

*All Female  
Multi Artist Show*

March 20, 2010

Featuring the women of  
*Sistas Sayin' Somethin'*



*To foster the expression of HER*

*we are defining HER*

*by being HER*

*without limiting HER*

Produced by  
*Culture starts with ART!* & Evolutionary Girls



# HER

All Female Multi Artists Show

## Act 1

Marie Starr w/ Ana Barry on percussion  
Ana Barry  
Cayla Saule w/ Taryn Highsmith on keyboard  
Rain  
Video Screening  
Ariana Highsmith  
LadyAvalon  
Sophia Lamont  
Basics  
Video Screening  
Lori Hirleten  
Lori D. Nolasco  
Sword & Scarab

### 15 minute intermission:

Please be sure to view the wall work by our Visual Artist and submit your name for a **prize drawing!**

## Act. 2

Laurie MacFarlane  
Lauren Faggiano-keyboard  
Lu Highsmith w/Lauren Faggiano on percussion  
AmandaGrace-guitar  
Blackspear w/Laura Cat on percussion  
Erica Eaton about EvoGirls  
Video Screening  
Jenna Rossi  
Kupid  
Chan. McKenzie  
Prize Drawing  
Marie Starr

If you'd like to learn more about our organizations and/or join please sign in at the artist table or call **585-442-5432**, email or view us online.

**The Evolutionary Girls Club** - Evo Girls is an international group of artists, scholars and activists who deal with issues around voice, access and privilege through the making and exhibiting of art, (be it visual, written, or any other form). The group has done art exhibitions and workshops in Ukraine, Germany, the United States, Sweden, Poland, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Japan, Finland, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Guyana... We publish a book once a year. Anyone who is interested in art and activism can join. You don't need to be a girl by identity or genetics. The groups name stemmed from a play on words. We recognized that in order to "make it" in many realms one must qualify for and join the "old boys club." We did not want to limit ourselves to what is old (history) or new (trendy). We are interested in both/and, in growth...in evolving as a community and as individuals.

[spiraltri@hotmail.com](mailto:spiraltri@hotmail.com): Erica Eaton

[www.evolutionarygirls.com](http://www.evolutionarygirls.com)

**Culture starts with ART!** -C.S.W.A formed in 2007, is an artist advocacy group reaching for world peace & happiness of all humanity through the Universal language----ART! We strive to provide community support using creative expression via public performances, fund raisers and increasing cultural awareness through the universal language- ART! *Express yourself-Don't Repress Yourself!*  
**Culture starts with ART!**

**Sistas Sayin' Somethin'**- SSS is a CSWA female artist support group, that allows women to be true to their Female ART expressions without judgment. Mission: To foster the expression of HER! We are defining HER, by being HER, without limiting HER! All proceeds will go towards funding a collective of SSS artists works to place in an anthology.

[c\\_s\\_w\\_a@yahoo.com](mailto:c_s_w_a@yahoo.com),

[www.Myspace.com/culturestartswithart](http://www.Myspace.com/culturestartswithart)

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

### Hedonist Artisan Chocolates

674 South Ave.  
Rochester NY 14620

### Woman's Coffee Connection

681 South Ave.  
Rochester NY 14620

### Equal Grounds

750 South Ave.  
Rochester NY 14620

### Avenue Pub

522 Monroe Ave.  
Rochester NY 14607

### Flat Iron Cafe

561 State St./14608  
Rochester, NY 14608

### Flying Squirrel

285 Clarissa St.  
Rochester, NY 14608

## *Sistas Sayin' Somethin'*

<b>M.C.</b>	Diane Conway
<b>Interpreters</b>	Steph Sforza and Amanda O'Hearn
<b>Musicians:</b>	AmandaGrace, Lauren Faggiano, Laura Cat
<b>Visual Artists</b>	Leigh-Anne Francis, Keli Cahill, Millena Latimer, Wolfgrrrl, Marie Starr, Erica Eaton, Tammy Renee Brackett, Jax DeLuca, Cielo Ornelas MacFarlane, JJ Love, Missy Carr Mili Pradhan, Felice Koenig, Lady Avalon, Vel Capewell Donna Cantanzaro, Melanie Heinrich, Paloma Ayala
<b>Canvas</b>	Francesca Lalanne-Jeune
<b>Dancers</b>	Laurie MacFarlane, Sword & Scarab
<b>Poets</b>	Lu Highsmith, Lori Hirtelen, Chan. McKenzie, Marie Starr Rain, Lady Avalon, Sophia Lamont, Cupid, Jenna Rossi, Lori D. Nolasco, BlackSpear
<b>Lil' Miss Sayin' Somethins</b>	Cayla Saule, Ana Barry, Ariana Highsmith, Taryrn Highsmith, Cielo Ornelas MacFarlane

