of Montgomery County.

Barrett Bailes



A contemporary figurative portrait artist capturing the diversity of our electorate at the ballot box.

DAVID BRALY



The pathway of democracy runs, sometimes walks, through the floor of the Huntingdon College gymnasium —a polling place.

BARBARA DAVIS



A plein air
perspective of
the polling place
at Vaughn Park
Church of Christ.

MARGUERITE W. EDWARDS



A portrait of the foundations of our democracy incorporating facadal images from the United States Supreme Court building.

Betsy Barrett-Hails



A portrait of three veteran election officials at Hamner Hall with the culinary delights of the day.

MARY LYNNE LEVY



Voters being processed at the polling place on Election Day.

Robert O. Shearley



Uniquely capturing the mascots of our two major political parties.

Wendy SLATON



Reflections of a rural community at the polling place.

JoAnne Staley



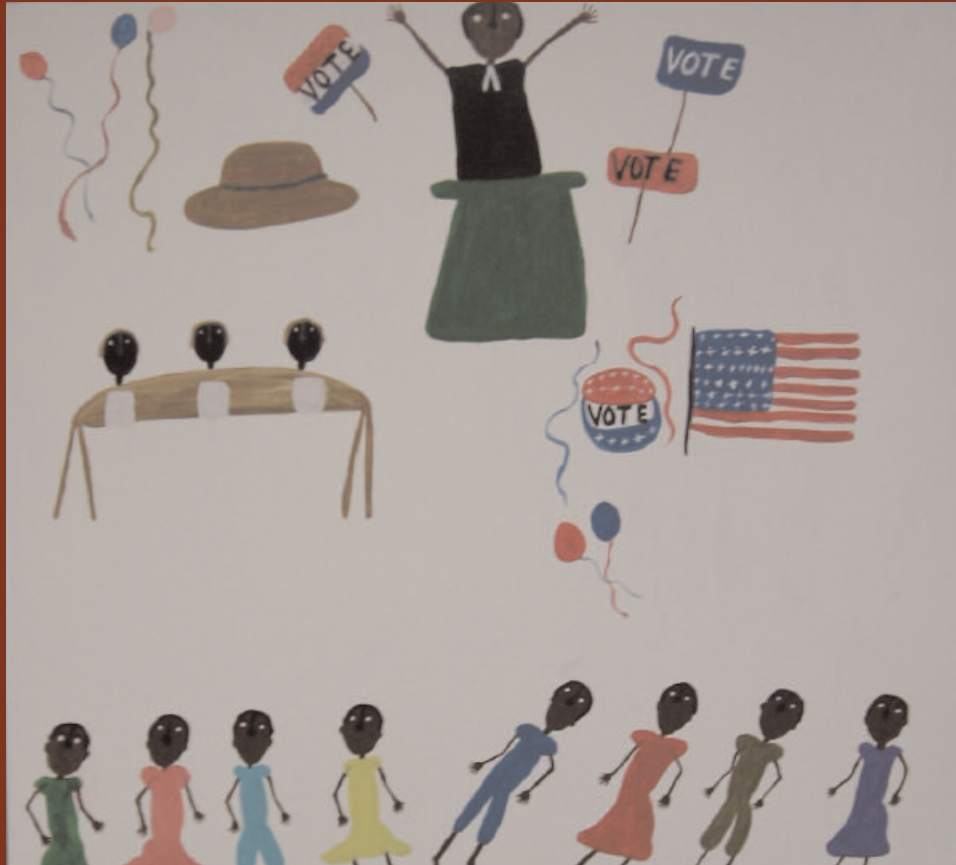
Mixed media rendering of a polling place with Uncle Sam at the Vaughn Park Church of Christ polling place.

