

# KARA JA'NICE MSHINDA, MA

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## BACKGROUND

Experienced anthropologist, educator, and visual artist skilled in project management and ethnographic research. Artistic focus in contemporary abstract art, collage, and digital photography. Sole proprietor of Kara Mshinda Arts, a visual art business specializing in unique art prints and handmade art decor.

## EDUCATION

- 2011 Master of Divinity program, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ
- 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

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Visual Artist and Sole Proprietor of Kara Mshinda Arts, June 2013 - Present**

Specialization in abstract art, mixed media, and collage. Conduct regular studio practice to create and develop fine artwork for sale and exhibition. Duties include actively participating in solo and group gallery exhibitions in the Philadelphia area, establishing relationships with galleries and art collectives, designing and managing artist web-site, social media engagement with potential collectors, maintaining archives of completed works, and using photo-editing programs for the preparation of artwork for print and web publication.

### **Adjunct Professor, Temple University, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, August 2019 - Present**

Responsible for the management and instruction of two course sections of *Race, Identity, and American Art* in the Foundations program at Tyler School of Art. Developed and maintained syllabus, course assignments, assessments, and additional educational materials for students. Invited local artists and art historians to guest lecture on topics related to race, identity, and artist practice. Planned lecture presentations, in-field activities, and classroom visits to local art institutions. Facilitated and encouraged an active learning environment for students via critical dialogue, group projects, and in-class writing activities.

### **Program Facilitator, Museum of the American Revolution, March 2017 - June 2019**

Facilitated interactive inquiry-based, small-group gallery programs about the American Revolution for adult and youth group audiences. Responsible for leading classroom-based

educational programs about historical figures and careers within the museum field. Assisted museum guests with exploring original artifacts, art, documents, and hands-on activities in immersive environments.

## **CURATORIAL PROJECTS**

2021 [\*Where Are You Now?\*](#), Tiger Strikes Asteroid Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

## **ADVISORY EXPERIENCE**

Community Advisory Member for *Killjoy's Kastle: A Lesbian Feminist Haunted House*, Icebox Project Space, August 2019-September 2019

Board Member, Calvary Center for Culture and Community, 2014-2016

## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

April 2021 *The Rainbow Show*, Artists from Philadelphia CollageWorks, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA

March 2021 *Distant Neighbors*, Artists from the Tiger Strikes Asteroid Network, Eckert Art Gallery, Millersville University, Millersville, PA

March 2021 *Ritual and Rhythm*, SNAIL Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

January 2021 *15th Annual Juried Art Exhibition*, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA

March 2020 *Embodiment: Figure in Art*. 3rd Street Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

September 2019 Lansdowne Arts on the Avenue Festival, Lansdowne, PA

June 2019 *Stonewall @ 50*. Leonard Pearlstein Gallery. Philadelphia, PA

May 2019 Solo exhibition, *My Country | Color Fields*. Philly Art Collective

March 2019 *I Kan Do Dat*. Rush Arts Philadelphia. Philadelphia, PA

February 2019 QT Noir Arts Festival. The Rotunda. Philadelphia, PA

December 2018 HERspace Arts Women's Festival. Philly Art Collective

May 2018 Upper Darby Arts and Music Festival, Upper Darby, PA

March 2018 *Creative Women of Lansdowne*. 20\*20 Gallery. Lansdowne, PA

January 2018 Pancakes and Booze Philadelphia, Underground Arts

June 2016 Solo exhibition, *Re|MIX: Finding a New Visual Dialect*, A-Space, Philadelphia, PA

August 2015 *Absolutely Abstract*, Philadelphia Sketch Club

November 2013 Solo exhibition, *Border|Line*, A-Space, Philadelphia, PA

## **RESIDENCIES**

- 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

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2019 Alex Smith, “Abstract artist Kara Mshinda on giving value to the disposed and the dispossessed,” Artblog. July 2019.
- 2018 Wit López, “Artist Highlight: Kara Mshinda,” Caldera Magazine, November 28, 2018. Issue 3.

## **AWARDS**

- 2021 Juror's Award Prize Winner, *15th Annual Juried Art Exhibition*, William Way LGBT Community Center
- 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 to Present Member, [Philadelphia CollageWorks](#)