---



---

<b>Coordinator Production</b>	Diane Conway
<b>Coordinator Visual Art</b>	Erica Eaton
<b>Coordinator Music</b>	Lu Highsmith
<b>Coordinator Movement/Dance</b>	Pam Davis
<b>Coordinator Spoken Art</b>	Diane Conway & Lu Highsmith
<b>Coordinator Sponsorship</b>	Sophia Lamont
<b>Posters &amp; Programs</b>	Chan. McKenzie

**Melanie Heinrich** is a master photographer having used her first camera some 44 years ago. She has owned a commercial photography studio, taught in the university setting, and had her work shown and published internationally. She has written several books, made several documentary videos and designed and created unique furniture pieces. She can be considered an interdisciplinary artist. View her work at [melanieheinrich.com](http://melanieheinrich.com)

**Tammy Renée Brackett** has a BA from Alfred University and an MFA in Electronic Integrated Art from the School of Art and Design at Alfred University. She has exhibited work in China, Japan, Croatia, Hungary, and the United States and is a recipient of the College Art Association Professional Development Fellowship for Visual Artists, funded by the NEA. Her work has been included in the Albright Knox's biennial exhibition, *Beyond/In* Western NY in 2005 and 2007. Her recent installation, *(In)formation*, was included in the IDEAS2009 exhibition at the Ball State Museum of Art. She has been a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Art and Design at Alfred University and Director of the Loupe Gallery in Prattsburgh, NY. Brackett is currently an Assistant Professor of Digital Media and Animation and Director of the Llewellyn Gallery at Alfred State College.

**Cynthia Brone, aka Lady Avalon**, is a local writer and budding photographer. She holds a MA degree in clinical psychology and has examined the power of writing to heal in academic research. Of CSWA she says: "I am deeply grateful for the efforts of CSWA, and hope for a long association with the amazing women of SSS." Of her current photographic work she writes: "Winter is a magical time to shoot... A time when the ordinary and unremarkable become transformed by frost, ice, snow, and refractive sunlight. Structure and form are revealed in frosty etchings. The geometry of the mundane suddenly revealed in crystalline outlines of delicate frost. Muddy or turbid colors vibrate and glow against contrasting icy winter whites. Boring weeds become wondrous and dramatic green-frosted etchings." View her latest work on Red Bubble or follow along on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/ladyavalonart>  
Red Bubble Online Gallery: <http://ladyavalon.redbubble.com/>

**wolfgrrrl aka Billijo wolf** was born and raised in St. Louis Missouri. She was trained and educated in Fine Art with a concentration in design, photography and print making. Her passion for photography was displaced for a career in woodworking and furniture design after moving to Rochester in 1969. She pursued this vocation for thirty years till work related health issues caused her to stop. During this period she designed and created high end furniture for many Rochester architects and travelled the East Coast art show scene selling one off furniture and woodworking objects. Though the health problems are serious, they have brought wolfgrrrl back to her first passion in art, photography and printmaking. She is most noted for her photojournalism, photographic essays, *images of protest*, funded by a NYS art grant and *womyn's spirit* and contributions to the Empty Closet. These touch on her recent education in Cultural Anthropology. Her current work has moved into a fine art direction, utilizing and combining skills of photography, print-making and graphics. She completes the creative process through her own printing, matting and framing. Wolfgrrrl has had shows at Silkwood Books 1999, SUNY Brockport 1999, RJ'S, and Equal=Grounds 2009. She was the photographer and visual artist for Erotic Nights. She is a four time exhibitor in ImageArt.

