

Addonis Parker

BIOGRAPHY

The force behind Addonis Parker's images was born out of love of creation and the respect and honor of his past forerunners who had neither the opportunities nor the civil rights to become the artist that he is today. He is an American artist who paints and understands the impact of his contributions as an artist to his community. Addonis Parker was well known in Central Florida, Atlanta, Georgia art circles before coming to Miami. He has been recognized for his artistic ability since the age of 4. He is an accomplished portrait painter, muralist and collage painter. Addonis attended Brevard Community College in Florida majoring in Art and Computer Science. He attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia obtaining continuing education credits in Art History & Music, and started an AUC Center art group from 1997 to 1998. It was then that Addonis became involved in after-school and community based art programs as the Program Director for recreation art, and science classes at the YMCA.

Mr. Parker is very sensitive to the needs of young people today. Endeavoring to help steer them in a better direction, he gives time and talent to the youth of his community, teaching art, working with youth on public mural projects, and mentoring. His talent has served as a meaningful vehicle to accomplish these tasks. His work with the community influences his body of work and serves as a reminder to all of the beauty of African-American culture.

Addonis Parker's paintings are strong and real. He captures the strength of character, deep emotional expressions and struggles of Black life in a manner that only a few have dared to paint. Addonis was deeply inspired by the works and life stories of Charles White and Ernie Barnes. He shares their philosophy of using art to address social issues and inspire a sense of pride in the minds and hearts of all towards Black people. His paintings are his voice, a voice of love for his people.

His love and talent for art is almost innate. Inspired by family, life experiences, and his own struggles with life in the inner city even being homeless himself for a while, Addonis made the decision to give back to the inner city by teaching art and establishing art programs for inner city kids in Miami. From the YMCA to group homes for boys and the juvenile justice system to his own Art Forever Studio in Miami, Addonis is striving to reach the hearts and artistic minds of at-risk youths. The titles he has held in that regard have almost been as many as the awards he's received and pieces he has done for several city and state governments, major corporations, and educational facilities.