

## Al Johnson Chronology

- March 17, 1957** Alfred Johnson born to Alfred and Georgianna Johnson in Jamaica Queens, New York City.
- 1967** Attended P.S. 135 Queens Village. Was named most talented young artist in District 29 by the *Long Island Press* Newspaper.
- 1968-1969** Won art poster contest for public safety. Selected for an exhibition for young artists at the Whitney Museum by a panel of judges. One of the judges was [Romare Bearden](#), who told Mrs. Johnson, “your son is a composer!”
- 1969** While attending Junior High school P.S. 109, art teacher, Rita Dominques, spoke to *New York Daily News* reporter [Jimmy Breslin](#) of Al Johnson’s ability to realistically render people. She asked Mr. Breslin if Al could go in and sit with the court room sketch artist. Mr. Breslin would drive Al to the court room in Paterson, N.J. to sit in on the [Rubin Hurricane Carter](#) and John Artist trial. Al sketches both men and these sketches are part of Al Johnson’s private collection.
- 1971** Jimmy Breslin introduces Al Johnson to Shirley Chisholm in Brooklyn Borough Hall when he was 14 year old.
- 1973** Al Johnson wins awards to attend Pratt institute Arts Program in Brooklyn, New York at the age of 16.  
Al Johnson works at Jamaica Arts Center in Queens as a mural artist.
- 1977** Attends The Art Students league. Takes life drawing and painting classes with [Jack Faragrasso](#). Al meets illustrator and mentor Maurice McCaddy.
- 1979** Al Johnson joins New National Guards completes his term and returns to New York. Joins arts organizations: Urban Visions, Inc. and The Black Graphic Designer Group of New York. Works as a layout and comprehensive illustrator for African American advertising agency Larkhart and Pettus and Mingo Jones Advertising.
- 1982** Al Johnson and Maurice McCaddy, helped to form a cooperative studio called The Formost Group located in New York City.
- 1983-1985** Al Johnson is represented by Rita Butler as an illustrator. Al Johnson illustrations are found in most advertising agencies such as J. Walter Thomson and Gray Advertising agencies.
- 1986** Now married and still freelancing, Al Johnson moved to Washington D.C. and worked as a layout and design artist for Woodward and Lathrop stores. Designing by day and painting by night, Al also worked at the *Washington Post* on off days and weekends as a layout artist.
- 1989** Separated and moved to Atlanta, Ga. This is when I began work as a storyboard artist for feature full length films by MGM studios, Morgan Creek and all of the major ad agencies in Atlanta.

# A L J O H N S O N A R T

- 1990** Became a member of the “Film Makers of Color” an alliance of minorities film professionals that network in and around in Georgia. Al Johnson storyboards are used in many commercials and feature films.
- 1994** Opened a studio and created the [Cross Culture Gallery](#) in downtown Atlanta Ga.
- 1996** Cross Culture Gallery became an alternate venue for visiting delegates during the Atlanta Olympics.
- 1996-1998** Approached by the Atlanta Mayor’s office to create renderings of what is now the Shedd Aquarium, the largest aquarium in the world. These renderings are part of Al’s private collection.
- 1996** Akwaaba Mansion, New York
- 1996** African Museum of Art
- 1998** Al Johnson travels to Japan to exhibit at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum for group show
- 1998** Rush Fine Art Gallery
- 1999** Al Johnson returned back to New York due to his father’s health issues. He reconnected with his New York network and opened up Al Johnson Art specializing in storyboard art and becoming one of the busiest storyboard studios in the City. Al creates the storyboards for Stephen Daltry’s [The Hours](#). During this time, Al continues to exhibit his artwork in New York galleries.
- 2000** 9/11 destroyed the downtown New York studio where Al Johnson Art operated. Al’s commercial business suffered while New Yorkers regrouped. Work in the film business dwindled due to a lack of filming in the city.
- 2000** University of Rochester
- 2000** SONYA Art Studio Tour
- 2001** Artist Loft Show, New York
- 2002** Rush Fine Art Gallery, New York
- Al Johnson focused on his fine art only. Continues to paint. One of note is his first portrait of Shirley Chisholm. This portrait becomes the marquee for the [Shirley Chisholm Bedford Stuyvesant Post Office](#).
- 2002-2005** When the film The Hours wins an Oscar, Al Johnson becomes an internationally known [storyboard artist](#).
- 2003** Great Neck Library, 32<sup>nd</sup> Contemporary Black Artist
- 2003** Rush Fine Art Gallery, New York “**Aspects of Urban Life**”
- 2003** Westside Arts Coalition, New York “Music In The Key of Life”
- 2003** Heather Edelman Gallery, New York
- 2003** Susan Benton Gallery, London
- 2004** Museum of Contemporary Diasporian Art (MoCADA), New York

