MEET THE MENTORS:

CHERYL MCBRIDE

ARTIST AND EDUCATOR

www.cherylmcbrideart.com

ABOUT CHERYL

Cheryl McBride is a New York-based artist and educator with over 35 years of experience in the arts. Her work sits at the intersection of fine art, graphic design, law, statistics, and human rights, confronting pressing social issues through a lens of activism and critical inquiry. As an African American woman, Cheryl draws upon her personal experiences to create impactful works that challenge established thought, provoke discourse, and inspire societal change. Her art, rooted in the legacy of pioneers like W.E.B. DuBois, transforms data and laws into visually compelling narratives that expose racial, gender, and social inequities.

For the past 20 years, Cheryl has been a professor in the Art Department at Nassau Community College, where she teaches graphic design and mentors students in achieving their academic and professional aspirations. Her dedication to education is matched by her passion for “artivism”—art as activism—which she has embraced fully in recent years. Cheryl’s artwork addresses critical issues such as gun violence, the opioid crisis, and systemic inequalities, integrating statistical data and historical context to foster empathy and understanding.

Cheryl holds a Bachelor of Science in Visual Arts from SUNY New Paltz and a Master of Science in Animation Graphics from the New York Institute of Technology, graduating with honors. Cheryl’s commitment to using art as a universal language underscores her belief that creative expression can be a powerful tool for education, awareness, and positive change.

It is literally impossible to be a woman. You are so beautiful, and so smart, and it kills me that you don't think you're good enough. Like, we have to always be extraordinary, but somehow we're always doing it wrong. You have to be thin, but not too thin. And you can never say you want to be thin. You have to say you want to be healthy, but also you have to be thin. You have to have money, but you can't ask for money because that's crass. You have to be a boss, but you can't be mean. You have to lead, but you can't squash other people's ideas. You're supposed to love being a mother, but don't talk about your kids all the damn time. You have to be a career woman but also always be looking out for other people. You have to answer for men's bad behavior, which is insane, but if you point that out, you're accused of complaining. You're supposed to stay pretty for men, but not so pretty that you tempt them too much or that you threaten other women because you're supposed to be a part of the sisterhood. But always stand out and always be grateful. But never forget that the system is rigged. So find a way to acknowledge that but also always be grateful. You have to never get old, never be rude, never show off, never be selfish, never fall down, never fail, never show fear, never get out of line. It's too hard! It's too contradictory and nobody gives you a medal or says thank you! And it turns out in fact that not only are you doing everything wrong, but also everything is your fault. I'm just so tired of watching myself and every single other woman tie herself into knots so that people will like us. And if all of that is also true for a doll just representing women, then I don't even know.

The ratio of male to female CEOs in the US

Giclee print 30 x 20inch

Content: Gloria's full monologue from Barbie (2023):332 words

Typeface: Helvtica Bold

Alignment: Justified with last line aligned left.

At the CEO level, men outnumber women by approximately 17 to one. The colors are Barbie pink and green the color of paper money in the US.