



# Maruva DQ, Inc.

## Traditions in Art

### Marcella Hayes Muhammad

#### Visual Artist

Marcella Hayes Muhammad is an award winning fine artist, recognized for her elegant style, intricate detail and vibrant colors. Her work reflects the moods, emotions, and beauty she experiences around her in everyday life. In addition to her original oil paintings, Marcella is recognized for her popular licensed art series of “Ladies With Hats.” Marcella uses realism, still life, abstraction, impressionism, and her own style named “*Plastic Space*” to convey her message.

Encouraged by her family, who recognized her talent at an early age, Marcella dedicated herself to study art professionally. Pablo Picasso’s Cubism, which explores the linear effect of light on objects, was Marcella’s inspiration to develop her own signature style of representational abstracts she named “*Plastic Space*.”

“With *Plastic Space*, I can explore the curvature of light and space around familiar objects. The fluid use of light, shadow and balance captivate and engage the eye as if moving at light speed around three dimensional objects. Using this style, I can marry the heritage and traditions of the past and the beauty of the present into contemporary images that transcend time and culture.”

Marcella has exhibited her work in schools, museums and galleries throughout the country. In 2002, Marcella’s work was accepted in the Hampton University Museum’s “New Power Generation, A National Juried Exhibition of African American Art” in the very same building that houses the great Henry O. Tanner masterpieces among other notables. She is very proud of the Southern Roots™ Distinguished Alabama Artist Award from The Academy of Arts, Inc. at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. “It was an honor to be recognized by such a fine institution of rich cultural heritage that depicts African American struggles. Then to have them purchase one of my works for their permanent collection was an added thrill. Another exciting time was when I was commissioned to do a painting of Cleopatra VII. It was for the APEX Museum in Atlanta, Georgia and it was featured with two other of my piece in their video presentation entitled, “The Journey” narrated by the late Ossie Davis and shown on a regular basis in their theatre. A more recent crowning moment for me was to have the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture Gallery at the University of Montgomery Alabama purchase one of my works for their permanent collection. I love the idea of education and the arts working together.” says, Marcella.

Daughter of a Tuskegee Airman and career Air Force officer, Marcella Hayes Muhammad was fortunate to live in Japan, France, Germany and many parts of the United States. She had the rare opportunity to learn about and experience other cultures at a young age. Aware of the importance of culture, she recalls listening to her father, Harold Hayes and other original Tuskegee Airmen talk about their struggles and triumphs. This gave her pride in her own culture and a positive outlook as reflected in her paintings.

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Marcella credits her mother, Ruth Hayes, a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, for shaping her views of culture, people and artistic expression. “My mother exposed me to different kinds of art throughout our travels which gave me a unique understanding and interest of people and other cultures “says, Marcella.

In 1995, after a successful career in elementary education, Marcella relocated to Georgia, founded Maruva Studio and dedicated herself to painting full-time. In 2000, her sister Dianne Hayes Quarles joined her and together founded Maruva DQ, Inc., a fine art and art licensing company.

“Our goal is to strategically brand Maruva DQ, Inc. as the premiere African American art licensor in the world.” says Marcella.

Marcella earned her BFA with honors from the California State University at San Bernardino. She also studied at the California College of Art and Design at Oakland and the University of California at Riverside. Her formal training and extensive experience gives her an extraordinary command of style and media few artists possess. Marcella resides in Decatur, Georgia with her husband, Alee, and mother. She has two adult children who reside in Arizona and Colorado. She is active in local art organizations, participating in many art conferences where she has served as a guest-speaker and conducted master-classes and workshops. Marcella keeps current with invitational and gallery shows.

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