**Felice Koenig** is a practicing artist with a nationwide exhibition record. Her work has been shown in New York (2001,2004, 2007), Chicago (2000, 2001), San Antonio (2002, 2003), and Portland (2004,2005,2006),as well as many smaller cities. See her full resume and a selection of her work at <http://felicekoenig.com/>

**Jenna Rossi's** poetry and essays have appeared in publications like Evolutionary Girls Artist Catalog and Sanskrit Literary/Arts Magazine. She has taught poetry workshops in Buffalo city schools and believes in art as survival and activism. She's interested in relationships between memory, identity and border-crossings.

**Cayla Saule** is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and attend Fairbanks Middle school in Churchville Chili. One of her favorite teachers is Mrs. Keese. Cayla was on the Honor Roll last qaurter and is open to learning new subjects. Cayla enjoys the gym class, after school programs and going to the school library. She likes a wide variety of music, enjoys to sing and sing with her mom at church. She likes playing out doors with friends and has a close friend by the name of Elisabeth. She enjoys watching television, playing video games, movies, writing, coloring, singing, talking on the phone being with her mommy, shopping, birthday parties, doing her nails and her mom mentioned making a mess in her bedroom. She loves all of her family and is attuned to what is going on. She is outspoken when she feels the need to and expresses her self when something bothers her. Cayla is affectionate and gives you a hug and kiss when she sees someone she cares for.

**BlackSpear aka Maisha**, A seasoned Poet and performer in the Rocheater area. Miss Maisha hosted Love Jones, a standing room only poetry open-mic that ran for over a year. Her performances includes: several plays on the Main Stage @ JCC, , Geva's Café Music, Pure Kona's Featured, and Many poetry events, and music performances in Rochester NY and outside of New York as well. Maisha's passion for live theater and literature helps her to create a sizzling brand of poetry that is refreshing. She is also a 4 time winner of the Best Speaker Award for Toast Masters International, thus making her oral delivery polished and mesmerizing. BlackSpear is grateful and excited to join the stage w/her fellow female multi- artists to perform and in brace in HER.

**Vel Capewell** Who am I? I am a woman of means. Not the middling kind, as I am way left of center, but woman who has the means to speak in more tongues than the one I was born with (that is most times locked in a perpetual state of war with my inner Director of Speechification). I am thankful for my gifts as a visual artist, which give me the ability to transcend pedestrian methods of communication. I am an older woman who has finally found her voice through her inner muse who lay dormant for many years while I was held hostage by my misguided expectations of what I thought I needed to achieve: good standing as a wife, mother, daughter, all of which meant putting everyone else's needs before my own.

**JJ Love** was initially trained as a choreographer at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro before she discovered her love of all things visual. With a minor in sculpture and a major in digital multimedia from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke she went on to get her masters of fine arts degree in interdisciplinary art at Goddard College in Vermont. She is a single mother of three and works as a teacher. Her work has shown in galleries on both the east and west coast and is wildly prolific in theme and media.

**Ana Barry** is a self-proclaimed drama queen and word nerd who has spent nearly all of her fourteen years of life creating. She composed her first poem before she learned how to write and had the honor of being both the youngest featured poet ever at Pure Kona Open Mic and the youngest poet ever published in Haz Mat Literary Review. A freshman at Victor High School, Ana is currently working on organizing an event she is calling Hula Hoop for Haiti. She is hoping both to raise money for Haiti and to gather enough people together to break the current Guinness World Record (a "childhood" dream of hers) for the number of people hula hooping at the same time. For more information <http://in-fusion.blogspot.com>

**Laurie MacFarlane** has choreographed and performed for over 20 years - in theaters, studios, churches, jazz clubs, cafés, empty storefronts, street fairs and the beach at Coney Island . She has recently shown her work with the Rochester Contemporary Dance Collective; *Festival Rodara* in Puebla, Mexico; and *Festival Performática* in Cholula, Mexico. illustrate a children's book that merges historical education with social justice education.

**Pam Davis aka Treedancer** is a dancer, painter, and poet interested in the healing and transformational aspects of ART. She is inspired by color, rhythm, trees & truth.

**Diane Conway** Has been writing & performing her poetry & prose close to 26 yrs. Dramatic poetess

writer

theatre actress

radio on-air personality

voice-over actress

entertainer producer

Founder of Erotic Night, Open Mic.

