

# MICHAEL BELL

E-mail: [michaelbell@mbellart.com](mailto:michaelbell@mbellart.com) | Website: [www.MBELLART.com](http://www.MBELLART.com)

---



## BIOGRAPHY

Michael Bell is a renowned American artist (b. 1971) most famous for his large, cinematic, psychological thriller paintings revolving around themes on power, money, fame and sex. Bell is also known for his infamous portrait painting clientele, which has included the late John Gotti and numerous actors from the "Sopranos", "Goodfellas", "A Bronx Tale" and more.

Born April 10th, on his Mother's birthday, Bell won 1st Place in his first juried art exhibition at the age of 5. As an emerging artist Bell spent a lot of time in and around New York City studying art with his maternal grandmother, a self-taught artist from Lyndhurst, New Jersey. It was during this time period when Bell began exploring life's very personal and psychological issues visually through his paintings.

In addition to Bell's contributions to the art world, Bell has written his first screenplay based on the real-life events surrounding his "TICKET TO RIDE™" painting series. His first three paintings in the series were debuted at a star-studded launch party in New York City and his screenplay is being developed into a full-length feature film. Backed by an impressive list of credentials, Michael Bell is steadily becoming just as famous as many of the celebrities he has painted.

---

## STATEMENT

"Painting, for me, is a dynamic process of self-exploration and a constructive way for me to give form and expression to an internal experience. I draw on meaning, and while I spend a lot of time on the surface of each painting, it's the inside of my subjects that I'm really after.

I'm also concerned with interconnections formed between my works therefore I present my thematic series paintings in a specific viewing order. The culminating exhibition becomes a cinematic world where stories are born...and a direct reflection of all that was revealed to me during intense moments of personal clarity.

All I am is what I create. It's my blessing to share with the world."

A handwritten signature of Michael Bell in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'B' and a long, sweeping underline.

## EDUCATION

**M.Ed., Fine Arts, 2004**

Towson University, Towson, MD

**B.A., Fine Arts, 1994**

Lycoming College, Williamsport, PA

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- "Alumni Show"** - Lycoming Art Gallery, Williamsport, PA, 2011
- "Gifts for the Arts"** - Muddy Creek Artists Show, Edgewater, MD, 2010
- "Artists on the Half Shell"** - Muddy Creek Artists Show, Edgewater, MD 2009
- "Darkest Dreams a Lighted Way"** - Fort Gondo Compound for Arts, St. Louis, MO 2008
- "Per Amore del Cioccolato"** - South Shore Cultural Center, Chicago, IL 2007
- "Voices of Violence"** - Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA 2005
- "Eire: The Spirit of the Emerald Isle"** - Los Angeles, CA 2005
- "A Joining of Minds & Hands"** - Center Stage, Baltimore, MD 2005
- "Good Shepherd Gala"** - Millenium Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, CA 2005
- "Safe Passage Wings of Flight Gala"** - Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA 2005
- "The Golden Age of Gangsters"** - Chicago, IL 2004
- "Revisitation"** - Two-Man Show, Powys Gallery, Red Bank, NJ 2004
- "Ireland"** - Two-Man Show, Zwaanendael Gallery of Art, Lewes, DE 2004
- "The Milton Theatre Project"** - Two-Man Show, Milton Theatre, DE, 2003
- "The Family Shelter Service Greek Gala"** - Chicago, IL, 2003
- "Graduate Program Alumni Show"** - Towson Commons Gallery, Towson, MD 2003
- "Artists Capturing Mentors"** - Chesapeake Arts Center, Brooklyn, MD 2003
- "Artists Capturing Mentors"** - Chesapeake Arts Center, Brooklyn, MD 2002
- "Practice What We Preach"** - MSTA Headquarters, Annapolis, MD 2002
- "It's Raining Children, Women & Men"** - Arundel Mills Mall, Hanover, MD 2001

