



Artists Biography

Lecturer, Artist, Graphic Designer, Muralist

Ophelia M. Chambliss has been successfully working as a fine artist, for several years. In addition to a number of solo and group exhibitions, she has participated in several distinguished juried shows, and has successfully completed a number of large scale, and permanent art installations.

She calls her signature painting style realistic cubism, and paints a variety of subject matters, with the goal of creating a narrative. Her medium is primarily in Acrylic, and her color palette is generally colorful and energetic, but each piece fits a theme or the subject matter.

Ophelia believes in lifelong learning. She has acquired her Bachelors in Communication from PSU and combines her visual communication with verbal and written communication to tell the story behind her work, in lectures and presentations that build art appreciation and cultural understanding. Her undergrad concentration was on visual rhetoric, the symbol, and message behind the image as it is used to communicate and persuade. She also has a Masters Degree in Communications from PSU Capital campus, with a concentration in critical discourse analysis, media discourse and the representation of the visual image.

In her Masters studies, she conducted a study of qualitative research involving visual language and perceptions. In this study a graphic designer seeks to analyze the representations in a comparative survey to ascertain the perceptions, and interpretation of design, and discovers theories from the data, as a result of these creative decisions. The study also looked at visual language and, visual learners in our society from an educational perspective, and how a visual learner, someone like a graphic designer, can utilize the elements and principles of design, psychology of color, and psychology of the image, to create a visual vocabulary that makes meaning. Her Masters thesis involved research that utilized primary source data to develop a photographic album that uncovered the unmediated image of the Black American Experience that exists in the photographs and other artifacts that follow history from a personal and ideological perspective. The goal of the project is to fill in the historical gaps and provide an image of Black Memorabilia that is true to the experience.

In 2023, Ophelia was awarded an honorary PhD from the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design.

As an artist, several of her pieces are dualistic in nature, meaning there is more than one way to display and view the painting to get a different image or point of view.

Most of her recent work has been in the realm of public art and murals. She is particularly fond of this because of the community contribution, collaboration, and the challenge of scale.

Originally from Chicago, IL, Ophelia currently resides in York, Pennsylvania. Prior to her career in Fine Art, she was a business professional in the Publishing Industry, specializing in Graphic Design, and Business Development.

Before transitioning to fine art full time, Ophelia held the position of Vice President of Publishing Services, and as an independent contractor, worked as the Business Development Director, for a Publishing Services company in Maryland. She continues to do freelance work in Graphic Design and has done several community based, public and permanent, arts projects. She focuses on community engagement, participation, and collaboration to create art that is both of and by the community.

She established the non-profit, Ophelia's Making Agency in 2023. OMA works to provide professional development, with the goal of sustainability, to small, minority owned and creative businesses. OMA also operates working studio spaces that are commission cost free to the artists and come with professional development and community building support. The OMA studios now consist of three buildings which have reactivated buildings in downtown York and grew the arts community. <https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/ophelias-making-agency-nonprofit-entrepreneur-york/521-87ec9aa4-d25d-4e48-babb-c853f5644a60?>

**Permanent Installations,
Notable Commissions and Large-Scale Public Works**

<https://www.muralartist-ophelia.com/>

Beauty, History, and Diversity	York, PA	March 2008
We Are Penn State	Capital Campus Harrisburg, PA	
Harrisburg Cow Parade	Two Cows / Rite Aid	January 2009
Health, Happiness, and Harmony	Planned Parenthood York, PA	August 2008
Susquehanna Communications	Commissioned Triptych York, PA	June 2005
Monumental Stories	Permanent /Public Gettysburg, PA	November 2012
A dedication to the Black Residents of Olde Getty Place and a tribute to the USCT, United States Colored Troops buried in the segregated Lincoln Cemetery.		
Behind the Scenes	Wall Mural Fulton Elementary	Lancaster, PA 6/13
Open Air Gallery	Lafayette Elementary Lancaster, PA	
All that We See	Camp Hill School and Community	Camp Hill, PA
Essential Pieces	The intersection of History and Culture	York, PA
Blink / Seasons and Time	Penn State Health Hamden Hospital	Enola, PA
Welcome	Penn State Health Lancaster Hospital	Lancaster, PA
Instruments	Yorktowne Hotel	York, PA
Penn State Health	Enola PA Hospital	Enola, PA
Penn State Health	Lancaster PA Hospital	Lancaster, PA
York Wellspan Hospital	Wellspan Health	York, PA
YC 275 Anniversary	County Wall mural	York, PA

Creative Show History: Solo Exhibitions and Significant shows

<https://www.opheliachambliss.com/>

<i>Title</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
I'll Make Me a World	South Shore CAC	Chicago, IL	2/99
Creative Journal	Blue Moon Gallery	Skokie, IL	5/99
Change is Inevitable	Bradley Academy	York, PA	2/02
Black Studies, Black Art	University of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, AL	8/02
Black Studies, Black Art	HACC Gettysburg Campus	Gettysburg, PA	1/02
Telling Stories	Gettysburg University	Gettysburg, PA	1/05
York Little Theatre	Brave Girls	York, PA	3/05
Visual Rhetoric	Penn State University	York, Pennsylvania	12/07
2/2 Second Half	Allegro Winery and Gallery	York, Pennsylvania	6/07
York Fest / Black Art Is	York City Art Gallery	York, Pennsylvania	8/10
Mosaic	Campbell House Galleries	Southern Pines NC	2/11
Birds, Buds, Bees & Blossoms	Ned Smith Center for Art and Conservation	Halifax, PA	1/22
Essential Pieces	York County History Center	York, PA	9/23