

KARA JA'NICE MSHINDA, MA

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PROFILE

Visual anthropologist with over ten years of experience facilitating learning in the liberal arts with a focus on cultural anthropology and art history of the Americas from the Transatlantic world to the early 21st century. Active, exhibiting artist specializing in representations of identity through collage and alternative photographic processes. One of three winners of the 2023 Wind Exhibition Challenge at Fleisher Art Memorial.

EDUCATION

- 2007 Master of Arts, Anthropology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
Specialization: Anthropology of Visual Communication
Thesis: "Writing Against the City: Literacy Socialization among Graffiti Writers in Philadelphia"
- 2002 Bachelor of Arts (Honors), Interdisciplinary Anthropology, The University of Akron, Akron, OH
Minor: Classical Studies
Honors Thesis: "Skin Deep: The Body Politics of Naturists in Rocky River, Ohio"
- 2012 Master of Divinity program, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 – Present **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, Temple University, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Foundations Program, Philadelphia, PA
Course: Race, Identity, and Experience in American Art
- 2021 – Present **Fellowship Director**, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
- 2017 – 2019 **Program Facilitator and Collections Assistant**, Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, PA
- 2012 – 2017 **Independent Consultant**, Langsam Stevens Silver Hollaender, LLP, Philadelphia, PA
- 2007-2010 **Ethnographer**, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2023 *Three of a Kind Part II: Abstractions*, Three Person Exhibition, DuiJi Mshinda, Dahra Mshinda, Kara Mshinda, Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 *Three of a Kind*, Three Person Exhibition, DuiJi Mshinda, Dahra Mshinda, Kara Mshinda Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 *Race and Identity Artist Series: Alex Smith, Rami George, and Leroy Johnson*, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Philadelphia, PA (co-curated with Ricky Yanas)

ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – Present Member, William Way Arts Committee, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 – Present Exhibition Committee, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 Community Advisory Member for Killjoy's Kastle: A Lesbian Feminist Haunted House, Icebox Project Space, August 2019-September 2019
- 2014-2016 Board Member, Calvary Center for Culture and Community

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *All Hands Hold*, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Center, Allentown, PA
- 2019 *My Country | Color Fields*. Philly Art Collective, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 *Re | MIX: Finding a New Visual Dialect*, A-Space, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 *Border | Line*, A-Space, Philadelphia, PA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Constellations*, curated by Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 *An Exchange of Shifting Atmospheres + TSA Cohort Exhibition*, LaNao Galería, Mexico City, Mexico (curated by Ricky Yanas and Leslie Moody Castro)
- 2023 *where.you.left.off*, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, (curated by Tally de Orellana and David Ayala-Alfonso)
- 2023 *Wind Challenge Exhibition*, Fleisher Art Memorial, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 *ArtSCAPES*, Link Studios, Philadelphia, PA (curated by SEPER215)
- 2022 *Tiger Strikes Asteroid @ Satellite*, Satellite, Miami, FL
- 2022 *It's the Little Things: An Exhibition of Small Work*, 20*20 House Gallery, Lansdowne, PA (curated by Erica Harney)
- 2022 *Strange Geographies*, Two Person Exhibition with Ernel Martinez, Commonweal, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 *The Mutability of Time - Tiger Strikes Asteroid*, Schau Fenster, Berlin, Germany

- 2021 *when you open your mouth to pray*, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA (curated by Sam Kapp and Harry Feldman)
- 2021 *Tiger Strikes Asteroid: It feels like the first time*, Mana Contemporary Chicago, Chicago, IL (curated by Teresa Silva and Holly Cahill)
- 2021 *Moving Forward When the World Stopped: Queer Life, 2020-2021*, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA (curated by Chelsey Luster and Alec Rogers)
- 2021 *Layers of Intrigue: The Rainbow Show*, Philadelphia CollageWorks Group Exhibition, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 *Distant Neighbors*, Artists from the Tiger Strikes Asteroid Network, Eckert Art Gallery, Millersville University, Millersville, PA (curated by Heidi Leitzke)
- 2021 *Ritual and Rhythm*, SNAIL Gallery, Philadelphia, PA (curated by Logan Cryer)
- 2021 *15th Annual Juried Art Exhibition*, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA (Juror: Heather Raquel Phillips)
- 2020 *Embodiment: Figure in Art*. 3rd Street Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 *Stonewall @ 50*. Leonard Pearlstein Gallery. Philadelphia, PA (curated by David Acosta and Janus Ourma)
- 2019 *I Kan Do Dat*. Rush Arts Philadelphia. Philadelphia, PA (curated by Danny Simmons and Noah Smalls)
- 2019 *Taking-Up-Space*, Icebox Project Space, Philadelphia, PA (curated by Wit Lopez)
- 2018 *Creative Women of Lansdowne*. 20*20 House Gallery. Lansdowne, PA
- 2015 *Absolutely Abstract*, Philadelphia Sketch Club, Philadelphia, PA

