

## Sunday:

### 12:30: Mel Leipzig

For more than 40 years, Trenton-based artist [Mel Leipzig](#), who just turned 80, has been painting portraits of people around New Jersey and New York. Like social media selfies, Leipzig's portraits try to give you more than a likeness by emphasizing the sitter's context.

Many of his portraits are as much about the backgrounds they are painted against as their human subjects: artists in their studios, actors in tech rehearsal under a grid of spotlights, academics in offices piled to the ceiling with books and crumpled papers -- everything in a Leipzig is painted with an almost hallucinogenic intensity of detail, just as he sees it. *(from an article by Dan Buschoff, 2015, The Star Ledger)*

For more on Mel watch: (<http://www.pbs.org/program/mel-leipzig-everything-paintable/>)

### 2:00: Deborah Jack (New Jersey City University)

Deborah Jack's work, is often a series of lyrical portraits that evoke memory, resistance, loss, migration and hope. In her photographs Jack skillfully constructs and deconstructs what viewers think we know, what at first seems obvious, to show us a hidden world of repressed memories. Her photographs are essentially her struggle to understand self and country, place and belonging. They are works that seek to both show and tell about the missing half of the story, the story renowned poet Lorna Goodison insists must be told. *(from an article by [Jacqueline Bishop](#))*

### 4:00 Julie Harris (Kean University)

Julie Harris has been included in over one hundred and seventy regional, national and international shows. Highlights include two traveling shows; A Complex Weave: Women and Identity in Contemporary Art, initiated in New Jersey, and Underneath it All, initiated in Washington D.C. Underneath it All, exhibited in Soho New York City in 2014 at ISE Gallery where Julie lectured about her creative work. Currently, she is the Head of Printmaking at Kean University in Union, in close proximity to Manhattan. She continues to work primarily in intaglio printmaking, silkscreen handmade paper and the book arts.

## Monday:

### 9:30: Sharon DeLaCruz

Sharon Lee De La Cruz is an artist and activist. She earned a BFA from The Cooper Union, is a Fulbright scholar, and obtained her Master's degree at NYU's ITP program (Interactive Telecommunications Program). Her work ranges from illustrations to interactive sculptures. She is passionate about accessible STEM education and the intersection of tech, art, and social justice. She currently lives in New Jersey and is the Assistant Director of The StudioLab, a creative tech lab, at Princeton University. Sharon was a featured speaker at the High School YAM Reception in Trenton earlier this year.

For More on Sharon go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RpWLWPSUqY> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFT6w9NKfCs>

### 11:00: Julie Heffernan (Montclair State University)

Julie Heffernan's work has been described by the writer as "a new kind of history painting" and as "ironic rococo surrealism with a social-satirical twist." She has been a Professor of Fine Arts at Montclair State University since

1997. Her imaginative landscapes feature such elements as exploding cities, castoff gods and garbage, and falling torrents of animals, meteors and gemstones. These elements reflect her view of the world after "calamities" such as Hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil Spill threaten to make it unlivable. Her pieces of artwork have a fantasy like feeling but has a metaphorical meaning behind them talking about issues that are happening around the world during her time she is creating the piece of artwork.

### 1:00: Rashad Malik Davis

Rashad Malik Davis is an illustrator/character designer currently pursuing his dream! He works primarily in traditional media such as pencil, ink pen, marker, colored pencil, and watercolor, and in the digital arena with Adobe Photoshop. He loves to explore themes of spirituality, magic, the mystic, and social justice in his work—but in a fun and humorous way!

*"Our differences are not only beautiful but necessary, and empathy is the theme weaving its way through all of my work. I seek to inspire children to appreciate and love diverse representation, whether of being or of thought. The arts are a means of giving this world meaning. They are a way of engaging with our surroundings, acting as either a mirror to reflect one's beauty or a window into a new world."*

For more on Rashad go to: <https://twitter.com/RashadMDavis/status/950073830017503232>

### 3:00: John Conner (Lank)

Jonathan Conner (Lank) is an artist, designer and educator from Hamilton, New Jersey. A graduate of the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon, Jon has designed artwork and signage for Whole Foods Market and created educational content for Utrecht Art Supplies. Jon currently works for Monmouth University and teaches drawing and two dimensional design at Mercer County Community College. He is a member of the mural group S.A.G.E. Collective and has been working with the public art organization Albus Cavus since 2008, participating in public art and mural projects along the east coast.

For More on John go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5pa2t0hrBE>

### 4:00: Rory Mahon

Rory Mahon looks back on a successful career and says his choice was the right one. Nothing exhilarates him like the process of creation, and he happens to have made a good living at it, too.

*"I can pick up a rock and say this thing is so precious to me. Materials excite me. I go into the studio, and I see all the great materials in front of me that I'm about to manipulate. I love the challenge."*

Mahon runs a personal sculpting studio right in his own backyard. On his 5-acre homestead, he builds a variety of sculptures ranging from ones that fit into the palm of your hand to life-size pieces that may weigh more than 1,000 pounds.

Mahon works at Princeton University Art Museum and also does photography and has taught art classes as well as workshops.

### 6:00: Harry Bower

*"Push beyond that place where you have settled..."* has been Harry Bower's mantra throughout his career. After graduating with a teaching degree in Visual Art Education, from Rowan University and while teaching art for 29 years, Harry continued to push himself in new directions. Through international travel, receiving a Master's Degree in Creative Arts in Education from Rutgers, taking and giving workshops in Book Arts, Basket Making and Sculpture, Harry's own art work has transformed. Harry's focus was finding his own "voice" in the material selection, and combining traditional techniques with contemporary sculptural forms. Harry has displayed his art throughout the United States as well as in Italy, Japan and China. His work has been in a variety of art shows, including Fiber shows, Book Arts shows and outdoor installations of his sculptures.