# A L J O H N S O N A R T

- 2005 Westside Arts Coalition, New York **“Blacker Than Thou - Visual Messages of the Black Experience”** – Curator
- 2005 Pleides Gallery, New York 32<sup>nd</sup> Juried Exhibition, Jordan Kantor, Curator, MOMA
- 2005 Taller Boricau Gallery, New York **“Blacker Than Thou - The Exhibition”** – Curator
- 2005 Saga Art Gallery, Sonoma, CA **“Cross Culture, The Exhibition”**
- 2006 Westside Arts Coalition, New York **“Blacker Than Thou – Painted Reflections”** – Curator
- 2006 **Art on The Main** – Puck Building
- 2006 Al Johnson Art Studio, New York **“7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Comes to Bed Sty”** - Curator
- 2006 Shirley Chisholm Cultural Institute for Children, Inc.-commissions Al Johnson to paint the portrait of **Shirley Chisholm** which hangs in [Brooklyn’s Borough Hall](#).
- 2006 Joyce Gordan Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2006-2008 Al Johnson Art Studio opens in Brooklyn, NY. Al also creates the **Al Johnson mentoring program**, teaching budding artists from the ages of six to sixty.
- 2007 Tom Joyner Foundation Cruise, Miami, FL
- 2007 Clay’s Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2008 Al Johnson ceramic [energy tiles](#) are a permanent instillation at the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA.
- 2008 General Electric’s Corporate Headquarters, Stamford, CT Cultural Fine Art Gallery
- 2008 Harlem School of the Arts, New York **“A Day In The Life”** - curator
- 2009 National Black Fine Art Show, New York
- 2009 Jacob Javitts National Fine Art Show, New York
- 2009 The International Center in New York **“Innervision of Hope”** – Curator
- 2009 Taller Boricua Gallery, New York **“Pulse”** Group Exhibition
- 2009 Temple M, New York **“NUDE”** – Curator
- 2009 Brazilian Foundation for the Arts, New York **“Art and Literature – The Multi-Media Dream”**
- 2009 Al Johnson is studio management proctor at [Chashama Studios](#) in Harlem. Al managed studio operations for 31 artists and curated exhibitions.
- 2010 Chashama Gallery, New York **“Artist DNA”** One Man Show
- 2010 [Limited edition portrait](#) commissioned for naming ceremony of Shirley Chisholm State Office Building in Brooklyn. Al Johnson is name one of the top 50 artists Brooklyn of Artcurion.
- 2011 Al Johnson was curator and creative director at [Knox Gallery](#) in Harlem. He opens a studio in Montclair, N.J. [continues to create](#) and is listed as one of the top [Bearden 100](#).

# A L J O H N S O N A R T

- 2012**                    **Expansion exhibition** at [73SeeGallery](#) in Montclair , New Jersey. Curated by Mary Zee .
- 2012**                    Al Johnson named one of the top 50 artists of the [Leroy Nieman Center Art Horizon](#) in Harlem, N.Y. Michelle Obama becomes a collector [Al Johnson Art](#).
- 2013**                    Al Johnson’s portrait of **Shirley Chisholm** becomes a commemorative stamp. The Arts Students League of New York featured [Al Johnson’s art](#) on the cover of their *Lines from the League* an alumni magazine.
- First Lady Michelle Obama graciously accepted the Al Johnson original painting “The Arrivals” at the LGBT Leadership Council of the Democratic National Conference. Accompanying this painting was an original poem written by Mr. Johnson’s 89 year old mother
- 2014**                    Storyboards for feature film *Fate* by director [Jonathan Baker](#) – a Paramount Pictures Production.
- Jan. 2014**             Artist Danny Simmons, selected Al Johnson’s art work for exhibition Rush Art Gallery “**We Can do Dat** “ Show Chelsea gallery New York City.
- Jan.31, 2014**         Al Johnson’s portrait of Shirley Chisholm becomes a commemorative stamp.
- Feb. 8 – March 15**    [The Room of Wonders exhibition](#) at the La Masion D’Art Gallery in Harlem. One man show.
- Feb. 28**                Video taping at La Masion D’Art Gallery of Al Johnson’s “**The Room of Wonders**” along with [Carol Johnson](#), current lead singer of The Marvelettes and gospel singer, and Noelle A. Francis, artistic director, [Hoboken School of Music](#) and opera singer.
- March 1**                [When Artists Talk](#). Al Johnson and [Ademola Olugebefola](#) sit down for a lively discussion on expressionistic art and the making of “[Interpretizm](#).” *Location: LaMaison D’Art Gallery, 4-6 p.m.*
- March 14**             Opening of [South Orange Performance Center](#) (SOPAC), New Jersey. [COSMOSIS Exhibition](#). One Man Show of Al Johnson Art in the Herb and Milly Iris Gallery. Opening reception, March 14, 6 – 7 p.m. Exhibition runs until May 31.
- March 15**             Closing of [The Room of Wonders exhibition](#) at the La Masion D’Art Gallery in Harlem. One man show. 5 – 8 p.m.
- March 29**             Afroart “**Art for Jazz**” at [For My Sweet](#) , 1103 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11238, 3 – 9 p.m. Featuring the artwork of Al Johnson and [Jimmy James Greene](#). This is a kick-off for [Jazz Appreciation Month](#) and to celebrate our brothers and sisters in South Africa! Exhibition runs until April 30.
- May 14**                **When Artist Talk**. Al Johnson and Micha Hamilton, curator, South Orange Performance Center discuss COSMOSIS and “Interpretizm. “
- May 21**                Closing Exhibition of **COSMOSIS** at South Orange Performace Center.
- Sept. 11**              Al Johnson’s **Visual Healing exhibition** at Studio J, Long Island City, NY.
- May 2015**             One man exhibition at the [La Maison des Arts Gallery](#), Port-Barcares, France.

A L J O H N S O N  A R T