



MAYA FREELON ASANTE

Chapel Hill, NC b. USA

EDUCATION

- 2007 M.F.A. School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 2005 B.A. in Art, *Cum Laude*, Lafayette College, Easton, PA
- 2004 The American University in Paris, France

RESIDENCIES

- 2010/11 C. Sylvia and Eddie C. Brown Studio at the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, Baltimore, MD
- 2009 Sonja Haynes Stone Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC
- 2008 The Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
- 2007 The Kokrobitey Institute, Accra, GHANA
- 2006 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Impermanence*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
- 2013 *Scattered to the Wind*, Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, Baltimore, MD
- 2011 Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, NC
- 2009 *The Beauty of Now*, Reginald Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, Baltimore, MD
Free, Stone Center: Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum, UNC Chapel Hill, NC
- 2008 *Art & Soul*, Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture, Duke University, Durham, NC
- 2007 *EnterACTION*, Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston, MA
- 2006 *Independence*, Lyda Moore Merrick Gallery, Durham, NC
- 2005 *Evolution*, Grubbs Gallery, The Williston Northampton School, Easthampton, MA
- 2001 *Expressive Interpretations*, Grubbs Gallery, Easthampton, MA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 Aqua Art Miami, Morton Fine Art, Miami, FL
- 2014 *Timeless Remnants*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
Aqua Art Miami, Morton Fine Art, Miami, FL
- 2013 *Fair Focus*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
Art Hamptons, Morton Fine Art, Bridgehampton, NY
AQUA Art Miami, Morton Fine Art, Miami FL



- 2012 DC NOW, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
2D/3D, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
AQUA Art Miami, Morton Fine Art, Miami, FL
Houston Art Fair, Morton Fine Art, Houston, TX
- 2011 *Material Girls*, Reginald Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, Baltimore, MD
Stories that Breathe, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
- 2010 *Art in Embassies*, U.S. Embassy, Antananarivo, MADAGASCAR
Art in Embassies, U.S. Embassy, Rome, ITALY
Pulp, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Mind Body & Spirit, University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, MD
- 2009 *Funktified*, Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook University, NY
Our Common Bond, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
Stars and Stripes: Pride and Hope, Smith Farm Center for Healing and the Arts, Washington, D.C.
- 2008 *Passion*, Anyone Can Fly Foundation ACA Gallery, New York, NY
Double Exposure, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA
She's So Articulate: Black Women Artists Reclaim the Narrative, Arlington Art Center, Arlington, VA
From Taboo to Icon: Africanist Turnabout, Ice Box Project Space, Philadelphia, PA
- 2007 *Ubuntu*, Kokrobitey Institute, Kokrobitey, GHANA
Memory and Place, IAAA Gallery: New York University, New York, NY
Transparency, Tufts University, Medford, MA
Seeds, Piano Factory Gallery, Boston, MA
Access: A Feminist Perspective, Rhonda Schaller Studio, New York, NY
HerHumanity, Casa Frela Gallery, New York, NY
- 2006 *Boston Young Contemporaries*, (Juried by: Kiki Smith, Gideon Bok, & Laura Donaldson) 808, Boston, MA
Blurring Racial Barriers, Diggs Gallery, Winston Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC
- 2005 *What is Freedom?*, Gallery of Social and Political Art, Boston, MA
- 2004 *And then there were 3*, Combes Gallery, The American University of Paris, France

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2007-2008

Faculty, *Design and Art History*, Towson University, Baltimore, MD

Faculty, *Mixed Media and Art History*, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD

Instructor, *Mixed Media Collage*, The Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD

2005 Ongoing

Founder & Instructor, *Make Your Mark Art*, Philadelphia, PA

Co-Teaching, *Public Art Public Action Youth*

Art In Action, SMFA Boston, MA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 – OnHub feature artist and design, Google, Mountain View, CA

2008 – Director of Photography, 'Conversation Between Elizabeth Catlett and Maya Angelou' Delta Fine Arts Center, Winston-Salem, NC (Film)

2007 – Coordinator, 2nd African and African American Art and Film Conference, New York, NY

