

QUINLAN VISUAL ARTS CENTER | GAINESVILLE, GA

CALL FOR ARTISTS

I Am Multicolored: The Human Spectrum

Presented in partnership by the Quinlan Visual Arts Center, the University of North Georgia, the , and the Redman Family Foundation

Join us for a juried exhibition showcasing contemporary art inspired by Lenn Redman's iconic lithograph series, illustrated book, and poem, *What Am I?* Created in the 1970s, this historic series by renowned caricature artist championed the vision of a multicultural and multiethnic society, free of prejudice and bigotry, united by our shared humanity. Redman's message continues to resonate today, inspiring contemporary artists to craft meaningful responses. His groundbreaking *What Am I?* series serves as the centerpiece of this compelling exhibition.

NATIONAL CALL TO ARTISTS

SHOW TITLE: AND I AM MULTICOLORED: THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

- a contemporary art exhibition inspired by Lenn Redman's series "What am I?"

IMPORTANT DATES/INFORMATION

Exhibition Dates: June 18 through August 15, 2026

Location: Quinlan Visual Arts Center | 514 Green Street NE, Gainesville, GA 30501

Call opens: March 25, 2026

Submission deadline: May 15, 2026

Notification of acceptance: May 17, 2026

Artwork arrival / drop off: No later than June 10, 2026

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

I Am Multicolored: The Human Connection invites artists from across the United States to respond to the wisdom and humanity of artists, author and civil-rights advocate Lenn Redman (1912-1987). His illustrated poem *What Am I?* asks us to look beyond the appearance, to see our differences and our shared humanity with curiosity, humor, and compassion.

In a time when global conversations are calling attention to the power of human connection, this exhibit asks:

- How can art help us understand one another, and ourselves

Presented in partnership by the **Quinlan Visual Arts Center** (Gainesville, GA), the **University of North Georgia** (UNG), and the **Redman Family Foundation**, the exhibition will pair with works by Lenn Redman with contemporary works selected from this national juried call. Together, these works will create a visual conversation about difference, imagination, and the threads of connection that bind us.

About Lenn Redman (artist/author)

Redman began his career on 1933 as a caricaturist at the Century Progress World's Fair in Chicago, IL. He travelled to Hollywood during the golden age of animation and worked at Disney, Warner Bros, and other major studios. He returned to Chicago in 1941 to run his own commercial art studio. He returned to Hollywood in the 1960s to work again in the field of animation for companies that produced Saturday morning cartoons, such as Hanna-Barbera and Filmation.

In response to the social and moral upheaval of the 1960s, Lenn created a poem, a book, and 12 lithographs titled, *What Am I?* - a heartfelt call for empathy and unity. Leaving the commercial art world behind, Lenn devoted himself fully to this series, convinced that art has the power to foster self-reflection and social harmony. He continued to share his message until his passing in 1987.

After decades of bringing characters to life on screen and creating hundreds of thousands of caricatures from life, Lenn wrote *How to Draw Caricatures* (1984) - a book that became the definitive guide for professional caricaturists worldwide. What Lenn never knew is that his methodology would become foundational to computer science. His concept of exaggerating the difference from the mean (EDFAM) is cited in peer reviewed research from ACM, Siggraph, and Frontiers in Virtual Reality.

THEMES & INSPIRATION

Artists are invited to create original works in any visual mediums that respond to the spirit and ideas of *What Am I?*

Possible points of departure include:

- Seeing beyond physical appearance.
- The quiet awareness of **shared human experience**—thoughts, feelings, dreams, fears.
- Color as both literal and symbolic: skin, light, mood, identity and imagination.
- The layered question: *What Am I? / Who Are We?*
- The tension between **distraction and presence** - what helps us show up for one another?
- Interdependence: how things that seem unlike (bee and flower, black and white, circle and triangle...) thrive together.

Works may be abstract or representational, contemplative or playful, intimate or large-scale. The tone of the exhibition is intended to be reflective and invitational, not partisan or polarizing.

