



JOE MULLINS

Forensic Artist with a Purpose: Do You Recognize This Person?

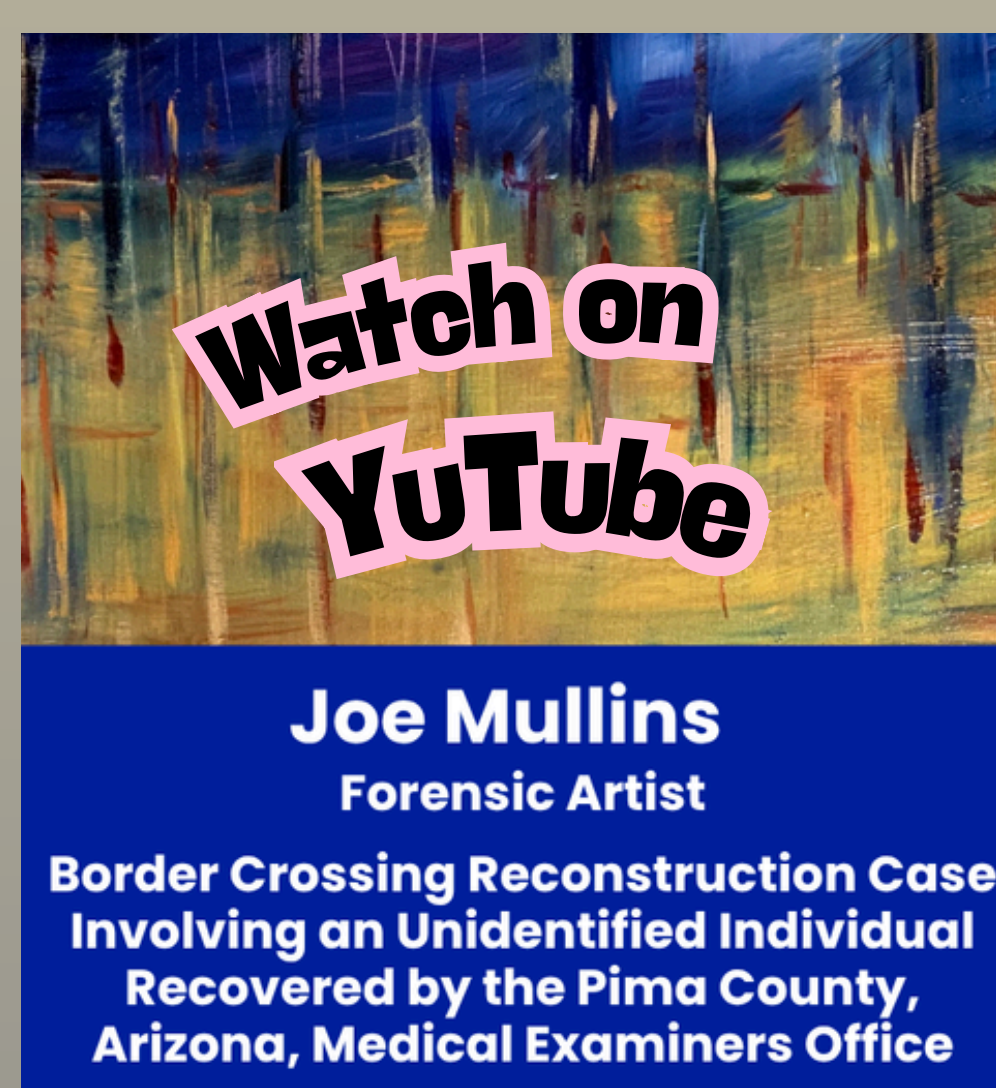


I became a forensic artist because every unidentified person deserves their name back. Behind every skull on a shelf is a human being, someone's child, parent, sibling, or friend and somewhere there is often a family still searching for answers. Facial approximation allows us to restore identity and humanity to those who can no longer speak for themselves. What began as a passion for art became a lifelong mission to help investigators solve cold cases and give families the answers they have waited years, sometimes decades, to receive.

Despite economic and political obstacles, this work is incredibly important because thousands of unidentified remains still exist in medical examiner and coroner offices across the country. Many agencies simply do not have the funding, resources, or trained personnel to dedicate to these cases. A facial approximation only works if the right person sees it and sparks recognition. That is why public awareness, media attention, and collaboration matter so much. These are not forgotten cases they are unresolved human stories.



One of the most important parts of my work is teaching and passing the torch to the next generation of forensic artists. Through workshops, university courses, and active case collaborations, I share the techniques and experience I've developed over nearly three decades in the field. We need more trained artists, more advocates, and more people willing to use their talents to help identify the unknown. By supporting and sharing this work, people become part of giving these victims their identities back and helping families finally find answers.



 [YouTube](#)  [The Art of Forensics: The New York Academy of Art](#)

 [YouTube](#)  [San Diego Cold Case](#)