COMMISSIONS

- 2022 Public Art Commission, *The Guardian*, large format print (4 x 12 feet) Future's Gallery, Village of Arts and Humanities, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 Private Art Commission, *Return, Repatriate, Repair: The Case for Abolition at the Penn Museum*, collage work and written commentary on archival use of images (5 x 8"), Jake Nussbaum and Abdul-Aliy A. Muhammad, editors, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 Private Art Commission, cover art for *Open Source* by Warren C. Longmire, Radiator Press, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 Private Art Commission, *Abstract Snowflake Designs*, series of 18 abstract ink drawings on paper, Black Paper Party, Madia Willis, Chief Executive Officer, Philadelphia, PA

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS

- 2023 Kara Mshinda, "Gripped, The Black Journey, and Dispersion," Return, Repatriate, Repair: The Case for Abolition at the Penn Museum, Jake Nussbaum and Abdul-Aliy A. Muhammad, editors, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 "Bradbury-Sullivan art exhibit showcases hands as symbols of humanity"
LehighValleyNews.com, by Olivia Marble, published November 3, 2022
- 2022 "How to celebrate Cinco De Mayo, Mother's Day in Philadelphia", FYI Philly, May 2, 2022
- 2021 Kara Mshinda, "The "Black Art" Renaissance: African Sculpture and Modernism across Continents" by Joshua I. Cohen, [CAA.reviews](#), September 28, 2021.
- 2019 "Abstract artist Kara Mshinda on giving value to the disposed and the dispossessed," by Alex Smith, July 20, 2019
- 2018 Wit López, "Artist Highlight: Kara Mshinda," Caldera Magazine, November 28, 2018. Issue 3.
- 2013 "The Impact of Social Disadvantage on Preconception Health, Illness, and Well Being: An Intersectional Analysis." Vijaya K. Hogan, DrPH, Jennifer F. Culhane, PhD, Kara Ja'Nice Crews, MA, Cheryl B. Mwaria, PhD, Diane L. Rowley, MD, MPH, Lisa Levenstein, PhD, Leith Patricia Mullings, PhD. American Journal of Health Promotion. 27.3. 3242. January 2013.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 Artist Talk, Center for Experimental Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 Vernacular Photography, Race, Identity, and Experience in American Art (Honors), Temple University, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 Artist Talk, Wind Challenge Exhibition, Fleisher Art Memorial, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 "Making an art career from the ground up," Pardon My Art, interview with Oskar Castro,
- 2021 "Reclaiming Identity: Collage in American Art Movements," 1960s – 1970s, Philadelphia CollageWorks Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 Artist Talk, Layers of Intrigue: The Rainbow Show, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 Artist Talk, Distant Neighbors, Eckert Art Gallery, Millersville University, Millersville, PA
- 2021 Collage Art Workshop, Morris Home, Philadelphia, PA

RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Artist Resident, Art and Soul Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 Artist-in-Residence, Gallery Shop, The Delaware Contemporary, Wilmington, DE
- 2020 Winter Artist-in-Residence, Philly Stewards, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 Taking Up Space-in-Residence, Icebox Project Space, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 Guest Artist-in-Residence at 40th Street AIR, Philadelphia Open Studio Tours, Philadelphia, PA

AWARDS

- 2023 Wind Challenge Exhibition Series, Fleisher Art Memorial, Philadelphia, PA (Jurors Victoria Ahmadizadeh Melendez and Yolanda Wisher)
- 2021 Juror's Award Prize Winner, 15th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Recipient of Honorable Mention Award, "Thank you, Patti Smith," Absolutely Abstract, Philadelphia Sketch Club, Philadelphia, PA

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2020 to Present Member, [Tiger Strikes Asteroid Philadelphia](#)
- 2019 – 2021 Member, [Philadelphia CollageWorks](#)