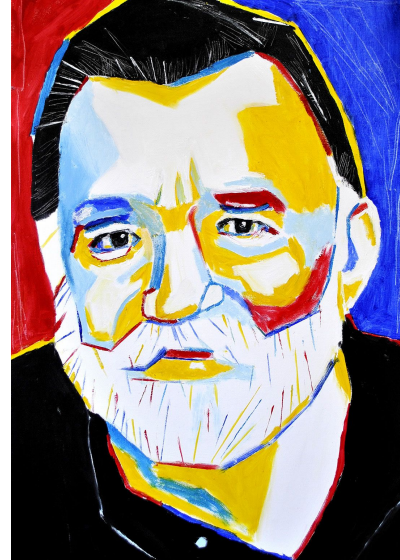




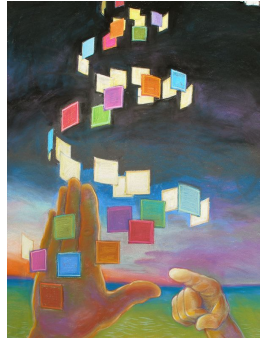
Chuck Baird

1947-2012



Early Life

- Baird was born Deaf in Kansas City, Missouri to a mother who was an antiques dealer and a jack-of-all-trades father.
 - He was the youngest of five children, and attended the Kansas City School for the Deaf from 1951-1967.
 - During his time at the Kansas City School for the Deaf, Chuck had an exceptional art teacher who entered one of his oil paintings into the *Scholastic Magazine Art Contest* at age 13. The piece went on to win the national award.
 - Chuck continued to win art awards beyond oil painting throughout his education, including recognition for drawing and watercolor.



Continuing His Education



- Chuck attended Gallaudet for two years after, but ended up leaving Gallaudet to continue his education at the Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RIT-NTID) where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Studio Painting in 1974.
 - He did play football at RIT, art eventually won, as did the Drama Club.
- Before he went to college, Chuck worked on scene design for NTD in his senior year of high school.
 - Chuck ended up coming back to NTD to work on pointing sets for five years.
 - In 1989, Chuck returned to NTD as a set designer and actor. He had a hand in every NTD production for years, and commented that acting made him a better painter.



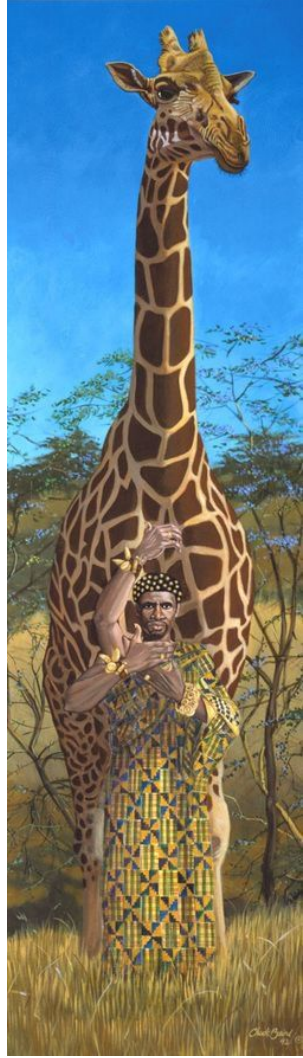
Always on the Move



- Chuck was not the kind of person to stay in one place. Throughout his life, Chuck lived in Kansas, New York, Delaware, Texas, California, Arizona and even taught in Rome, Italy for a short period of time.
 - Throughout his entire life, however, his main focus was art. When he wasn't creating his own pieces, he could be found running workshops, completing commissions or promoting artistic ventures, particularly for the Deaf.
- At one point, Chuck was part of *Spectrum*, an organization that focused on Deaf artists, as a full-time photography and coordinator of the Visual Arts Program. He eventually had to leave when it disbanded due to funding cuts.

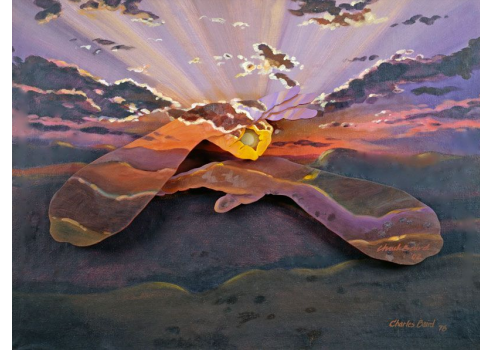
His Legacy

- Chuck created a label called *DeVia*, which represented Deaf Visual Arts. He joined with other Deaf artists to create the label, and described it as *“a type of painting depicting the life of a deaf individual in a hearing world.”*
- Throughout his life, Baird experimented with styles and techniques, which ended at age 64 after a battle with cancer. Chuck had remained single and did not have any kids, but he is said to have commented that he was married to his craft.





Baird incorporated ASL into many of his pieces, helping to bridge the gap between the Hearing and Deaf worlds.



“I don’t have much of anything to be angry about or deny. I simply accepted the way the world is around me. I’d rather find something beautiful in life if we have a villain somewhere in there. I want to paint about it. I let the viewer see and celebrate with me.