CHRISTOPHER W. THOMAS



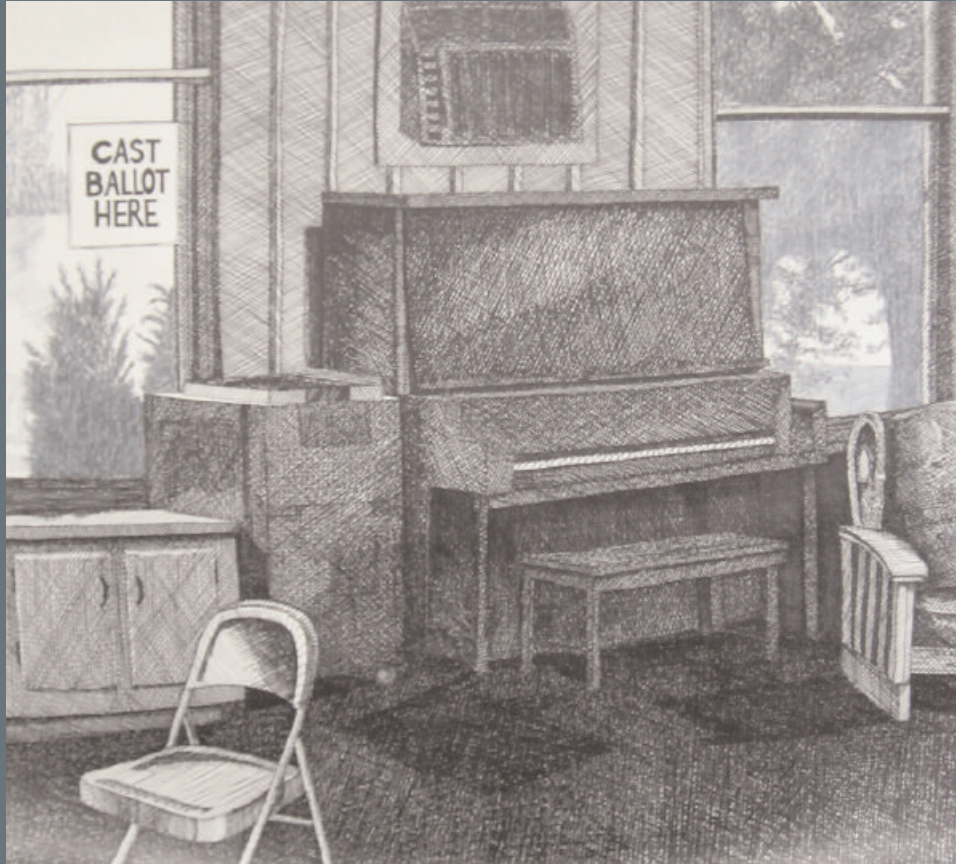
“Uncle Sam
courts Lady
Liberty”

Annie TOLLIVER



A folk artist's
interpretation
of Election Day
A to Z.

MELISSA B. TUBBS



Pen-and-ink of
Snowdown
Women's Club,
a treasured
polling place.

Clark Walker



Capturing the iconic diversity of Montgomery County voters.

THE ART OF DEMOCRACY: CONVEYING CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

The Art of Democracy provided an opportunity for visual and hands-on learning. Each public and independent high school in Montgomery County was invited to select representative students from their institution to attend an election-related workshop. The workshop was held at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Art in conjunction with the dedication and celebration of the 14 works. Ironically, the Museum is one of Montgomery County's 56 polling places - a fitting venue for an educational effort focused upon the arts and elections. Over 150 Montgomery County

high school and college students participated in the workshop focusing upon voter participation, civic responsibility, and arts education. The workshop represents the collaborative gifts of: Dr. Paula Bobrowski of Auburn University, Connie Deal of The Montgomery Academy, Judge Vanzetta McPherson, State Treasurer Kay Ivey, the 14 Artists with their works, Quesha Starks, Clay McKinney, Mark Coleman, Rodney Creech all of Booker T. Washington Magnet School and local business, cultural, civic, academic, and religious leaders who served as workshop facilitators.

THE ART OF DEMOCRACY: A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Regions Bank

Alabama Power Company

Auburn Montgomery

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Stonehenge

Montgomery Business Committee for the Arts

Lowes Home Improvement



ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.

HELEN KELLER

The Montgomery Election Center | Office of Judge Reese McKinney
125 Washington Avenue | Montgomery, Alabama 36104
334.832.7744 | www.mc-ala.org/elections