

## ***Elfreda I. Bartley-Henson***

### ***Artist***

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Website:

***M***y name is Elfreda I. Bartley-Henson. I was born in St. Andrew, Jamaica in the early sixties. My 5 siblings and I lived in Jamaica until 1972 when my parents moved us to Santa Barbara, California. I grew up there and graduated high school in 1981 from Santa Barbara High school. My dream was to become a Registered Nurse and in 1983 I attended Nursing School becoming an LPN in 1984, one step towards my goal. Life brought me to the state of Florida and then Texas where I continued my nursing career. Over the next 19 years I successfully attained licensure for LPN in the state of California, Florida, Texas, Delaware and Louisiana.

The year 2000 was an exciting year, I traveled to Italy and became fascinated with the art and architecture; it awakened a creative gift deep inside me, a new direction for my career. In 2001 I relinquished nursing due to my husband traveling and stayed home raising my two children. After purchasing our first home I developed the art of decorating and it inspired me to become an interior Decorator. During that time I traveled Europe and reside in Germany for about a year, further awaking my love of art and architecture. Returning to the United States in 2004, we landed in Massachusetts where I started my new venture in Interior Decorating.

In the scope of my training, I acquired the knowledge of framing of which I give my appreciation to Les Campbell, owner of Sky Meadow Gallery in Belchertown, MA. My acquired skills of faux marbleizing were nurtured by Cheryl Hutto at Crow Hills Studios in the Berkshire. While looking for a place to showcase my work, I found a Studio called Valley Hands, an Artist collaboration Studio and store in Northampton, MA where I placed my tables on consignment with the Owner and Artist, Dorene Pennell. During the course of my business with Valley Hands, I met an Artist by the name of Tracy Chafe who I became acquainted with and I was fascinated with her work; and she was willing to teach me her trade of oil painting, to further my skills; I absolutely loved it. My creative side found a new outlet and I am continually learning and trying different mediums. Betsy Koscher is another artist who has become a mentor on my artistic journey. After starting yet another job on my career journey I am employed with the Home Depot for the past 12 yrs and have worked 9 years in the Paint Department in which I have acquired product knowledge skills and appreciation for color manipulation where I was able to use my skills and provide on the job color consultation to my customers and product knowledge, 2 and half years as a Head Cashier, Supervising and training Cashiers and Lot Associates.

My love of Art and Interior Decorating has brought much joy to my life and I would love to share it with you. I have shown my paintings in 2015 at Art for the Soul Art Gallery in Springfield, MA, 2020 - PAMUSA (Black History) Art Museum, 2019 - South Hadley Public Library, 2017- Atkins Farm, Hadley, MA, and 2015 -The Green Bean Restaurant, Northampton, MA I also started a new venture with my Art, a Clothing line using my Artwork and a Interior Design Color Consulting Service.

Looking forward to working with you,

***Elfreda I. Bartley-Henson***