Founder of CSWA , SSS & promoter

ArtWalk '08- Spoken Art curator

**Sword and Scarab** is a Middle Eastern Dance Troupe that was created to promote the Art and Culture of Middle Eastern Dance through Public Education and Awareness. Sword and Scarab is the only Middle Eastern Dance Troupe in Rochester that creates and utilizes its own choreography. The choreography is rooted and reflected from specific traditional dances of the Middle East as well as non-traditional fusion styles. Under the Artistic Direction of Kalilah & Kamira, Sword and Scarab is a Dance Troupe that performs a range of dances such as: Folkloric/Beledi (Raks Shaabi/Raks Baladi), American Tribal, Egyptian Oriental (Raks Sharqi), Turkish Oriental (Danse Tansi), African, Cane (Raks Assaya), Sword, Water Jug (Raks Balas), Candle (Pharonic), Veil, and Fusion style dances. On a Personal Note: We believe this beautiful dance form should be presented with truth and clarity. Sword and Scarab strives to create and keep a positive environment in which all dancers may come together. We foster the spirit of friendship, humility and respect for each other. We encourage artistic ability with an open mind and heart for all. For all those who come together, we wish them to have the ability to reach the greatest potential within themselves and in our communities. [www.swordandscarabdance.com](http://www.swordandscarabdance.com)

**Kalilah** has been dancing all her life. She started out with Tap, Jazz and Ballet, but found her true love of dance when she discovered Middle Eastern Dance. She started over 25 years ago when she started taking Middle Eastern dance lessons with the Bal Aziza Dance Troupe of Rochester. During her membership with Bal Aziza, Kalilah has held positions such as Artistic Director, Choreographer, Costume Director, Stage Manager, and Publicist. Kalilah is now the Artistic Director, Choreographer and Publicist for her own Troupe, *Sword and Scarab*. She started her Middle Eastern Dance career with Egyptian Oriental (Raks Sharqi) and Turkish cabaret styles of dance (Danse Tansi). She prefers the more Fokloric aspects to the dance or what is better known as Raks Shaabi. These dance styles would include: Cane (Raks Assaya), Tunisian, Shikat and North African styles of Bedouin Dance. Kalilah still travels extensively to study with the Masters of the dance. She has studied with Morocco, Serena, Elena, Aisha Ali, Lelia Haddad, Jamilla Al Wahid, John Compton of Habi Ru, Delilah, and many others. She has been teaching for 17 years and is currently working to educate the public through diversity and cultural awareness. Kalilah currently teaches at the University of Rochester, guest teaches at the University of Brockport, and is a mentor through Empire State College. She also teaches through Rochester's many Community Centers as well as within her home studio. Kalilah has received many awards for her teaching, and is highly respected for her knowledge and efforts in supporting the education, cultural and historical aspects of Middle Eastern Dance. Sword and Scarab has sponsored many events such as The Rochester Raks Series. Kalilah is often asked to be a guest performer in many events. She has even had the pleasure of guest performing with the Belly Dance Super Stars!

**Paloma Ayala**—Native of Mexico, Paloma studied her BFA at the University of Monterrey Mexico, (2002, UdeM). In 2003 she received her Professional Teaching Degree (Arte A.C.) and started working as a teacher in several respected schools at her hometown of Monterrey. She is currently teaching and developing her artwork in Rochester NY, where she has lived since 2005. She has participated in exhibitions in the U.S. (Buffalo and Rochester), and Monterrey, Mexico. In Rochester, she has worked as an artist and art teacher in different institutions (invited artist at City School #12, and Memorial Art Gallery) and runs her own children and adult workshops at WPK (Whipple Park, University of Rochester Student Housing). Her artwork is intended to be intriguing, provoke curiosity and awake a personal sense of self-consciousness through the deep passions and desires of our body. The images explore the human figure and its countless expressive possibilities. They address issues of identity, sexuality and moral, the physicality of the body and a combination of myths and heard stories (sources range from porno, cadavers, violence, family snapshots and nude.) Artworks are sometimes organic abstracts and deformed bodies. Other times, focus on distinctive figure studies and portraits. The human body is essential inspiration and appears in almost all her art. Late works focus on traditional drawing media. She is also interested in digital media and working with video or continuing her figure drawing interests by manipulating photographs of nude. [www.palomaayala.info](http://www.palomaayala.info)

**Donna Catanzaro** is an interdisciplinary artist living in New Hampshire. She creates amusing yet sobering, digital collages by researching topics and then juxtaposing her own photographs, artwork and text with vintage graphics to create new realities and make comments on popular culture. She is an Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at Hesser College, NH, and has an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College, VT. You can see more of her work at [www.donnacat.com](http://www.donnacat.com)

**Cielo Ornelas MacFarlane** is the daughter of two dancers who have dragged her all over the place and made her be in in all kinds of crazy-pants dances. So she decided she didn't want to be a dancer. Then she found photography. She likes photography.

