
SARAH STEFANA SMITH

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Born 1982, Lives in Washington, D.C.

RECENT PROJECTS

- 2019 *For Peggy: Hauntologies of Descent*. Collaboration with poet Lauren Russell
Tick Tock: Memory Metamorphosis. Collaboration with choreographer Kelly Bartnik
- 2017 *Hauntings*. Photography, bird netting, and projection installation (in process)
Collection of Matchbooks. Photographs (in process)
- 2015 *Constantly a Stranger*. Installation and photographs

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 Puffin Foundation, Grant (\$600)
Mellon Faculty Grant, American University (\$2000)
Merriweather District AIR Stipend (\$10000)
- 2018 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship of Academic Diversity, College of Arts and Sciences,
American University, Washington D.C. (2018-Pres)
- 2017 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Africana Research Center (2016-17), Teaching
Postdoctoral Fellow with Department of African American Studies, Pennsylvania State
University, State College, PA (2017-2018)
- 2013 Bremen Santander BISIP Scholarship, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany
IdeasTap Zine Submission (Co-Recipient with La Boi Band Collective), London, UK
Ontario Arts Council Grant (Co-Recipient with Massmus Collective), Toronto, ON
- 2012 ArtReach Project Grant, ArtReach (in partnership with Rexdale Pride), Toronto, ON
Research Travel Grant, School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2010 OISE/UT Graduate Funding Package, University of Toronto, September 2010- 2014
John Pavlis Fellowship Fund for Artists, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
- 2008 Audre Lorde Scholarship for LGBTQ Students of Color, Zami Organization, Atlanta, GA
40th Street Artist in Residence Program, Philadelphia, PA
- 2006 Leeway Foundation Art & Change Grant, Leeway Foundation, Philadelphia, PA

RESIDENCIES

- 2020 For Peggy Residency w. Lauren Russell and the Humanities Center, University of
2019 Pittsburgh. (March 9-18th), Pittsburgh, PA
77ARTS Residency. (August 2019) Rutland, VT
Merriweather District AIR (May-June 2019) Columbia, Maryland
- 2018 Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA) Summer Residency (July 2018). Amherst, VA
- 2017 Feminist Art Conference Artist Residency. (May 12-26, 2017). Artscape Gibraltar Point,

Toronto Island, Ontario, Canada

2010 Vermont Studio Center Artist Residency Program, Johnson, VT

2008 40th Street Artist in Residence Program, Philadelphia, PA

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2017 *Conjuring Women/ Conjuring, Women* (with Conjuring Collective), State College, PA

2014 *Constantly a Stranger* (with Massmus Collective), Toronto, ON

Teen Zine, La Boi Band (with La Boi Band Collective), IdeasTap, London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND SCREENINGS

2020 *Feminist Art Conference* (March 2-14), Great Hall Exhibition Space- OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario.

Dialogue and Form (April), Waller Gallery and Lauwer Gallery, Hauge, Netherlands.

2019 *AIRBORNE*, (June 21-23), Merriweather District, Columbia, MD.

Fourth Annual Young Arts Contemporary Festival, (March 21-24), Crosstown Arts Center, Memphis, TN.

Transcendence, (March 1-31), IA&A at Hillyer Gallery, Washington, D.C.

Over, Under, Back, Forward, (Jan. 12-Mar. 31), Curated by Blair Murphy, Arlington Art Center, Arlington, VA

Light Liminal, (Feb. 22-Mar. 24), DC Art Center, Washington, D.C.

Tick Tock: Memory Metamorphosis, Collaboration with Kelly Bartnik (Jan. 7-Feb. 2), Colby College, Waterville, ME and the Boston Center for the Performing Arts, Boston, MA

2018 *Conjuring, Women/ Conjuring Women*. (Nov. 2018) Borland Project Space, State College, PA

Interstices. Capacious Conference, (Aug. 2018), Lancaster, PA.

The Shape of Memory (June 29th), Arthouse Gallery, Pleasant Gap, PA.

Strength in Practice. (Jun. 1-Jul. 21), Waller Gallery and Gallery CA, Baltimore MD

2017 *LabBodies Performance Art Review III, FREEDOM*, (Nov. 10-30) Space Camp Gallery, Baltimore, MD

Open Studios: FAC Residency. Daniels Spectrums, Toronto, Ontario

2015 *A Different Eye: Sistagraphy Celebrates 20 Years of Photography*. Hammond Gallery, Atlanta, GA

2014 *Visual Art Series: Tattered*, Living Art House, Bethesda, MD

2013 *20 Years of Sistagraphy*, Hammond House, Atlanta, GA

Black Diaspora Conversations: Gender, Sexuality and Queer Thoughts, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto ON

