

Luvon Sheppard

Nationally recognized painter and illustrator; highly acclaimed School of Art-Fine Arts Studio professor, Luvon Sheppard presents his creative narratives reproductions.

While Sheppard has often portrayed urban life and African-Americans' battle for equal rights, his paintings revel in visionary biblical imagery. For example his watercolor *Yea* shows a solitary man beside a gargantuan train, with an image of Jesus Christ breaking through the clouds.

Sheppard states that, "As a young child, I felt strange vibrations around me as I looked around at the clouds. Separated from my mother and father, I *knew* there was a God."

A resident of Rochester since he was five years old, Sheppard received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Rochester Institute of Technology, where he is a full professor in the School of Art and Design. (Luvon has also taught at SUNNY Brockport and Geneseo Universities.)

Sheppard's paintings reflect his involvement in Rochester community life. He is known for his watercolor street scenes and portraits of local African-American heroes, including abolitionist Frederick Douglass, choreographer and dancer Garth Fagan, and community activist Mildred Johnson.

His work is in the permanent collections of the Memorial Art Gallery, the City of Rochester, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the University of Seoul, S. Korea, The Henrietta School District, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester Savings Bank, Garth Fagan Dance, and many other institutions.

Luvon Sheppard has always played an active leadership role in the Rochester arts community, served on many boards, and lectured on the arts for diverse audiences. In 1970 Sheppard became the Memorial Art Gallery's first neighborhood affairs coordinator. He also was instrumental in the creation of the Allofus Workshop, a groundbreaking organization created to provide community art classes. Over the years, Luvon has received many awards and has made numerous appearances on local television stations. For over 35 years he has

lectured throughout the greater Rochester area and serves on several committees and boards.

Luvon Sheppard is the Director of the Joy Gallery in Rochester New York.