**Keli Cahill** is a photographer, creative writer and poet who believes that art can be used as an important tool for social justice. Upcoming projects include merging visual and written expression on issues such as environmental concerns and the multifaceted impact of poverty here in Rochester.

**Mili Pradhan** is a visual and media artist who explores personal and haptic sensibilities in passing moments and everyday banality in search of ambiguities and altered meanings. Her works are characterized by appropriation of the social everyday into a psychological sphere of personal and cross-cultural memories.

**Erica Eaton** - I am an educator, scholar, writer, activist, traveler who often makes meaning through video and installation. I value art for its ability to create a type of knowledge. Art allows us to look at something in a new way. I do not set out to represent what is already known, but to look at what is there through different lenses. Art can tell stories that otherwise remain untold. We are able say things that would otherwise be unspeakable and hear from multiple perspectives. Art is a way to test a thesis. Often I am faced with an opening of possibilities rather than any definite conclusion when I am making or participating with art. My work attempts to make the familiar strange and the strange familiar. I am fascinated with how people make meaning, and how that meaning is applied in our lived lives. At its core, my work deals with the relationships between memory, nostalgia and meaning and how this complex web plays out socially, politically and emotionally. At its most obvious, my work deals with issues that I am passionate and curious about: race, gender, sexual orientation, class, mass amnesia, the effects of new technologies on our collective consciousness, and visions for creating new possibilities.

#### Lori Hirtelen

I am a lesbian feminist, survivor, poet and mother of two daughters.

I have been a lawyer, a cook, a baker, an activist and co-owner of wildseeds bookstore & cafe.

Currently, I am re-grouping but still plotting.

**Leigh-Anne Francis** is a defector from the art world, but not because she does not love art and art making. It was a fine arts education, after all, that drew her to feminist activism. Working to raise consciousness about gender oppression helped her see that feminist movements cannot be successful without addressing the experiences of women across lines of race, class, ability, sexuality, and national identity. Ultimately, youthful idealism prompted her to pursue a doctoral degree in history. Historical study, she thought, would help her to understand the development of social, economic, and political oppression in the United States. Once she understood that, she believed, she could change the world. In that way, fine arts education and art making changed her forever and for the better. At the seasoned age of thirty-five she knows that a knowledge of history will not empower her to change the world. She can contribute to social change efforts, however, in the small part of the world that she inhabits. As a history instructor for college students, she has a captive audience! In that context, historical study is a form of social justice education where students acquire knowledge of oppression, the ways in which power and privilege are linked to race, class, sexual, national, and religious identity, and resistance movements in United States history. Someday, Leigh-Anne hopes to write and illustrate a children's book that merges historical education with social justice education. Leigh-Anne Francis is a native Jamaican and a Ph.D. candidate in History at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. She is currently researching and writing a dissertation entitled "Burning Down the Cage: African American Women Prisoners in Auburn, New York, 1893 to 1933." This project explores African American, European immigrant, and native-born white women's criminal activity, experiences of incarceration, and life after prison. Leigh-Anne also teaches voluntarily at Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility for men in Annandale, New Jersey. The young men with whom she works have taught her how valuable and unexamined the privilege of freedom is in her life; for this gift, she is deeply grateful to them.

