

Thomas Colvin, III - Artist Bio

Thomas Colvin is a visual artist, creative, and photographer based in Dothan, Alabama, whose relationship with light defines everything he makes. A graduate of Alabama A&M University with a B.S. in Commercial Art and a minor in Visual Art, Colvin built his artistic foundation at one of the nation's most celebrated HBCUs, where he developed a deep understanding of light as both a technical and emotional force.

Colvin first picked up a camera in the mid-1980s when his parents placed a Canon AE-1 Program in his hands - a moment that planted a seed he carried for decades. He committed fully to photography in 2013, bringing with him a trained artist's eye and a lifelong fascination with how light creates mood, defines form, and transforms the world when it meets darkness.

Throughout the 1990s, Colvin built an impressive national and international exhibition record. He exhibited at three of the most prestigious Black cultural celebrations in the country - the Artist Market at the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and the Denver Black Arts Festival in Denver, Colorado. During that same period, an international digital exhibition based in Paris, France selected his work for inclusion, with the show simulcast simultaneously to audiences in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

His current body of work, *An Exploration of the Creative Soul Through Music*, is a series of paintings, drawings, and pastel works that function as self portraits without the artist's own features. Through rendered musicians and solitary figures, Colvin examines his own creative soul - expressing in paint and charcoal what exists inside him that no camera could capture.