



Suritah Teresa Wignall

Emerging African Canadian artist Suritah Teresa Wignall is a passionate communicator; Suritah's paintings are filled with exuberance, colour and light. Her pieces pay homage to her African roots: "I am truly inspired by the African form and beautiful features, the succulent soul food and the rich complexions that coat our skin. I want my people to see their inner and outer beauty reflected in my work."

Suritah's talent as a visual artist was recognized at an early age and nurtured by several mentors and teachers. In 1998 she connected with a group of dynamic young Canadians of diverse cultural backgrounds who were devoted to the exploration of both self and social identity through art. After an extensive exploration of many themes, Suritah's art-making now centers on her commitment to honoring her African heritage by portraying the beauty, strength and legacy of African peoples.

Suritah's accomplishments include both solo and group exhibitions in Canada and the United States. Her portraits were chosen for the sets of the TV pilot of **Trey Anthony's DA KINK IN MY HAIR**, **Ryerson University**, **YMCA** and have graced the dressing rooms of **Erykah Badu**, **Jill Scott**, **Maxwell**, **Goapelle**, **Femi Kuti** and **Alicia Keys**. Collectors of Suritah's art include **Vanessa L Williams**, a featured actress on **Melrose Place** and Showtime's **SOULFOOD**, award-winning Toronto poet **D'bi Young** and singer songwriter **Erykah Badu**. Suritah has also designed the album cover for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the book cover for D'bi Young's Book, *Rivers and Other Blackness between Us*.

Suritah is equally passionate about her community as she is about her art. She is a social activist and women's rights advocate who has made community work one of her most cherished missions. For more than a decade, she has worked on numerous community arts projects in cross-cultural settings across Toronto. She is a graduate of the Assaulted Women's Child Counselor Advocate (AWCCA) program at George Brown College and a graduate of the Entrepreneurship program (YES) offered by Youth Employment Services. Suritah facilitates art workshops for women and youth survivors of violence at various Toronto agencies. Her community work has included coordinating and

facilitating murals for Amnesty's 60th anniversary celebration (Urban Canvas Project), the Red Door Shelter, Toronto Housing and other community agencies throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

In 2004, Suritah received a grant from the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation in support of her on-going career. And in 2009, she was awarded an Ontario Arts Council grant to teach mask making workshops that also serve as a space for open dialogue for women of colour. In addition to her line of greeting cards, Sweet Like Mangoe Creations, Suritah has also launched Black Lily Creative, an arts organization that provides arts services to underserved communities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SWEET LIKE MANGOE CREATIONS

SWEET LIKE MANGOE CREATIONS is a line of gift cards and prints based on the vibrant and celebratory paintings by African-Canadian visual artist Suritah Teresa Wignall.

Sweet Like Mangoe was launched in 2004 after noticing that some people loved her paintings but could not always afford to buy an original. To provide a suitable alternative, she used the imagery of her paintings to create art cards and prints.

Suritah's paintings are filled with exuberance, colour and light; and she puts her heart into each piece she produces. Her art is inspired by the African Diasporic culture and incorporates artistic influences from all over the world.

Sweet Like Mangoe art cards explore diverse themes. They also reflect the eclectic textures and media of the original paintings created using fabrics, acrylics, oils and watercolors:

- *A new day*, originally done in acrylics, African fabric and oils, represents the beauty of being alive and how each day lived is a new day for growth, opportunity and learning.
- *Black man loves his child*, based on the watercolor and acrylic original piece, pays homage to all the black male fathers who love and support their children.
- *Grandmas Love*, reproduced from the original acrylic and oils painting was a commissioned by the Stephen Lewis Foundation Jazz compilation. The image represents how the support, wisdom and love of our elders is key to transferring knowledge to younger generations. Our ancestors play a vital role in keeping us connected to our roots.
- *And she's infinite*, originally done in acrylics on canvas, depicts how one can begin to discover the wisdom and strength within with a little help from the spirit world - or in this case, a friendly hummingbird.

Sweet Like Mangoe is sold in Canada, the U.S Australia and Kenya. For more details, please contact us.

**Sweet Like Mangoe Creations
By Suritah Teresa Wignall
www.sweetlikemangoe.com
416 389 4179**