

# KARA JA'NICE MSHINDA, MA

431 Orchard Avenue Yeadon, Pennsylvania 19050 | (215) 678-1497 | [info@karamshinda.com](mailto:info@karamshinda.com) | [www.karamshinda.com](http://www.karamshinda.com)

---

## BACKGROUND

Visual anthropologist, educator, and interdisciplinary artist with expertise in arts administration, project management, ethnographic research, and teaching culturally diverse student populations.

## 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  
*Concentration:* Classical Studies  
Honors Thesis: "Skin Deep: The Body Politics of Naturists in Rocky River, Ohio"
- 2011 Master of Divinity program, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 – Present *Adjunct Instructor*, Temple University, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Foundations Program, Philadelphia, PA  
Course taught: *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

- 2022 *Three of a Kind*, Three Person Exhibition, 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)
- 2021 *Where Are You Now? Tiger Strikes Asteroid* Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA (co-organized with Fred Schmidt-Arenales, Samantha Mitchell, and Alexis Granwell)

## **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**

- 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 *Three of a Kind*, Three Person Exhibition, Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia, PA
- 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 *Abstraction*, Manifold Global, virtual gallery.
- 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
- 2007 *Graffiti Here*, art installation, Lancaster Avenue Autonomous Space, Philadelphia, PA
- 2006 *Almost Art*, Slought, Philadelphia, PA (curated by Osvaldo Romberg)

## 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

- 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 (forthcoming)
- 2021 Kara Mshinda, "The "Black Art" Renaissance: African Sculpture and Modernism across Continents" by Joshua I. Cohen, [CAA.reviews](#), September 28, 2021.
- 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

- 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
- 2007 “Challenges in Studying Race, Class and Gender among African American Women of Childbearing Age in Philadelphia.” Presented at the 106th American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington, DC
- 2006 “Going ‘All City’ to ‘All World’”: Mass Media, Urban Visual Cultures, and the Globalization of Hip Hop Graffiti.” Presented at the 27th Annual Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Associations Meeting, Albuquerque, NM.

## **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, 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](#)