

# 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

## QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- Six years experience conducting regular studio practice for the creation and sale of original artwork
- Several years of active participation in group art exhibitions in the Philadelphia area
- Proficient in using photo-editing programs for the preparation of artwork for print and web publication
- Working knowledge in web-based publication of visual media, social media engagement, HTML, and web page development
- Well-suited to working in interdisciplinary settings and diverse work environments

## 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 website, social media engagement with potential collectors, maintaining archive 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.

**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**

March 2020	<i>Embodiment: Figure in Art</i> . 3rd Street Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
September 2019	Lansdowne Arts on the Avenue Festival, Lansdowne, PA
June 2019	<i>Stonewall @ 50</i> . Leonard Pearlstein Gallery. Philadelphia, PA
May 2019	Solo exhibition, <i>My Country   Color Fields</i> . Philly Art Collective
March 2019	<i>I Kan Do Dat</i> . 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	<i>Creative Women of Lansdowne</i> . Lansdowne Art Board. Lansdowne, PA
January 2018	Pancakes and Booze Philadelphia, Underground Arts
June 2016	Solo exhibition, <i>Re MIX: Finding a New Visual Dialect</i> , A-Space, Philadelphia, PA
August 2015	<i>Absolutely Abstract</i> , Philadelphia Sketch Club
November 2013	Solo exhibition, <i>Border Line</i> , A-Space, Philadelphia, PA

## **RESIDENCIES**

- February 2019      Taking Up Space-in-Residence, Icebox Project Space, Crane Arts Building, Philadelphia, PA
- October 2018      Guest Artist-in-Residence at 40th Street AIR. Philadelphia Open Studio Tours
- October 2007      Guest Artist-in-Residence at Lancaster Avenue Autonomous Space, 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**

- 2015    Recipient of Honorable Mention Award, “Thank you, Patti Smith,” *Absolutely Abstract*, Philadelphia Sketch Club, Philadelphia, PA

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2019 to Present      Artist Member, Philadelphia CollageWorks
- 2020                    Artist Member, Center for Emerging Visual Artists
- Gallery Member, Tiger Strikes Asteroid