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS & UNVEILINGS

- "Ticket to Ride"** - Community Arts Center, Williamsport, PA 2011
- "Lunar on the Bay Gala"** - The Vanderbilt, Staten Island, NY 2009
- "Stars & Cigars Red Carpet Portrait Unveiling"** - The Vanderbilt, Staten Island, NY 2008  
*with Frank Vincent, Joe Gannascoli and Dominic Chianese of "The Sopranos."*
- "Ticket to Ride Launch Party"** - The Plumm, New York, NY 2008
- "The Cinema of Truth"** - Galleria Red, Long Beach Island, NJ 2006
- "Portrait Unveiling for Dr. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools"** - Baltimore, MD 2005
- "Portrait Unveiling for Aida Bogosian of Michael B. Jewelers"** - Hollywood, CA 2005
- "Portrait Unveiling for Georgia Durante, Hollywood Stuntwoman"** - Hollywood, CA 2003
- "Michael Bell: Recent Works"** - Zwaanendael Gallery of Art, Lewes, DE 2003
- "Portrait Unveiling of Tony Sirico, Joe Pantoliano & John Fiore of The Sopranos"** - Soup as Art, Brooklyn, New York 2002
- "Albert Schweitzer Leadership Awards"** - Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA 2002
- "Portrait Unveiling for Sofia Milos of CSI: Miami"** - The Four Seasons, Beverly Hills, CA 2002
- "Playhouse Mural Unveiling"** - Lowes Hotel, Annapolis, MD 2002
- "3rd Avenue Festival of Hope with The Sopranos"** - Soup as Art, Brooklyn, NY 2001
- "Portrait Unveiling In Memory of Robert Cordice"** - Squad 1, Brooklyn, NY 2001
- "Portrait Unveiling for Sopranos Joe Gannascoli"** - Soup as Art, Brooklyn, NY 2001
- "Portrait Unveiling for 9.11 Auction"** - Rascals Comedy Club, West Orange, NJ 2001  
*with "King of Queens" star Kevin James and Steven R. Schirripa of "the Sopranos"*

## AWARDS & HONORS

- 2012 **Created "Studio for Learning" Projects for Eric Fischl's "AMERICA: NOW AND HERE"**  
**NAEA 2012 National Art Honor Society Sponsor of the Year Nominee**
- 2011 **Outstanding Young Educator of the Year Finalist**
- 2010 **National Board Certification** (one of just 3% of all the Nation's Educators)
- 2009 **U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Presenter Award**
- 2005 **Maryland State Teachers of the Year Excellence in Education Award**  
**Los Angeles Good Shepherd Community Service Award**  
**Who's Who in America**  
**Bedrock Media Excellence in Design Award**
- 2004 **Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year Award**  
**Governor's Citation for Excellence in Education Award**  
**Anne Arundel County Council Citation Award**
- 2003 **Who's Who Among America's Teachers**
- 2002 **Most Outstanding Career Arts Educator Award**
- 2001 **State Superintendent Commendation for Post 9.11 Relief Efforts**  
**People's Choice Award, Umbrellas for Art, Arundel Mills Mall**
- 2000 **Southern High School's 1<sup>st</sup> ever Teacher of the Year Award**