**Lauren Faggiano** is a dynamic performer, both solo & with her band The Deep Blue Dream. Her debut CD entitled: Into The Blue was released in July of 05'. Her band The Deep Blue Dream released their debut CD in August of 07' and is currently working on their 2nd studio album. She has had the honor to share the stage or was the opening act for many world class musicians including Patti Labelle, Medeski Martin and Wood, Phoebe Snow, Chuck and Phil Campbell, Jimmie Highsmith Jr., and Wycleffe Gordon. Local radio stations, 98.9 The Buzz, 88.5 WRUR, 89.7 WRUR, and 96.5 WCMF have all invited Lauren on their shows as a featured artist. Brother Wease, a well known radio personality in the Rochester area, said the following about Lauren's singing: "Bitch can sing!" Frank de Blase says "Lauren Faggiano's music is all encompassing". Lauren enjoys singing the songs of her musical inspirations Joni Mitchell, Janis Joplin, Bonnie Raitt, and Tori Amos. The influence of these legends also can be found in Lauren's original works which have become very popular with her ever-growing base of fans. When she is not performing, she works as a music therapist with adults with developmental disabilities. we are the music makers, we are the dreamers of dreams

**Jax Deluca** is an artist who lives in Buffalo, NY. Her work has taken many forms, from gallery and public installations to video/film, performance and theater productions. Her sound work uses vocal toning, electronic processing, found objects and various instrumentation ranging in the genres of avant-garde, new folk, free improv and immersive noise. Current projects include Self-Defense Mechanisms, a visual exploration of all things defensive and insulting, and live sound processing with W ((aa)) ou w, a free improvisational group.

**Lu Highsmith** - Rochester, New York native, has had several essays, news articles and poems published over the past 20 years. No matter which form she has chosen to exhibit her talents, each has been reflective of her passion for spirituality, sensuality, and social consciousness. MoodMakers Bookstore honored her as one of their featured poets in their 2006 "Poetry On TheWall". Her poem "You Said...I See" was awarded the "Poem of Honor" distinction at Mood Makers Books 2008 "Poetry on the Wall". Lu has performed nationally over the past three years. As the founder of Lucreations Publishing and Productions, her much-anticipated book of poetry, "Vicissitudes: The Ups and Downs of Life" was published in October, 2008. Lu is also an active member of CSWA (Culture Starts With Art). In January, 2009 she was featured in Minority Reporter's "Face to the Name". Lu was also featured in the Democrat and Chronicle's "Women to Watch" series in April, 2008. Lu hosts the bi-weekly "Flowetic Rhythms", featuring live poetry, music and art in Rochester, NY. Her new book of poetry and spoken-word CD "Ascension Into Love" is due for release later this year.

**Ariana Highsmith** is a 14-yr. old musician, poet and step-dancer currently attending the Rochester School of the Arts as a music major. She sits First Seat, First chair in the SOTA concert band. She is also in the Jazz Band and was a previous member of the World of Inquiry School's two-time Award-winning step-team the Crystals. As a poet, Ariana was featured in the World of Inquiry Poetry Club's June, 2009 publication.

**Shataryn aka "Taryn" Highsmith** is an 11-yr. old musician, singer and poet. She began piano lessons at age seven and is currently playing flute with the World of Inquiry School band. She is a member of the chorus at both her school, the World of Inquiry and her church, Newborn Christian Fellowship Center. Taryn is also a member of the Poetry Club.

**Marie Starr** is a writer, artist, photographer & fool who tries to use her fractal focus and obsessive tendencies to illuminate the edges of invisibility (read as: those things we spend so much time & energy denying or willfully ignoring.) She's into finding wisdom wherever she can: fortune cookies, bumper stickers, random words, snippets of conversation, bathroom walls, graffiti ... whatever, wherever, whenever ... and can usually be found around town snapping pics of locals, chasing her kids, drawing abstractions with sharpies or long & gangly sticks, writing whatever happens to spill out of her pen & reading banned books. When she's not doing any of those things, she runs a business called Serendipity 3, which is a compilation of her 3 main interests: Writing, Art & Photography (<http://serendipity3.wordpress.com/>) and maintains a blog (<http://in-fusion.blogspot.com/>) highlighting local artsy-fartsy and social-political events and (hopefully) creates a connection where artists of all types and genres, all mediums and methods, can come together and find some fusion, some fractal focus, and some fellowship. *Marie Starr* <http://www.mariestarr.blogspot.com>

**Sophia Lamont** I am a forty five year old female. I work at the University Of Rochester in the School of Nursing as a case manager for persons who suffer from eating disorders. It saddens me to say but I am facing a lay off for the first time in my life. So I am transitioning into something different. I enjoy walks in the woods, time with friends, poetry, yoga, swimming, Kayaking, walking through my neighborhood and working on my home plus my rental property. Family time is important to me and also helping out the ones I love. I realize more then ever that the young ones in my family or other people children that I know are our future and it is our duty for all of us to help them become the best adults as possible. As a woman I realize how important it is to have a voice and stand up to injustice. Also to advocate for the ones that are not capable without enabling.

