

St. James on the Cross, 2019, mixed media on canvas



ERNEST SHAW

BORN

Baltimore, Maryland

LIVES

Baltimore, Maryland

ABOUT

Artist and educator, Ernest Shaw, Jr. is a Black man, who has lived most of his life in Baltimore. Shaw, a "native of West Baltimore," continues to seek inspiration from the history of Black America, particularly of West Baltimore, as a mecca for racial justice and cultural empowerment. He focuses on depicting African American experiences through various concepts with drawing and painting media. Ernest Shaw paints colorful portraits of Black people standing and looking at the viewer confidently to express their freedom to choose how they want to be seen.

"I feel it is my duty and responsibility to try to create images that tell a complete and full more authentic story."

MEDIA + MATERIALS

- Acrylic paint
- Charcoal
- Graphite
- Canvas

SKILLS

- Painting
- Drawing
- Color theory

<https://www.artseveryday.org/ernest-shaw>





Sirius George, 2019, mixed media on canvas

MAKE

Create a drawing that tells a story about your community in order to better understand what makes it unique.

Research and draw, or paint, a portrait of an underrepresented person from American history who inspires you to be a better person. Identify values and beliefs this figure has that you share as well.

Create an abstract painting/drawing using organic shapes and colors express how you feel about living in American today. Describe how the colors you selected illustrate your feelings.

CONNECT

GRADES K-2

ELA Reading Standards: With support ask and answer questions about key details in a text [about notable Black people in America].
Maryland State Fine Arts Standards (MSFAS):
1:P-2:1: Think creatively about self, others, places, and events.

GRADES 3-5

ELA Reading Standards: Determine and explain the main idea of texts [about notable Black people in America] and explain how it's supported by key details. When needed, summarize the text for further comprehension.
MSFAS: 1:3-5:1: Act on creative ideas to develop meaningful compositions through observation, imagination, or memory.

GRADES 6-8

ELA Reading Standards: Cite the textual evidence to support an analysis of what the text [about notable Black people in America] says as well as inferences drawn from the text.
MSFAS:1:6-8:1: Access, evaluate, use and manage information throughout the context of art history and design.

HIGH SCHOOL

ELA Reading Standards: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of the text as well as inferences drawn from the text [about notable Black people in America].
MSFAS:1:9-12:1: Act on creative ideas within the context of a given or chosen art problem.

EXPLORE MORE:

artseveryday.org/ernest-shaw

TALK

GRADES K-2

How do you draw to tell a story? How can stories make us feel?
 What does Ernest Shaw paint and draw in his artwork?
 How can you use drawing and painting to celebrate someone?

GRADES 3-5

How do artists tell stories? Why is storytelling important?
 Why does Ernest Shaw paint and draw notable black figures?

GRADES 6-8

How do artists create visual art to tell stories about their past and current experiences? Why is storytelling important?
 What is race and why does Ernest Shaw think it is important to talk about race? Why does Ernest Shaw think it is his duty to paint and draw notable Black Figures? What are stereotypes?

HIGH SCHOOL

In what ways do artists create visual art to tell personal narratives?
 How can stories support or harm people?
 What is it important for Ernest Shaw as a Black man to tell his story?
 What are stereotypes? Is Black history American history?