2010 *Goddard MFA-IA Graduate Show*, Elliott D. Pratt Library, Plainfield VT

2008 *West Philadelphia POST Artists Group Show*, White Dog Café, Philadelphia, PA

Transmutations, AIRSPACE Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Open Studio Tours, AIRSPACE Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Darkroom, Peter Fingesten Gallery, Pace University, New York, NY

2007 *Group Show for Philadelphia Center for the Photographic Image*, Higher Ground Coffee Shop, Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Open Studio Tours Group Show, Freeman's Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

2006 *Shootout: Reverberating the Spirit and Legacy of Jack T. Franklin*, African American Museum in

Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

- 2004 *Storm in a Teacup*, Atlanta Fulton Public Library, Atlanta, GA
feMCees: Women Re-defining Hip Hop in Atlanta, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA
- 2002 *Pictures Tell Our Story*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
Connected Vision, Buckhead Fulton Public Library, Atlanta, GA

PRESS AND NEWS

- 2019 R.H. Alcott. "Talking Pictures: Sarah Stefana Smith". Rutland Herald. August 16, 2019. https://www.rutlandherald.com/slider/talking-pictures-sarah-stefana-smith/image_5b4c6225-9305-5f5f-8147-4cd2037f03f7.html
The Bmore Creatives. June 27, 2019. MD AIR Exhibition at Merriweather. <https://www.thebmorecreatives.com/blog/2019/6/26/md-air-exhibition>
- 2017 Maura Callahan. "Envisioning and Embodying Freedom". www.bmoreart.com
Angela N. Carroll. "Lab Bodies Third Annual Performance Art Review". Baltimore Beat. www.baltimorebeat.com
Meet the FAC 2017 Residency Artist: Sarah Stefana Smith. factoronto.tumblr.com
- 2009 Clayton Ruley. "Interview with Sarah Stefana Smith." *Geoclan.com*, Philadelphia, PA
Bobbi Booker. "The Quiet Legacy of Historic Black Culture Photographer Jack T. Franklin." *The Examiner*. Philadelphia, PA.

PUBLICATIONS AS AUTHOR

- 2019 Performing Bafflement: Time and Space in photographer, Ayana Jackson's *To Kill or Allow to Live* (2016), In Shante Paradigm Smalls and Elliott H. Powell *Black Scholar Journal, Special Issue: Black Queer and Trans Aesthetics*. 49.1: 17-27.
- 2018 Exhibition Review. Curtaors, Karen E. Milborne, Mary Nooter Roberts, and Allen F. Roberts, *Senses of Time: Video and Film Based Works of Africa*. November 30, 2018. College Art Association. caa.reviews.org.

Surface Play: Rewriting Black Interiorities through Camouflage and Abstraction in Mickalene Thomas's Oeuvre, in Uri McMillan (eds). *Women & Performance, Special Issue: Surface Aesthetics: Art, Race, Performance, and Play*. 28 (1): 46-64.

Book Review: Eds. E. Patrick Johnson and Ramón H. Rivera-Servera, *Blacktino Queer Performance*. July 10, 2018. College Art Association. caa.reviews.org.
- 2017 Aesthetic Deception in Selling the Shadow (2016). *Liquid Blackness, Special Issue: Suspension*. 4(7): 117-38.

Smith, Sarah Stefana and B. Stephen Carpenter II. "Discursive Materials: Narratives, Performances, and Material Cultures." In Amelia M. Kraehe, Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, and B. Stephen Carpenter, II (eds.), *The Handbook on Race in the Arts in Education*. London:

Palgrave-MacMillan.

Book Review: Rinaldo Walcott, *Queer Returns: Essays on Multiculturalism, Diaspora, and Black Studies*. November 2017. In K. Fritsch and R. Simpkins (eds). *Somatechnics Special Issue: The Somatechnics of Sexuality in Canada*. 7 (2).

- 2015** *Dreadhead in 20 Years of Sistagraphy* in Connie Cross (ed). Atlanta, GA: self-published.
- 2013** *Appetites: Destabilizing the Notion of Normalcy and Deviance Through the Work of Wangechi Mutu and Octavia Butler* In *Ruptures: Anti-colonial and Anti-Racist Feminist Theorizing*, edited by N. Wane, Z. Murad, and J. Jagire. New York: Peter Lang Press. "Remixed to the Color Purple". *Mambu Badu*, 2 (1).
- 2010** Sarah Stefana Smith. In Patton, L. (Ed), *Goddard College Master In Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Arts Graduate Catalogue*. Self-published.
- 2009** *Art & Artists: Sarah Stefana Smith* In Eaton, E. and T. Smelt, *Evolutionary Girl Club*, (Ed), *The Minutiae of Visionaries: Experiments Towards Social Evolution*. Rochester, NY: self-published.

