

JAMES E. WOODY



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Woody, is one of the world's first proclaimed and recognized African-American Transpersonal Artist, a self-taught visionary painter, concept developer and communicator of new ideals. He creates art because of his belief that "Transpersonal Art" may in some way depict an approaching worldview, that "art is life and life is sacred". His paintings are collected by eclectic, visionary and informed art collectors and foundations.

Woody spent most of his formative adult years as a resident of New York City. His "career" began during the mid- 1970's, as an account executive with a direct response advertising firm for McGraw Hill Publishing Co., specializing in demographic and psycho-graphic research. He then joined the marketing team of Prince Matchabelli, a perfume house that was founded in 1926 by Georges and Norina Matchabelli. The owner of the brand since 1987 is Unilever an Anglo-Dutch Company.

It was in 1978, that he was discovered by Harry Coulianous, the former Art Director of G.Q. Magazine and would become one of the first African-American men to appear in five consecutive editorial issues of the magazine, including its cover.

His international modeling assignments included fashion shows and press kits for Giorgio Armani, Yves Saint Laurent, Bill Kieserman, Gianni Versace and many others. Additionally, his list of editorial and commercial appearances, both print and television, have included some of the most respected and well-known brands in the world.

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In the early 1980's, he would reiterate his belief that people of color were not monolithic and create a statistical analysis that subsequently helped father inclusion for people of color into major brand advertising campaigns.

At only 25 years of age, he set his sights to publish an international fashion and beauty magazine for women of color entitled 'Allure'. The historic accounts of the 'Allure' has many versions, but the rise and fall of this, his first major venture, would leave a lasting impression and set his life anew.

During the mid-1980's, he became a partner at CR2, a corporate communications firm that began creating images to document humanities' relationship with emerging technologies, for numerous fortune 500 companies across a broad spectrum of industries including, robotics, office automation and telecommunications. It was then, that he seriously began studying philosophies such as; Humanism and art movements including the Futurist, the DADA's and various other forms of expressionist art.

It was also during those years, that he first adopted the philosophy of "transpersonal art" and coined the phrase "be sensitive, to yourself, our environment and each other". It was almost by accident that he began painting and entrusted into a world of access and in some cases relationships with those he names as his greatest inspirations of that era, including artist like; Shanga Kapharo, Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, David LaSalle, Keith Haring, Julian Schnabel and others.

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During the early-1990's, as the world ushered in the commercialization of the Internet, he would release himself from a self-imposed seclusion by an inherent interest, awakened by the global implications of the World Wide Web.

His first advisory assignment came from the founders of the New York Web, a Netscape Beta Company, credited with helping to launch one of the first successfully embraces of e-commerce without human intervention. So like a missionary, he set out to help introduce the 'W.W.W' as the new media property and distribution network.

His assignments included most notable work with American Express, Inner City Broadcasting, Simon and Schuster, Nike World Games, CBS Sports Online, Advance Digital Technologies, Digital Technologies Corporation and various other institutional giants. He would also join a technology think-tank responsible for the development of the New York Information Center and help spearhead a movement to address New York City's ever growing demand for bandwidth.

He has been afforded the privilege of helping to define the introduction of internet access for the hospitality industry and worked with several Internet start-up companies, some credited with the introduction of wireless networks and the development of early stage wireless intelligent network devices.

It was during the early-2000 that Woody's interest would evolve to include international finance and commodities, focusing his attention on developing countries and financial services for high net worth individuals, governments and nonprofit organizations.

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With decades of experience in socially-minded finance and business academics, Woody helped author the concept of integrated funding to encourage investments in the US manufacturing sector and has cultivated an extensive network of global impact investment professionals. Having served as Managing Partner with the Andice Group of Companies, he still actively promotes impact investment principles and collaboration among investors from around the world.

Woody, has also rendered his skill to various US and global nonprofit organizations and recently co-founded the **Be Sensitive Foundation**, a private philanthropic initiative seeking to raise public awareness of the issues faced by gifted and talented children. The Foundation's advocacy and campaigning initiative entitled: **Be Remarkable Projects**, are online communities help gifted and talented become active social contributors of their talent for the good of the global community.

Above all that "Woody" may appear to be, he is an artist, a solution-oriented problem solver; a seeker of answers to the mystery of the transformative process of growth and the metamorphosis of the world of human experiences, consciousness and spirit. He is a man of considerable intellectual curiosity who ranges wide in his reading and thinking, a thinker who plumbs a world of ideas found in philosophy, psychology, anthropology, and ancient cultures, mythology and literature to find inspiration for his work.

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"Woody" is on a mission to demystify the concept of transpersonal experiences. Observing him during the creation of a painting you instantly know that he is creating art which entrains access to higher states of consciousness. His work shows us that this journey called life is not always easy, but rather the fruits of suffering and self-sacrifice, yet there is a redemption made possible by a higher dimensional entity. He believes, it is only when one surrenders the over-managing, controlling, devising mind that something greater is manifest, that this "new art" would spot, then depict new ways of seeing, new modes of being, new forms of cognition, new heights or depths of feeling and in all cases, new modes of perception. He hopes his art work will allow him to become a catalyst for helping others to discover their self empowered inner wisdom—the single most powerful and lasting seed of change!

He considers himself a seeker of answers to the mystery of the transformative process of growth and metamorphosis. He can be classified as a learner of all things beautiful and he hopes and even expects that his transpersonal based art will one day be the cutting edge for changes in our culture, social and political spheres. Seeking to give visual expression to his concepts, to employ the sources and principals of Transpersonal Art and design psychology into the creation of his paintings. His objective is to regenerate his collectors with the ability to manifest and create a portal for representations that will be some way helpful and make a way for viewers to find a sensory realm for their eyes to perceive and remember their personal redeeming "inner life", bringing life to a philosophy of intention, preparation and possibilities.

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Although it would be impossible to recapitulate his life in this short allocation of time and space, below is a favorite of his many writings, trusting it most exemplifies his essence.

"When listening at the canvas, I only ask of myself to take the space-time to dwell with the work in its such-ness, making every part of the process a trance inducing play, rather than racing to a foregone conclusion that I hold somewhere in my head.

Every moment is complete in itself. With art and life, there is space and opportunity at every phase for invention". James e. Woody, 2009.