



YOGI DADA

art 4 humanity
BIO

Yogi is her nickname, Dada is her philosophy. Born Yolonda Carter in Mississippi and raised in upstate New York, Yogi was exposed to various art forms growing up. Most of her artistic influences come from graffiti, African art, and modern design. She defines herself as a “Dadaist”, a philosophy that states, “Art is whatever you believe it is”.

Her Mother was her earliest influence buying Yogi her first easel at 4 years old and training her in watercolor, sculpting, writing and more. After college Yogi lost her passion to paint. She never seemed to measure up to the scholastic standards of art, so she stopped painting for 17 years and became an Optician. It was always her Mother’s prayer that Yogi would one day leave her job and return to her gift as a full time Artist. Her Mother passed from breast cancer in 2009, Yogi went into a very deep depression and stopped working. One day a friend inspired her to rekindle her passion to paint inviting Yogi to a “sips and strokes” at her home. A few months later Yogi picked up her paint brush again and created a set of large, flat, hand painted wooden earrings, designed with funky motifs on every side. Everywhere she went people asked, “Where did you get those earrings?!” Custom orders started pouring in, and by 2012 YOGI DADA LLC was established. Since then, her earrings have been worn by multiple celebrities and have been hailed by her Clients to make them “feel good”. Her wearable artwork and canvas pieces are available online at Yogidada.com.

YOGI DADA is also a performing Artist who desires to inspire and uplift others by sharing God’s love in all that she does. For over two decades Yogi has shared her gifts of poetry, song, rap, Sign Language to music, African Djembe Drums, and most recently returning to her love of the cello. She is an Emmy Award Nominated Artist for her background vocals on Alabama Public Television’s 2007 documentary, “Mr. Dial Has Something to Say”. In 2021 she released her first film, the multi award winning “GRAFFICA”, a short documentary about her journey as an Artist, laid against the backdrop of a series of black and white characters created in paintings and drawings.

Yogi is just as passionate about uplifting her community as she is the arts. She started the YOGI DADA Fund in 2020 giving away free arts supplies to young Artists. She has volunteered regularly teaching poetry and ministering inspiration at local shelters as well as leading a monthly community outreach “Feed My Sheep” at her church in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. In 2018 she launched her “Courage Beyond Pink” campaign and partnered with the Birmingham chapter of Susan G. Komen and Circle of Promise (an initiative that supports women of color with breast cancer education and resources) to raise funds and bring awareness to breast cancer. Yogi also teaches business preparation classes geared towards the artistic mind to support Artists in handling the “business of art.”

Overall, YOGI DADA is an Artist, a human being, who desires to inspire and uplift others. Her hallmark for success...” it’s all God.”