

# EDI FRIDAYS

LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER — ONE FRIDAY AT A TIME



**Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

*Learning about each other...one Friday at a time*

# KNOWLEDGE

## DEFINITIONS

### RACIST

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**Racist** - one who believes in the hierarchal order of races, typically with the conscious or unconscious belief that the "white" race is inherently superior to all others.

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

**"Until the philosophy which hold one race superior, and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, everywhere is war."**



## "Me say war."

"WAR" from the album  
*Rastaman Vibration* (1976)

[Listen](#)

[Biography](#)

### **Bob Marley**

Robert Nesta Marley [OM](#)  
February 6, 1945, to May 11, 1981



### **Faculty/Staff Spotlight**

**CASSANDRA OLIVERAS-MORENO**

(She/Her/Hers)

**Administrator, Communications &  
Collaboration, Art & Design**

**Mason Gross School of the Arts  
Rutgers University**

[Biography](#)

**Hobbies:** Singing, toddler chasing

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"I do equity work because it's inherently baked into the daily bread of our department – events, policies, meetings...It is not something additional or on the side."

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"Equity work is essential to me because it has revealed itself to be a creative endeavor. In the face of deeply systemic inequities in higher education, it's important to remember that we have the ability to imagine – or build

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## Student Spotlight

**ALENA ROSE**

(She/Her)

*Junior, Mason Gross School  
of the Arts*

*Major | **Theater Acting***

*Hometown | **Beaverdam, VA***

*Hobbies | **Sewing, painting, roller  
skating, music arranging/songwriting,  
singing, and dancing***



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"Fighting for equity is important to be able to remove all societal thinking and criticisms that get in the way of making art."

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"As artists and creatives, the work and art making is the most valuable and fun part of our careers, and so creating a space where that is at the forefront of EVERYONE'S mind is the perfect, equitable space."

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"I feel that so many labels and tip-toeing around society's imaginary rules has limited people for being their unique selves, or the creative they want to show to the world, rather than everything else they have to carry or prove in order to be seen as an equal.

If we open that door for equity, especially for arts, who knows what new things will be possible and easier to achieve."

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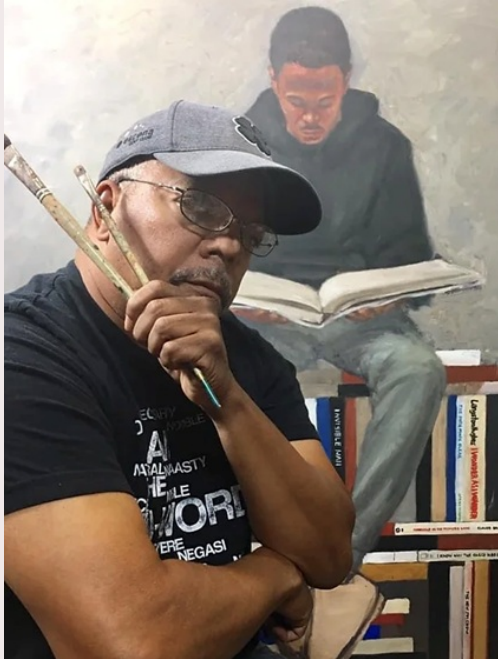
## Artist Spotlight

**ALONZO ADAMS**

(He/Him)

*BFA Visual Arts, '84*  
Mason Gross School of the Arts  
Rutgers University

**Biography**



With over 25 years as a professional artist, Alonzo has garnered numerous awards in art exhibitions. Many publications have featured articles on Alonzo, including Art Business News, Black Enterprise, Images Magazine, Upscale Magazine, and ESPN Magazine to name a few. He was one of the first African-American artists to become an Absolut Artist. His work was featured in the "Black Romance" exhibit at the Studio Museum of Harlem. In 2003, three of his original oils were auctioned at Sotheby's, with a phenomenal response. In 2004, Alonzo was one of the first inductees into the Rutgers African American Alumnae Association Hall of Fame.