– Curator/ Moderator, Panel Discussion 'Racing Yourself', invited artists: Senga Nengudi, Dread Scott and Aisha Bell, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

HONORS AND AWARDS

2010 Hometown Hero Award - Chapel Hill, NC

2009 United States FESMAN (World Festival of Black Arts) Committee Member

2008 The Brandywine Workshop Young Artist Fellowship



- 2007 City of Boston, City Council Official Recognition and Resolution (Enter-ACTION Exhibition)
Tufts University AS&E Diversity Fund Award
The School of the Museum of Fine Arts Presidential Funding ('Racing-Yourself' Panel)
- 2006 Camille Hanks Cosby Fellowship (Skowhegan Residency)
- 2005 Lafayette Honors Thesis Award
Outstanding Leadership Award (Philadelphia FIGHT)
Riley Temple Creative and Artistic Citizenship Award
- 2004 EXCEL Research Scholar

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2009 *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*, Chapel Hill, NC (Lecture)
The Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore, MD (Master's Class)
- 2008 *Maryland Institute College of Art*, 'Beyond the Imagination' Baltimore, MD (Guest Critic)
Duke University, Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture 'Art & Soul', Durham, NC (Lecture)
Crane Arts Ice Box Gallery, 'From Taboo to Icon', Philadelphia, PA (Panel Discussion)
- 2007 *The Museum of the National Center of AfroAmerican Art*, Boston, MA (Lecture and Workshop)
College Art Association Conference, New York, NY Arts Exchange (Participating Artist)
Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT (Featured Artist)
- 2006 *Annual Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference*, Philadelphia, PA (Visiting Artist)
Lyda Moore Merrick Gallery, Durham, NC (Gallery Talk)
- 2005 *The School of the Museum of Fine Arts*, Boston, MA (Lecture)
- 2004 *Woodmere Art Museum*, 'Allan Freelon: Pioneer African American Impressionist', Philadelphia, PA

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2011 American Art Collector Magazine (print) Joshua Rose "Stories That Breathe" June 2011
pg.144-147 Washington Post (print) "Stories That Breathe" Writeup
- 2009 Swift, Tim. "10 things not to miss this week." *The Baltimore Sun* [Baltimore] 27 July 2009. Print.
Shareef, Shaharзад. "An Artist to Watch." *The International Review of African American Art* v.22 n.3
Amoss, Marianne K. "The Scene." *The Urbanite* June 2009. Print.
Johnson, S. Ann. "Talk, listen, and create with Baltimore based visual artist Maya Freelon Asante."
Examiner.com Baltimore 22 July 2009. Print.
Riley, Stephen. "Maya Freelon Asante: The Beauty of Now." *The Afro* [Baltimore] 29 July 2009. Print.
Artistas: the Maiden, Mother and Crone. Dir. Sue May. Perf. Elizabeth Catlett, Leonora Carrington,
Maya Freelon Asante. My Dog Spot Productions, 2009.
Meadows, Jessica. "Water-stained tissue paper" My NC. NBC17. North Carolina. 1 Feb.
"Tissue becomes art." *The Triangle Tribune* [Durham] 28 Jan.
Riley, Cheryl R. "Art: Family Portrait." *Uptown Magazine* Feb. & March: 28-29.
"Maya Freelon Asante." *Marquis Who's Who in American Art*. 29th ed.
- 2008 Rice, Robin. "Life in Turnabout." *Philadelphia City Paper* 23 Jan: 1.



