

## Artist portrays women, culture and politics

For the month of November until mid-December, the College of Health and Human Services' Second Floor Art Gallery will feature the exhibition, *This is Who We Are...And we are not going back, Powerful portraits of women* by Launda Wheatley.

This vibrant collection of oil paintings tells the story of different women at various stages in life. As each new woman appears on canvas, a new issue comes into place. Wheatley uses color, texture and various mediums that express her views. She addresses cultural and political issues, from human trafficking and domestic violence to terrorism and educating girls in Afghanistan.

What began as a means of escape during her youth has evolved into an introspective journey that manifests as works of art that give voice to the artist's deep emotions and beliefs. She was raised in Indiana and has travelled throughout Europe and the United States. After living in England for several years, Wheatley migrated to Michigan to raise her family. She taught art for six years at the Calhoun County Juvenile Home prior to becoming a full-time artist.

In addition to Wheatley's artistic career, she teaches yoga and holistic health classes, is completing her Masters Degree in Transpersonal Psychology, and is preparing to become a Zen priestess, a journey she believes will enrich her understanding of the mind, body, and spirit connection.

The WMU campus community and the general public are invited to experience and view the exhibit from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday until. For more information, contact Gay Walker at 269/387-3839 or [gay.walker@wmich.edu](mailto:gay.walker@wmich.edu).