

Michelle Bowen

Biography

Michelle Bowen is a fine artist and communications professional who lives and works in Upstate New York. Self-taught, Bowen's work takes a critical view of ingrained social constructs and thinking patterns accepted as absolute and fixed. Her current project, Huelitic Code, exposes the vulnerabilities and limitations of humanity's most significant construct, language. By changing each letter of the English alphabet to color (i.e., 26 unique colored rectangles), Bowen's work provokes a look beyond the "four walls" of language and its perceived fundamental nature. The resulting content conveys something common yet unique, familiar yet foreign; thus, confounding the original text and calling into question assumptions about meaning, certainty, identity, and truth.

Bowen first conceived the Huelitic Code in 2004 after watching the news of yet another terrorist attack perpetrated "in the name of God." The use of the word "God" in this manner triggered in her an intense passion for disrupting how we perceive language -- and in the end -- each other and the world around us. Whether it's about religion, race, gender, political affiliation, etc., her work suggests that the time has come to see words through the Huelitic Code prism in an effort to evoke genuine social change.

Bowen earned an M.A. in Mass Communications from the University of South Florida. Her continued and intense interest in linguistics, anthropology, psychology, and architecture, along with an early childhood fascination with abstract art, has shaped her visual and conceptual sensibilities.

In 2019, Bowen had her first solo exhibition to introduce the Huelitic Code at ACCR's main gallery in Troy, NY. The show received thousands of visitors and significant media coverage, including being named "[Best of Capital Region Visual Arts 2019: About masters and some who deserve to be masters](#)" by the Schenectady Gazette, alongside nine other exhibits. Bowen's work is also currently featured online at two group exhibitions: FOKUS/Insight Magazine's "[Symbols](#)" (Brooklyn, NY) and Saratoga Art Association's "[Breaking the Grid](#)" (Saratoga Springs, NY). She was recently honored to be selected to participate in the NYSCA-funded 2020 Critical Artist Forum.

The presented artworks for the 85th Annual National Juried Exhibition are from Bowen's recent solo exhibit, entitled, "Huelitic Code: Language Through a Prism." A 360-tour of this exhibition can be viewed at Bowen's website: www.HueliticCode.com or www.michellebowenart.com.

Follow Michelle Bowen on Instagram @michellebowenart.