SELECT ARTIST TALKS, LECTURES AND PANELS

- 2019** Panel. Call and Response: Poetics, Visuality, and Artist-Writers on the Archive, (October 10-12), Black Portraiture[s] V. New York University, NY.
Panel. Residencies. (August 4), Burlington Art Center, Burlington, VT
Panel. AIRBORNE, (June 21-23), MD AIR, Columbia, MD
Artist Talk. Over, Under, Back, Forward (March 30) Arlington Art Center, Arlington, VA
Artist Talk. Light Liminal (March 17) DC Art Center, Washington, DC
Moderator. Rate of Contingency – Kyle Hackett (March 14) Baltimore City Hall-Rotunda, Baltimore, MD
- 2018** Panel. American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA
Panel. ASAP/10, New Orleans, LA.
Artist Talk. Shape of Memory, Borland Project Space, State College PA.
Panel. Capacious Conference, Lancaster, PA.
- 2017** Artist Talk. Black Ass Salon. Seattle, WA.
Artist Talk. Black Cultural Studies Working Group. University of Pennsylvania, PA.
Artist Talk. THEA 497: Truth and Reconciliation: Race Relations in America – Performing Arts and Artists Moving Us Forward.
- 2016** Lecture. Works in Progress, Department of African American Studies, Penn State, PA
Panel. Black like...? Writing Black Canada, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.
Panel. Black Affects[s], Queer Sensibilities: Corporealities of Contestation in Ayana Jackson and Zanele Muholi's Photographic Work. Black Portraiture[s] Conference III, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2015** Panel. Composite Field (2015) on Nothingness and Mu. Paper presented at Black + Queer + Human Conversations Symposium, Toronto, Ontario.

- Panel. Black Queer Diaspora Practis & Its Mainfold Futures. Paper presented at the American Studies Association on The (Re)production of Misery and the Ways of Resistance, Toronto, Ontario.
- Panel. Frustrating Subjectivities and Archives of Struggle: Zanele Muholi's *Faces & Phases* (2006-Present). Paper presented at the National Women's Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2013** Panel. Stuart Hall Library Research Network Meeting. Inivia, London, United Kingdom.
Lecture. Slavery and Literature Course. University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany.
Lecture. WSTB11: Race, Class & Gender. University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario.
Lecture. Works in Progress Seminar Series, Center for Media and Culture in Education. University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2012** Panel. The Queerness of Hip Hop and the Hip Hop of Queerness Symposium, Harvard University. Boston, Massachusetts.
Panel. Crossroads in Cultural Studies, Association for Cultural Studies. Sorbonne Nouvelle University and UNESCO. Paris, France.
- 2011** Panel. Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Canadian Sociological Association. University of New Brunswick. Fredricton, NB.
State of African American and African Diaspora Studies Conference, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. New York, NY.
- 2010** Artist Talk. In the Spaces We Create...The Self is Made Visible: Three Black Women Artists Map Identity, Formulate Methodologies, and Challenge Medium. National Women's Studies Association. Denver, Colorado.
Artist Talk. Liminal Spaces Conference of Interdisciplinary Art, Goddard College. Plainfield, Vermont.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- July 2020 - Assistant Professor of Gender Studies
Mount Holyoke College
- 2018-2020 Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity
College of Arts & Sciences, American University
Department of Art and the Critical Race, Gender, and Cultural Studies Collaborative
- 2016-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow
Africana Research Center and African American Studies Department
The Pennsylvania State University

TEACHING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2018-** Professor for "WGSS150: Women's Voices Through Time" and "ART601: Contemporary
2019 Art Theory"
- 2017** Professor for "AFAM110: Introduction to African American Studies", WMST100: Introduction to Women's Studies", "AFAM/WMST102: Women of Color, Cross Cultural Perspectives"

- 2016** Course Instructor for “AMST230: The Arts in America”, “ENGL101: Introduction to College Writing”, and “ENGL102: Critical Reading, Writing and Research”
- 2012-2015** Teaching Assistant for “Introduction to Theories of Feminism”, “Introduction to Women and Gender Studies”, “Race, Class and Gender”, “Understanding Visual Culture”, “International Migration and Immigrant Incorporation” and “Women in the Media”
- 2010-2013** Media Arts Program Coordinator, Leave Out Violence, Toronto, Ontario
- 2006-2009** Visual Art and Media Instructor, Peoples Emergency Center, Shaw Middle School, Ayuda Community Center and Media Mobilizing Project, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

EDUCATION

- 2016** PhD, Social Justice Education, University of Toronto
- 2010** MFA in Interdisciplinary Art, Goddard College
- 2004** BA Sociology and Anthropology, Magna cum laude, Spelman College

REFERENCES

Available on request.