ELIGIBILITY

- Open to artists **18 years or older** currently residing in the United States.
- 2D and 3D media welcome.
- Digital works are welcome but **must be in print form and ready to hang**.
- Submitted work must be original, completed within the last 3 years, and **not previously exhibited at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center**.

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

- Minimum size: **12" x 12"**
- Maximum Size: **60" x 60"**
- 2D work must be ready to hang with secure wires (no saw teeth)
- 3D work must be stable and ready for safe display (floor or pedestal)
- Artists may submit **up to 3 works** for consideration
- Art must be for sale (artists receive 60%, the Quinlan receives 40%)

AWARDS

The Redman Legacy Awards

- Two awards of \$1,000 and \$500 funded by the Redman Family Foundation, recognizing works that most powerfully embody Lenn Redman's message of inclusion, curiosity and human connection.

Additional special recognition:

- Best in Show \$1,000
- Public Choice Award
- Student / Emerging Artist Awards

Accepted UNG student artists will be identified on their labels as "UNG Student Artists" in recognition of the University's partnership.

JURY PROCESS

Entries will be selected by a professional jury convened by the Quinlan Visual Arts Center and the University of North Georgia. Jurors will review digital submissions and select works based on:

- Artistic excellence and originality
- Conceptual strength and clarity of vision.

- Resonance with the exhibition theme and the spirit of *What Am I?*

IMPORTANT DATES

Call Opens: March 25, 2026

Digital Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026 (you may send images as soon as the artwork is completed. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit digital images.). All images must be hi-res so jurors have the ability to zoom in should they choose).

Acceptance Notification Sent via Email: May 17, 2026

Physical Artwork Drop-off/Arrival: Must be received by the June 10, 2026 (if your artwork is not at the Quinlan by this date, you will not have the opportunity to exhibit it even if you received an acceptance email).

VIP Pre-Opening Reception & Awards: Thursday June 18, 2026

Public Opening Reception: Friday, June 19, 2026

Exhibition Dates: June 18 - August 15, 2026

HOW TO SUBMIT

1. **Images:** Artists should submit images of artwork via email to Info@QVAC.org | Subject line: I Am Multicolored - The Human Spectrum

- Up to three (3) artworks
- All images must be hi-res (300 dpi)
- Up to two (2) images per work (overall + detail), JPG or PNG, 1200-2000 on the longest side

2. Artwork Information

- Title, year, medium, dimensions (H x W x D), insurance value/sale price (the split is 60% artist, 40% Quinlan Visual Arts Center)

3. Artist Statement (100—150 words)

- Describe how your work connects to *What am I?* and the exhibition theme of **The Human Connection**

4. Artist Biography (for use in exhibition materials and promotions)

5. Optional (website and social media handle)

SHIPPING AND DELIVERY

- Artists are responsible for all shipping costs to and from the Quinlan Visual Arts Center.
- Detailed packing and shipping instructions will be sent with acceptance notices.
- Local artists may hand-deliver work during the Quinlan Visual Art Center's business hours
- The Quinlan will take reasonable care in handling all artwork while it is on premise.

ABOUT THE PRESENTING PARTNERS

Quinlan Visual Arts Center: A non-profit visual arts center serving North Georgia since 1946, offering exhibitions (dedicated to living artists), education (classes and workshops in a variety of mediums for all levels of proficiency), and community programs that make art accessible to all.

University of North Georgia (UNG): A regional public university and designated State Leadership Institution, UNG supports a vibrant visual arts and art history community and regularly collaborates with museums, galleries, and cultural organizations throughout Northeast Georgia.

Redman Family Foundation: A 501(c)(3) founded by Mark Redman to extend the legacy of his father, Lenn Redman, the Foundation supports multicultural initiatives through education, exhibition and engagement - using art to foster global unity and world peace.

For questions please contact the Quinlan Visual Arts Center

Phone: 770.536.2575 | Email: Info@QVAC.org