

# RIVERFRONT ART GALLERY



*Come Fly  
With Me*

William "Bill" Melvin

[www.ypl.org](http://www.ypl.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**YONKERS, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021** – Yonkers Riverfront Art Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of its new art gallery exhibition, *Come Fly With Me*, from **Thursday, February 11, 2021-March 18, 2021**. This exhibit features 70 years of aviation artworks by William Melvin. The gallery is open during regular hours. Learn about the history of aviation and the passionate artist behind such profound works.

**Hours of service:**

Monday: 12-7pm

Tuesday: 10am-5pm

Wednesday: 10am-5pm

Thursday: 12-7pm

Friday: 10am-5pm

*"Melvin is a master at the drawing board with a passion for aviation art. He has completed 197 watercolors of aircraft--he is currently working on #198."*

- Susan Thaler, Former Deputy Director of Yonkers Public Library



William ("Bill") Melvin was born on July 15, 1929, in Cincinnati, Ohio. When he was young, he and his father, William Melvin, Sr., a paint and ladder merchant, made an annual pilgrimage to the Cleveland Air Races. It was the Golden Age of Aviation. Flying aces like Glenn Curtiss, Roscoe Turner, Wiley Post and Amelia Earhart were the rock stars of the day. Bill developed a lifelong fascination with aircraft and aviation. Too young to go off to war, he began drawing airplanes and war scenes, and building model planes.



After graduating from Withrow High School in 1947, Bill attended Cincinnati's Central Art Academy, with a concentration on commercial art. He got his first job at 18 as an

office boy at a local ad agency, where he was later promoted to the art department. In total, he spent 45 years in packaging design and lettering at various commercial art studios in his hometown. A master at the drawing board, he retired when computer graphics became the norm. Not long after, he returned to his early passion for aviation art. Since 2007, he has completed 197 watercolors of aircraft--he is currently working on #198.

Bill is twice a widower, after marriages lasting 16½ and 50 years, and has five children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He spent 25 years umpiring softball leagues before retiring from the game at age 86. After spending all of his first 91 years in Cincinnati, he moved to Westchester County in October of 2020 to live with his daughter Susan Thaler and her husband, Dan.



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### **ABOUT THE GALLERY:**

The Riverfront Art Gallery opened its doors in 2009 and is located on the 4th floor of the Riverfront Library in downtown Yonkers, NY. The gallery curator Haifa Bint-Kadi exhibits contemporary, nationally, and internationally acclaimed artwork. The mission of the gallery is to present a diverse and balanced schedule of exhibits of high caliber, progressive artwork, and related programs not frequently seen in Yonkers and in surrounding communities. The exhibition schedule is managed by a committee that is appointed by the library director.

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