- Frederick, Helen. "She's So Articulate: Black Women Reclaim the Narrative." *Art Papers* Sept.: 54.
- Nnenna Freelon: *Better Than Anything*. Rec. 15 Jan. 2008. Original album artwork created by Maya Freelon Asante. "Better Than Anything", Tissue Paper Collage, 24"x23"
- Henry, Lisa. "Double Exposure" *Nueva Luz: En Foco* 13.
- 2007 Kim, Jin-ah. "Maya Freelon is Unafraid." *The Boston-Bay State Banner* 3 May.
"Maya Freelon." *The Callaloo Express*. Cambridge Community Television. Cambridge, MA. May.
- Brittan, David, ed. "Transparent Reconstruction." *Tufts Magazine* Spring: 1.
- Pough, Gwendolyn D., ed. *Home Girls Make Some Noise! Hip-hop Feminism Anthology*. Grand Rapids: Parker, LLC.
- 2006 Greenberg, Blue. "Freelon finds her political voice in visual arts." *The Herald Sun* [Durham] 22 Jan: E2.
- Stasio, Frank. "IN-Dependence." *The State of Things*. - WUNC. Durham. 19 Jan.
- Artists of Color. Boston News Network. Boston, MA. Sept.
- Freeman, Sandi. "Celebrating Women." *TRIBES* Mar: 14+.
- Endamne, Alice N., ed. "In The Eye of the Hurricane: Reflections on Katrina." *Black Arts Quarterly*.
- 2005 "Accessing the past to understand the future." *The Daily Hampshire Gazette* [Northampton] Jan.
- Feeney, Leigh Anne. "Maya Freelon: Hybrid of Art & Soul." *Nommo Newsmagazine* [Los Angeles].
- 2004 "Human body is focus of exhibition." *The Herald Sun* [Durham, NC] Oct.
- Lewis, Louis St. "Modern and Timeless." *Metro Magazine* Oct.
- Rodgers, Kenneth G. "Allan Freelon: African American Impressionist." *North Carolina Central University Art Museum* March & April.

COLLECTIONS

U.S. State Department, U.S. Embassy in Madagascar; U.S. Embassy Rome; The University of Maryland (David C. Driskell Center); The Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists; The Reginald F. Lewis Museum;

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts; The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Lafayette College; The Brandywine Workshop; The Experimental Printmaking Institute; The Williston Northampton School; The Kokrobitey Institute; Lewis Tanner Moore; Dr. Maya Angelou

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member *En Foco*; Board of Brandywine Workshop; Board of Peace Study Center



Maya Freelon Asante - Artist Statement

In 2005 I discovered a beautiful accident; a stack of water damaged tissue paper tucked away in my grandmother's basement was left with a brilliant and intricate stain. Since then I've submerged myself in the medium of bleeding tissue paper sculpture and tissue ink monoprints, which exist as simultaneously transient and steadfast. This dichotomy continues to intrigue and surprise me as I wrestle with sharing the unique beauty, fragility, and strength of my art with the world.

Much like my grandmother, who never wasted a single grain of rice on her plate, I find a way to utilize tissue paper at every stage of creation - including the rich and colorful ink released when the paper is wet, the sculptural mounds formed when creating monoprints, and even the tiny ripped pieces no larger than a fingernail which are collected and wound into spiral sculptures. Improvisation and discovery play a big role in my creative process; by incorporating archival photographs I'm able to reappropriate images, bridging a gap between the past and future.

My grandmother always said she "made a way out of no way" and her personal endurance opened a path for my own creative discovery. Art for me is about finding the message in the medium and honoring what fuels our desire to preserve and protect it. Bringing more peace, joy and light into the world is my primary objective, while simultaneously appreciating the beauty of now and creating everlasting memories.

About Maya Freelon Asante:

Maya Freelon Asante is an award-winning artist whose artwork was described by poet Maya Angelou as "visualizing the truth about the vulnerability and power of the human being," and her unique tissue paper work was also praised by the International Review of African American Art as a "vibrant, beating assemblage of color." She was selected by Modern Luxury Magazine as Best of the City 2013, by the Huffington Post's "Black Artists: 30 Contemporary Art Makers Under 40 You Should Know", and Cosmopolitan Magazine's "Art Stars" as "the most badass female artists in the biz."

Maya has exhibited her work nationally and internationally including Paris, Ghana, and US Embassies in Madagascar, Italy, Jamaica and Swaziland. She has been a professor of art at Towson University and Morgan State University. Maya has attended numerous residencies including Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Korobitey Institute and Brandywine Workshop. She earned a BA from Lafayette College and an MFA from the School of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.