

# S-VE Graduate of Distinction

## Dr. Donald Parks

Class of 1967



Dr. Donald A. Parks, an award-winning, internationally collected artist, has spent his working life as a fine artist, freelance journalist, photographer, painter and teacher of the arts. For him, art is the imagination expressed through the senses into new form. He has spent a lifetime exploring *Nature's Prism: From Sea to See*, specifically how color and light impact perception.

Donald's life long career began after leaving home at the age of 14. He is a graduate of Syracuse University with a doctorate in Art and Art Education, and Synesthesia. Parks has demonstrated outstanding ability and commitment towards the art of painting, including exhibiting at MOMA in New York City along with students from Oneonta State University. A Painting of *Stonehenge* was sold at Sotheby's in NY for \$18,000 and he donated the proceeds to the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Program to help stimulate art programs and competition in schools across the nation.

His work has earned him national recognition. During his career, Parks received numerous awards and honors. During the Clinton Administration he worked on the White House Commission for the Arts. He helped publish the White Paper on how the arts play an important role in education and was appointed by Senator Mike Castle of Delaware to speak at the Library of Congress in D.C., on behalf of the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards.

As Professor of Art Education at Delaware State University, he became the Eastern Regional Vice President of the National Art Education Association during the 1990's. He later received the *Delaware 2006 Governor's Award for the Arts*. Donald Parks also was the Vice President of the Board for the Barnes Museum Foundation in Philadelphia, the Board President of the Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover, Delaware and President of the Schwartz Center for the Arts, a performing arts theater in Dover, Delaware. Don left Delaware State University with 28 years of service in 2013, as Full Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus.