
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

For Joan Cox (b. 1969), painting is an act of survival—not of ego or ambition, but of tenderness, love, and memory. Based in Baltimore, Cox has devoted more than twenty years to making the intimate lives of lesbian couples visible on canvas, using vivid color, energetic brushwork, and layered symbolism to weave personal experience with broader political and emotional truths.

Growing up during a time when LGBTQ+ identities were often marginalized and silenced, Cox explored a range of creative mediums—painting, photography, graphic design, and writing—seeking ways to express what mainstream culture rendered invisible. In 2005, she and her wife moved to New Orleans, where they opened Moxy Studios on Magazine Street. When Hurricane Katrina struck, Cox remained in the city for two years, running her gallery and fostering community, determined to help local artists rebuild and thrive.

In 2007, Cox returned to the East Coast and pursued graduate studies in Provincetown, MA. There, she found the courage to fully embrace and express her LGBTQ+ identity through her art, creating portraits of lesbian couples that celebrate rich, complex queer narratives.

Cox holds a BFA from Towson University and an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design's Low-Residency program in Provincetown. Her recent solo exhibition, "Side by Side," was held at her alma mater, Towson University, in June 2025. She exhibited at the inaugural "Immortal 25" queer art fair in Mexico City in 2025 and at the second edition of the SCOUT art fair in Baltimore, Maryland in 2026. Her work has been recognized internationally, including a 2nd Place award in the Women United International Art Prize and selection as one of the VAA100 Top International Artists in December 2025.

AWARDS

2026 Baker Artist Award Finalist

2025 International Women United Art Prize — Second Place

VAA Art 100 — Visual Artists Association 2025 Art Award, Top 100 International Artists

2022 Not Real Art Grant Winner

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *SCOUT Art Fair*, Solo booth at Artscape, curated by Devin Allen & Cierra Britton, Baltimore, MD

2025 *Side by Side*, Towson University Center for the Arts Gallery, Towson, MD

Immortal, Solo booth, Immortal Queer Art Fair, Mexico City, Mexico

Sideshow, First and Franklin, Baltimore, MD

The Intimate Revolution Is Tender, Not Quiet, The Bureau of Queer Art, Online (Artsy)

2024 *Sapphic Gaze*, IA&A at Hillyer Gallery, Washington, DC

Los Jardines de los Amores, The Bureau of Queer Art, Online (Artsy)

2019 *Frauenhaus*, Catalyst Contemporary, Baltimore, Maryland

2018 *Tomboy*, Function Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland

2013 *Taboo*, Silber Art Gallery, Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland

2006 *Burgeoning Blooms*, Moxy Studios, New Orleans, Louisiana

2006 *Recent Work*, Assunta Fox Gallery, Santa Ana, California

2001 *Fire I Can Hold*, Maryland Federation of Art City Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland

1991 *Senior Thesis Exhibit*, Towson State University Union Gallery, Towson, Maryland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *The Ordinary*, Collective Z Gallery, New York City

Vision/Version, WomensWork.Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie, NY

Modern Love, Not Real Art, Online Juried Exhibition

2026 National Juried Exhibition, The Delaplaine Arts Center, Frederick, MD

Baker Artist Finalist Exhibition, Current Space, Baltimore, MD

Out of Order, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD

Shit Show, Goxsip Girl Collective at XoXo Gallery

The Listening Room, Art Week 2026, Bureau of Queer Art Gallery, CDMX, Mexico

In the Pink, Art Fluent, Online Juried Exhibition

2025 *Artful Empowerment*, Museum of Eastern Shore Culture, Salisbury, MD

16th Annual Figurative Art Exhibition, Lore Degenstein Gallery at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA

B:25 — Best of Baltimore, Quid-Nunc Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland

Fish Don't Sleep — 5th Annual Alumni Exhibition, MassArtxSoWa Gallery, Boston, MA

FaceFrwrD, Goxsip Girl Collective at XoXo Gallery, Baltimore, MD

Queer Art Needs You, You Need Queer Art, Tryst Art Fair—Bureau of Queer Art Booth, Los Angeles, CA

Mid-Atlantic Juried Show, McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA

Merkin Dream III, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD

Volume 10: Dismantled, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD

The Pride Collection: Chosen Family, Bureau of Queer Art, online exhibition on Artsy

Bureau of Queer Art — Clavo Movimiento, Semana de Arte, CDMX, Mexico

Eros & Thanatos, Buckham Gallery, Flint, MI

2024 *World AIDS Day 2024 | Remember, Renew, Resist*, Bureau of Queer Art, online exhibition on Artsy

Off the Web, The Peale Museum, Baltimore, MD

Efimerio: Vida, Muerte, y Arte, Juan Rulfo Cultural Center, Mexico City, Mexico

Queering Democracy: Art, Identity, and Politics in 2024, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY

Tree Stories, Saase Museum of Art, Pomona, CA

Statement, Baltimore MetGala, The Hall at Maryland Live

Heirloom Convoy: MassArt Alumni Exhibition IV, MassArtxSoWa, Boston, MA

Circle of Life, Ten Moir Gallery, Online Juried Exhibition

Women Artists Making Their Mark, O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, Mill Valley, CA

Proud+, The Studio Door, San Diego, CA (*Best in Show*)

Pride Exhibition, Gallery Blue Door, Baltimore, MD

The Pink Tide, Dama Gallery + Bureau of Queer Art, Ventura, CA

Bureau of Queer Art — Clavo Movimiento, Semana de Arte, CDMX, Mexico

Telling Stories, Silvermine Art Gallery, New Canaan, Connecticut

Embodiment, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, Maryland

New Guild Members 2024, Silvermine Art Gallery, New Canaan, Connecticut

2023 *Strokes of Genius 2023*, MFA Cicle Gallery, Annapolis, MD

The Big Gay Art Show, Sedona Arts Center, Sedona, Arizona

Bureau of Queer Art - Autumn Edition, Art Studios Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico

Best American Artist, The Holy Art, Virtual online exhibition

Nor'Easter: 53rd Annual Juried Members Exhibition, New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT

The Inevitability of Absence, Culture Lab Long Island City, New York

Earthquake Picnic — MassArt Alumni Exhibition III, MassArtxSoWa Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts

I Am Here, Studio Montclair, Montclair, New Jersey

B23, Artscape Baltimore, Maryland

In this Body of Mine, MassArtxSoWa Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts

Bmore Amplified, Baltimore City Hall Galleries, Baltimore, Maryland

QueerWerks, Silvermine Art Gallery, New Canaan, Connecticut

National Juried Art Exhibition, Academy Center of the Arts, Lynchburg, Virginia

Diversity Lives Here: Representation Through Art!, Monmouth University, Pennsylvania

Play: 31st Annual Strathmore Juried Exhibition, Strathmore Mansion, North Bethesda, Maryland

Figures in the Landscape, Aplomb Portrait Gallery, Dover, New Hampshire (*and on ArtGate VR*)

SHE, Art Fluent, Massachusetts, online juried exhibition

All You Need is Love: A Show of Love, 6th Street Art Studios, Gilroy, California, online juried exhibition

Being Seen, TAG/The Artists Gallery, Frederick, Maryland (*Honorable Mention Award*)

Valentine - 2023, Gallerium, International online exhibition and publication

Un-Lovable, Shockboxx Project Gallery, Hermosa Beach, California

2022 *Empowerment vs. Exploitation*, Cultural Center of Cape Cod, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts

- Baltimore Fine Art Print Fair*, Catalyst Contemporary booth, Baltimore, Maryland
Who We Are: Portraying Identity, Cabrillo College Gallery, Santa Cruz, California
By and About Women, The Regional Center for Women in the Arts, Westtown, Pennsylvania (*third prize*)
Surface InSight: Printmaking Today, Core New Art Gallery, Denver, Colorado
Celebrating the Figure, Artworks Gallery, Ware, Massachusetts
PROUD+ 2022, 5th Annual National LGBTQIA Exhibition at The Studio Door Gallery, San Diego, California
Show Your Pride, Artworks Gallery, Ware, Massachusetts (*best composition prize*)
35th September Competition, Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria, Louisiana
Unmasked, A Contemporary Portrait Exhibition, The Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts & Sciences (LBIF), Long Beach Island, New Jersey (*first prize*)
Women Artists Making Their Mark, O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, Mill Valley, California
13th Annual Figurative Drawing and Painting Exhibition, Lore Degenstein Gallery, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania (*first prize*)
Portraits 2022, Camelback Gallery, Phoenix, Arizona (*Bronze Award*)
The Big Gay Art Show, Sedona Arts Center, Sedona, Arizona (*third prize*)
Manifest Presence, Catalyst Contemporary, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2021** *Amplify*, Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, VA
Art that Tells Stories, Catalyst Contemporary Booth, Art Miami, Florida
- 2018** *Art of Pride*, Dooby's, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2017** *Portraits of Us*, Montpelier Arts Center, Laurel, Maryland
- 2016** *Women of Myth, Splendor and Irrefutable Morals*, Rouse Foundation Gallery, Howard Community College, Columbia, Maryland
WomensFEST Art & Photography Exhibit, CAMP, Rehoboth, Delaware
- 2014** *GUTSY: Taking the Fear Factor Out of Feminism*, Gallery CA, Baltimore, Maryland
- MFAWC: Off the Grid II*, Arnheim Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA
- 2013** *Women in Figuration*, Kunstraum 65b, Feldkirch, Austria
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Hudson D. Walker Gallery, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA
On Loan: Formality, Area 405, Juror Cara Ober, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2012** *MFAWC: Off the Grid*, Arnheim Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Boston, MA
- 2009** *SommerAkademie Vernissage*, Traunkirchen, Austria