## PRESENTATIONS

- 2012 **31 Nights and Mastering the AP Studio Art Portfolio (NAEA Convention)**  
National Presenter, New York, NY
- 2011 **Artist's Talk on "How to Make it as an Artist in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"**  
Lycoming College, Williamsport, PA  
**Mastering AP Drawing and AP 2D Design Portfolios (MAEA Convention)**  
Statewide Presenter, Annapolis MD  
**Igniting Creativity within the Emerging Artist (NAEA Convention)**  
National Presenter, Seattle, WA  
**Building Relationships through Art**  
Presentation to all AACPS New Teachers, Gambrills, MD
- 2010 **Mastering AP Drawing and AP 2D Design Portfolios (MAEA Convention)**  
Statewide Presenter, Adelphi, MD  
**Relationship Building through Art**  
Presentation to New Art Teachers of Anne Arundel County, MD  
**Collaboration Art Workshop**  
Hands-on Workshop to AACPS Art Teachers, Harwood, MD  
**Blue Ribbon Keynote Speaker**  
Representing all Teachers at Southern High School, Harwood, MD
- 2009 **National Blue Ribbon Presentation**, Washington, D.C.  
One of just two Selected Secondary National Presenters for the USDE  
**Visual Journaling Across the Curriculum**  
Presentation to All Teachers of Anne Arundel County, MD
- 2008 **Building Relationships**  
Presenter to New Teachers to Anne Arundel County, Southern High, MD  
**Keynote Commencement Address to the Graduating Class of 2008**  
Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD
- 2005 **Visual Journaling (NAEA Convention)**  
National Presenter, along with Dr. Jane Bates & Dr. Ray Martens, Boston, MA  
**Dioramas in Sculptural Form Workshop**  
Presenter to all AACPS 2D Photography Teachers, Anne Arundel County, MD
- 2004 **Expanding Vision with Art through Visual Journaling**  
MAEA Conference Secondary and Higher Ed. Presenter, Montgomery County, MD  
**Visual Journaling and New Directions in Painting**  
Presentation to Graduate and Undergraduate Students at Towson University, MD  
**Keynote Address to 600 New Teachers in Anne Arundel County, Maryland**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 2012 **NAEA Convention Magazine**, "31 Nights" and "Mastering the AP Studio Portfolio"
- 2011 **Denise Brown's D-Talks Radio** (Radio), "Interview: Michael Bell," aired Dec 13  
**Sun Gazette**, "Michael Bell's Cinematic Art," 25 September, Cover Spread  
**The Patch**, "Annapolis KidZone receives new art," 19 September  
**Lycoming Magazine**, "Six under 40 Spotlight: Michael Bell," Spring  
**The Patch**, "ArtQuest is Tonight" 28 April  
**NAEA Magazine**, "NAEA Rising Star Award Winner" 17 March
- 2010 **The Patch**, "Educator Profile: Michael Bell," 31 December  
**The Capital**, "Picture of Success," 23 September, B1, Cover  
**The Baltimore Sun**, "Md. Artwork Exhibit in Washington," 20 September  
**The Capital**, "Home Combines Art with Style," 29 August, Home of the Week  
**Comcast TV-96** (Television), "AP Drawing" aired June – August  
**Comcast TV-96** (Television), "Visual Arts Portfolios" aired March – April  
**NAHS News**, "Rising Star Secondary Recognition Program," Vol. 40, No. 1, Spring  
**Cugine Cigar Line**, "Cigar Box Artwork" for "Sopranos" Joseph R. Gannascoli
- 2009 **The Capital**, "Southern Student wins National Award," 7 January, Cover
- 2008 **NY1** (Television), "Stars & Cigars Interview," aired September  
**Industry Magazine**, "Stars & Cigars," November - December, Editorial  
**The Capital**, "Harwood's Celebrity Artist," 3 October, Lifestyle Cover  
**Staten Island Advance**, "Glitzy for a good cause," 10 September Editorial  
**52<sup>nd</sup> City: Arts & Artists**, "Darkest Dreams a Lighted Way," November, Editorial  
**The Capital**, "Southern Paints Mural," February, B3
- 2007 **Blogger and Podcaster Magazine**, April, Editorial  
**MyArtSpace Magazine**, March, Editorial  
**Comcast TV-96** (Television), "The Gifted Visual Arts" aired February – March  
**The Capital**, "Teen puts faith in power of art," February, pp. B1-B2  
**Chicago Scene Magazine**, "Chicago Happenings," February, 64
- 2006 **The Capital**, "Michael Bell: Art Aid from Southern High," 28 December, B3  
**NY Arts Magazine**, "Top Picks: Michael Bell," 11 December, Editorial  
**Investors Business Daily**, "Talk Radio's New Competition," July-August Issue  
**The Baltimore Sun**, "Teacher Excels in Art of Education," 14 May, Editorial, 14T  
**The Capital**, "Southern High Shows off Art Talent," 4 May, Editorial  
**The Capital**, "Teen Paints a Rosy Future," 29 April, Editorial  
**Principal Leadership, Rewards, & School Improvement**, "Book Cover Design," Jan.  
**South County Gazette & The Capital**, "Artist Supports Shelter," 6 January, Editorial
- 2005 **TEAM (T-hanking E-ducators A-cross M-aryland)**, "Book Cover Design," October  
**The Baltimore Sun**, "Educators Who Make a Difference in Md.," pp. 9 - 11, Fall  
**Who's Who In America**, "60<sup>th</sup> Printed Edition," Fall Edition  
**NBC4 News** (Television), "Los Angeles Good Shepherd Awards," aired October 1  
**The Capital**, "Domestic Violence Activist Honored," 30 September  
**IONOne Live Magazine**, "Bell Selected USA's Artist of the Month," 1 September  
**Creative Soup Zine** (Debut Issue), "Michael Bell: Visual Journaling," 1 June Edition  
**Maryland Public Television** (Television), "Bell: Taking the Time," first aired May 2  
**The Capital**, "Around South County: Showing off Talent," 1 May, Editorial
- 2004 **NAEA News**, "Special Convention Edition," Winter Edition  
**Leading Educators of the World**, "Series 2005," 12 November Edition  
**Comcast TV-96** (Television), "Michael Bell: Visual Journaling," aired November 1  
**MSDE News Bulletin**, "Teachers of the Year," Vol. 15, No. 9, 28 May  
**CNN Headline News: Local Edition** (Television), "On the Red Carpet," aired April  
**The Capital**, "County Honors Two Teachers of Year," 14 April, Editorial  
**The Baltimore Sun**, "Two Educators Honored as Best in the County," 14 April
- 2003 **Letters from Camp Rehoboth**, "Art Around Town," 26 November, 2003  
**US-NEWS-WATCH**, "Two-Man Exhibition to Benefit Milton Theatre," 26 November  
**The Cape Gazette**, "Zwaanendael Gallery present works of Bell," 31 October  
**Newsday, New York City**, "Victoria's Secret: Dapper Don's Wife Paints!" 17 July

PUBLICITY PHOTOS



*Michael Bell, In Studio with "Boulevard of Broken Queens," 2012, 48" X 96" oils on canvas*



*Michael Bell on the Red Carpet for a Celebrity Portrait Unveiling with "The Sopranos" in New York, NY*