



Terry French

Multidisciplinary Visual Artist & Writer

San Antonio, Texas

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 San Antonio, TX

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Artist Statement (Brief)

Terry French is a multidisciplinary artist whose work centers on cultural memory, tradition, and spiritual symbolism. His practice spans oil painting, spoken word, and illustrated narrative, with a sustained focus on the black-eyed pea as a symbol of ancestry, protection, blessing, and prosperity within the home. Through repetition, restraint, and material intention, French elevates everyday cultural objects into contemplative works meant to be lived with, displayed, and passed down.

Artistic Practice

- Oil Painting (Traditional Techniques)
 - Spoken Word & Narrative Writing
 - Illustration & Book Development
 - Digital & Hybrid Art Formats
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Selected Bodies of Work

The Black-Eyed Pea Series (Ongoing)

Oil on Canvas

An ongoing series of six completed oil paintings exploring the black-eyed pea as a cultural and spiritual symbol. Each work presents a single pea in isolation against a dark field, emphasizing stillness, intention, and domestic ritual. The series reflects a traditional belief that when the black-eyed pea is hung in the home with the eye facing upward toward God, it represents good luck, blessing, and prosperity.

The Magic of Black-Eyed Peas (In Progress)

Illustrated Book Series & Spoken Word

A narrative extension of the painting series, designed for intergenerational audiences. The project includes illustrated book drafts and an original spoken word piece that explore faith, tradition, and the role of cultural symbols within the home.

Materials & Process

- Old Holland Classic Oil Colors (Netherlands)
- Traditional oil painting techniques using layered, archival methods
- Emphasis on permanence, restraint, and material integrity

French intentionally uses Old Holland oil paints—originally established in 1664 by Dutch master painters—to juxtapose historic European painting traditions with culturally specific African American subject matter. This material choice reinforces the preservation of cultural knowledge across generations.

Exhibitions & Presentations

- *The Black-Eyed Pea Series* — Studio & Community Viewings, San Antonio, TX
- Spoken Word Presentation: *The Magic of Black-Eyed Peas* — Community & Digital Presentation

(Formal gallery exhibitions forthcoming)

Publications & Writing

- *The Magic of Black-Eyed Peas* — Illustrated book series (draft manuscripts and illustrations)
 - Original spoken word poetry accompanying visual works
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Community & Cultural Engagement

- Work rooted in Southern and African American cultural traditions
 - Focus on domestic space, faith, and intergenerational storytelling
 - Art intended for home display and lived experience, not only gallery contexts
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Education & Training

2018 - 2022

San Antonio College - Biology / Computer Science

2003–Present

Self-Directed Studio Practice & Professional Experience

United States

- Independent study in visual art, illustration, oil painting, and narrative arts
 - Research into traditional materials, archival processes, and symbolic still life
 - Ongoing development of multidisciplinary projects combining visual art, spoken word, and literature
 - Self-directed studio practice with emphasis on traditional oil painting methods
 - Ongoing study of art history, material processes, and narrative forms
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Professional Affiliations

- Independent Visual Artist
 - Multidisciplinary Cultural Practitioner
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Location

San Antonio, Texas

Artistic Practice Summary

Years Active: 2003–Present

Terry French is a multidisciplinary visual artist and writer whose practice spans oil painting, graphic design, spoken word, and narrative storytelling. His work explores cultural memory, faith, spiritual symbolism, and domestic tradition, with a sustained focus on the black-eyed pea as a symbol of protection, blessing, prosperity, and continuity within the home. French's practice bridges traditional materials and contemporary storytelling, emphasizing permanence, intention, and lived experience.

Selected Commissions & Early Career Work

Battle of the Bands – City of Mobile

2003

Graphic Design Commission | Mobile, Alabama

Designed the official *Battle of the Bands* marketing artwork for the City of Mobile, Alabama. The design was unanimously adopted by the Mobile City Council and went on to generate record-breaking sales that have not since been surpassed. This project marked French's first professional art commission and established his early career as a working artist.

Military Service & Creative Documentation

United States Army

2003–2010

While serving in the U.S. Army, French contributed creatively alongside his primary duties by producing visual documentation, video, sound, and presentation materials during deployment. As part of a collaborative unit, he helped create short films and audiovisual works documenting service life and remembrance. Following the loss of CPL Michelle R. Ring, French and his team created a memorial short film honoring her service and sacrifice.

(Creative documentation and memorial storytelling during this period informed later narrative and symbolic work.)

Publications & Visual Works

COVID-19 Awareness Ribbon (“Pandemic Ribbon”)

2020

Published Visual Design

Created a polka-dot COVID-19 awareness ribbon representing the equal impact of COVID-19 on all health conditions worldwide. The design was published and distributed through *Disabled World*.

Link: <https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/awareness/covid19-awareness-ribbons.php>

Selected Bodies of Work

The Black-Eyed Pea Series

2022–Present

Oil on Canvas

An ongoing series of oil paintings centered on a single black-eyed pea, rendered in isolation against dark fields. The series reflects a traditional belief that when the black-eyed pea is hung in the home with its eye facing upward toward God, it represents good luck, blessing, and prosperity. Six completed works, with additional works in development.

The Magic of Black-Eyed Peas

2021–Present

Illustrated Fiction Book Series & Spoken Word

Author of an original illustrated fiction series exploring faith, tradition, and cultural continuity. The narrative follows the disappearance of black-eyed peas—symbols of blessing and luck—and a journey to restore balance before the New Year. The project includes book drafts, illustrations, and a spoken word performance.

Website: www.themagicofblackeyedpeas.com

Spoken Word

The Magic of Black-Eyed Peas

Published November 30, 2023

Spoken Word Performance | 3:45 minutes

Original spoken word piece expanding the themes of the visual and literary work.

Published on YouTube with organic engagement.

Link: <https://youtu.be/qMdjzox-eZg>

Additional Publications

10001

2021

Author

A self-help and narrative project combining visual design and short stories. Each chapter integrates graphic elements with storytelling, reflecting French's interdisciplinary approach to narrative art.

Hybrid Art Platform

Stream Disc

Founder & Creative Director — 2023–Present

Founded and developed **Stream Disc**, a hybrid art medium that merges physical artwork with digital storytelling through NFC-enabled media. Stream Disc allows viewers to engage with visual art, spoken word, and narrative content by tapping a physical art object with a smartphone. Within French's practice, Stream Disc functions as an extension of fine art—supporting projects such as *The Black-Eyed Pea Series* while preserving the integrity of physical works and expanding access through digital layers.

Materials & Process

2022–Present

- Old Holland Classic Oil Colors (Netherlands)
- Traditional oil painting techniques using layered, archival methods

French intentionally uses historic oil paint formulations established in 1664 to juxtapose European master painting traditions with culturally specific African American subject matter, reinforcing themes of endurance, reverence, and generational continuity.

Professional Status

2003–Present

Independent Multidisciplinary Artist & Writer
San Antonio, Texas

Years of Artistic Experience

Total Years Active: 22 years (2003–2025)