**Amanda Grace**- is out of Buffalo. She is a folk musician and poet enthusiast. Her most recent work is a book of art & poetry entitled *v, "Of a Night Ending,"* addressing issues of violence against women, rape, and inequality. [www.myspace.com/amandagracepoetry](http://www.myspace.com/amandagracepoetry)

**Missy Carr** is an artist and an educator living in the metro DC area. She creates both small and large-scaled paintings using a variety of mixed media. Her paintings explore the concepts of gender identity, beauty, and isolation, using animals for subject matter.

**Kupid** I started writing at the age of 10 and I haven't stopped since. I am inspired by the everyday world around us and the fantasy that us humans tend to ignore. The works of Frost, Angelou, and Lourde have broadened my poetic horizon; allowing me to reach deep within the situations we face everyday. I like to especially focus on the many facets of love--both in its simplest and most complicated forms. I am a member of RAPIER, and I perform every Wednesday at Clarissa's located right at the end of Clarissa Street. Hopefully by the close of summer, my first book will be prepped for publishing! I am always excited to perform but always even more excited to soak in inspiration from my fellow artists.

**Francesca Lalanne-Jeune** was born in South Florida of Haitian parents and, after graduating from Miami's Design Architecture School, received a BA in Architecture in 2003 and BFA in Visual Arts in 2005--- both from Florida International University. She has held three solo exhibitions in South Florida, as well as participating in various local and international group exhibitions from 2000 to 2007, including such venues as Hunter College in New York, Miami's Frost Art Museum, Sao Paulo Brazil, and Art Miami. Francesca's penetrating paintings on curved and distressed plywood persistently evoke the turbulent nature of sociological events, and their effect on the human soul. Watch this skillful, talented, young artist shoulder as she captures the energy on her wooden canvas! View her website for yourself [www.humanissimus.com](http://www.humanissimus.com)

**Millena Latimer** For as long as I can remember art has played a major role in my life, as creating allowed me to express myself when I otherwise may not have been able to. I knew from a young age that I wanted a career where I could use my creativity. Interestingly enough, my initial career choice was architecture; until I was forced into the mean creativity-squelching world of mathematics; whereby my intended major was thrown out the window... thus graphic design became my new focus. I graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2007 with a BFA in graphic design and a minor in photography. I consider myself both a student of life and an artist. I feel that in being an artist there is an element of freedom of expression that allows me to be simultaneously eccentric yet I retain a certain degree of normalcy. I am inspired predominantly by nature and architecture because in my eyes there is a deeper quality in the beauty of my surroundings. I believe that it is easy to get caught up with daily tasks and many of us do not see our surroundings for what they are. We simply don't have time. As Georgia O'Keefe once said... "When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else. Most people in the city rush around so, they have no time to look at a flower. I want them to see it whether they want to or not." My aim is to help people realize the beauty of their surroundings and to help them obtain a deeper appreciation for what is often overlooked. Photography is my chosen media because I am a realist as well as somewhat of a perfectionist. I like to capture life as it is in the moment, and I find myself frustrated when things do not come out like I see them in my minds eye. I often find in my daily life, opportunities when I wish I could recreate an image. I wish I could look at something and blink my eyes and preserve the image in my mind, and make it tangible to share my vision with others. I have enjoyed photographing elements that I find both humbling and inspiring, and if I can help just one person to stop and appreciate the world around them, I will have been a success.

**Chan. McKenzie** is poet, artist, author, parent, wife, friend, sister, history buff, and administrator... All of me is possible because of the incredible 'hers' who have loved, enriched or guided me through this life worth living. I have been fortunate to be able to share my work continuously over the past several decades, in many different places and spaces. I have been blessed to have a choice of the manner and form from which my sharing emerges. Finally, I can say now that I am old enough to know how, brave enough to challenge my own views and young enough to embrace the growth from 'try'. My third poetry collection, *Naked City Blues* is available at <http://www.lulu.com/content/1912288>