**"I paint the black experience. I've been called a visual griot. My paintings tell our experiences."**



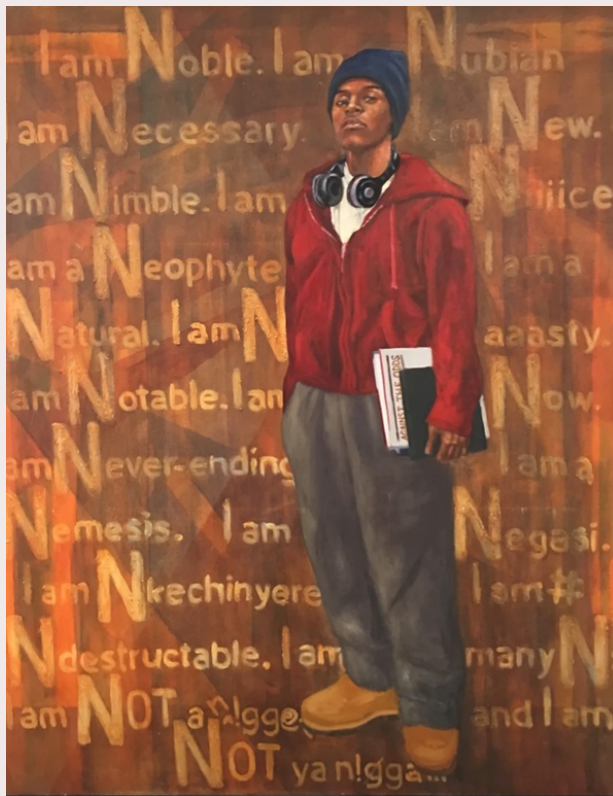
## **The Critic**

### ***How would you describe your artistry?***

"I paint the black experience because I can only paint from my perspective. Many years ago, I had a show at an outdoor festival and a white lady said, 'My goodness, your work is so beautiful, but how come you don't paint white people?' I said, 'Look around at all the white artists, did you ever ask them why they don't paint us?'"

"I paint my life experience, so if I don't paint us, who will?"

"In the crayon box, they have a flesh color that was pink. It's like we didn't exist. I paint us."



***I Am the N Word***

### ***Artistically speaking, what inspires you?***

"The elderly. Like the rings of a tree, the wrinkles of the elderly show their age, wisdom, and experience. I look at how Asians and Hispanics revere their elders. *These Eyes Have Seen* is one of my favorites."



*These Eyes Have Seen*



*The Matriarch*

***And Africa inspires you too?***

"Yeah. I went to Ghana and visited the slave dungeons. And I thought, 'My God, how did they endure this?' The tour guide said, 'They survived so you could live.'"



**WOKE**



**Dangerous Minds**

***As they say: "the acorn don't fall far from the tree." So, your youngest son is following in your artistic footsteps.***

"Oh, man! I'm so proud of him. He's a better artist than me. I raised him to be better than me, but I'm his biggest critic. I love his work, but I don't push him. I worry about my boys every single day. I'm not comfortable until they're home, you know. Young black men are an endangered species."



*Kyle Adams – Alonzo's youngest son – displays his charcoal drawing at a joint exhibition with his father last fall.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **2023 Rutgers Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Climate Survey**

[Link to survey](#)

Direct questions about the survey to [support@srsrv.com](mailto:support@srsrv.com) or 734-527-2199

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## **MGSA Inclusive Community Award**

Now accepting nominations - Deadline: May 1, 2023

*Given annually to a Mason Gross faculty or staff member who has had an extraordinary impact in fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable*



environment for our school.

[See here for instructions.](#)

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## **MGSA Inclusive Teaching Grants**

Now accepting applications - Deadline: June 1, 2023

*Mason Gross faculty are invited to apply for up to \$2,500 to revise their courses to reflect the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion.*

[See here for instructions.](#)



## **FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS**

### **CAPS Cares**

Drop-in Support for Faculty & Staff  
Friday, April 21, 2023, from 1:00-1:50pm  
Location: virtual (zoom)

[More info](#)

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### **Queer Crafternoons**

Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 3:00-5:00pm  
Location: Center for Social Justice Education

[More info](#)

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### **Faculty "Soul-Saving" Social**

Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 4:00-6:00pm  
Location: Rutgers Club - Livingston Campus

[More info](#)

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### **Born Free Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion**

Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 5:30-8:00pm  
Location: Rutgers Cinema - Livingston Campus

[More info](#)

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**"The Trans Nineteenth Century" Symposium**

*Friday, April 28, 2023, from 10:00am-5:00pm*

*Location: Center for Social Justice Education*

[More info](#)

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**Pride Shabbat with Rutgers Hillel**

*Friday, April 28, 2023, from 7:00-10:00pm*

*Location: Rutgers Hillel - 70 College Avenue*

[More info](#)

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**Rainbow Graduation 2023**

*Wednesday, May 3, 2023, from 5:00-8:00pm*

*Location: College Avenue Student Center*

[More info](#)

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**Bernard Fein Scholarship Walk**

*Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 9:30-11:00am*

*Location: Lucy Stone Hall - Livingston Campus*

[More info](#)

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**Creating Change Symposium 2023**

**"Collective Liberation for the NJ Arts Community"**

*Wednesday, May 10, 2023, from 9:30am-5:00pm*

*Location: Count Basie Theater (Red Bank, NJ)*

[More info](#)