PERMANENT PUBLIC INSTALLATION

My Baltimore, Backlit ceiling mural commissioned by Radiation Oncology Department at Sinai Hospital/LifeBridge Health, MD (2017)

PUBLISHED ART WRITING

- 2016 "How to Make a Gift of Art," *Bmoreart.com*, May 29, 2016
- 2015 "Aqua: Art Walk on Steroids," *Bmoreart.com*, December 10, 2015
- 2014 "Shifting Light: An Interview with Carol Miller Frost," *Bmoreart.com*, December 29, 2014
 "Action Painting Is Alive and Well In Baltimore: Interview with Greg Minah," *Bmoreart.com*, August 28, 2014
 "Star-Stuff: René Treviño Reinvents the Circle," *Bmoreart.com*, February 18, 2014
- 2013 "Staying Afloat: Sometimes a Journey Takes Two," *Bmoreart.com*, November 16, 2013
 "WPA + Mera Rubell + Baltimore Artists = Love: Witnessing the beginning of a love affair," *Bmoreart.com*, October 30, 2013
 "Blue Balls, The Other, and Negative Space: Zöe Charlton 'festoon'," *Bmoreart.com*, October 24, 2013
 "Interview with Amanda Jiron-Murphy of the Hamiltonian Gallery," *Bmoreart.com*, January 23, 2013

2012 "Amy Sherald, In Depth," *Bmoreart.com*, November 29, 2012

PUBLISHED ART & PHOTOGRAPHY PORTFOLIOS

- 2026 [Artist Closeup Blog Interview](#), January 6, 2026
[Artist Closeup Magazine](#), Volume 39, February 2026
[Women United Art Magazine](#), Issue XIII, March 2026
[The Queer Gospel | Resurrection](#), Volume 13, The Bureau of Queer Art, April 2026
- 2025 [Instructions for Rebirth](#), Volume 12, The Bureau of Queer Art, CDMX
[Dismantled](#), Volume 10, The Bureau of Queer Art, CDMX
16th Annual Figurative Art Exhibition in Print, Lore Degenstein Gallery, Susquehanna University Press
- 2024 [Studio Visit Magazine](#), Volume 51, Boston, MA
[Bureau of Queer Art](#), Volume 4, Art Gallery Studios, CDMX
[Beyond Queer Words](#), Fifth Edition, January 2024, A collection of poems and art
[Love, Loss and Survival](#), Bureau of Queer Art, Volume 5
15th Annual Figurative Art Exhibition in Print, Lore Degenstein Gallery, Susquehanna University Press
[Bureau of Queer Art](#), Volume 3, Art Gallery Studios, CDMX
- 2023 [Bureau of Queer Art](#), Volume 2, Art Gallery Studios, CDMX
[Studio Visit](#), Volumes 51 and 52, Juried Selection of International Artists
[Beyond Queer Words](#), Fourth Edition, February 2023, A collection of poems and art
[The Book of Art: Valentine](#), Gallerium, Print Publication
- 2022 [Feminist Spaces Journal](#), University West Florida
13th Annual Figurative Art Exhibition in Print, Lore Degenstein Gallery, Susquehanna University Press
- 2021 [Art that Tells Stories](#), Catalyst Contemporary
- 2020 [The Advocate](#), 7 Paintings of Femmes, Tomboys, and Gender-Neutral Lovers by Joan Cox, Aug 7, 2020
- 2013-19 *Bmoreart.com*, contributing photographer
- 2011 [Studio](#) Volume 2, No. 1, Spring 2005, Queer Fiction, Art, Poetry and More
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ARTIST TALKS/VISITING CRITIC ENGAGEMENTS

- 2025 Center for the Arts, Towson University, Baltimore, MD, Artist Talk for "Side by Side"
- 2024 The Kennedy Center, talkback for "Portraits" by GMCW
Hillyer Art Gallery, Washington, DC, Artist Talk for "Sapphic Gaze"
- 2020 Catalyst Contemporary, Baltimore, MD
- 2014/18 Towson University, Maryland
- 2013 Georgetown University, Washington DC
- 2013 Goucher College, Maryland
- 2013 Maryland Institute College of Art, Maryland
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EDUCATION

- 2013 **M.F.A. in Painting**—Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Low-Residency Program at Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center
- 1991 **B.F.A. with Honors**—Fine Arts/Painting Concentration, Towson State University, Towson, MD Summa Cum Laude, Valedictorian for Spring graduating class
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CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2023 *In This Body of Mine*, MassArt x Sowa Gallery, Boston Massachusetts, June 10 - July 16
(co-curated with Liz Faust—20 queer-identifying artists)