

LAKAYE MBAH

624 Redkirk Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23462 | US | (757) 309-1760
info@lakayembah.com | www.lakayembah.com | www.queensandcanvas.com

Education

- 2020 MFA, Visual Studies, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- 2019 MA, Visual Studies, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- 2006 MA, Publications Design, University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
- 1998 BA, Mass Media Arts, Hampton University, Hampton, VA
- 2000 Maryland Institute College of Art (photography courses)

Teaching Experience

- 2021- Adjunct Instructor, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- 2019-22 Adjunct Instructor, Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth, VA
- 2011-15 Adjunct Instructor, Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth, VA
- 2009-11 Full-Time Faculty, Sanford-Brown College, Vienna, VA

Exhibition Record

- 2023 *Celebrating Black Artists*, Arts on Main, Gloucester, VA
- 2023 *Crowns of Glory*, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- 2021 Juneteenth Exhibition, Studio Gallery, Norfolk, VA
- 2021 *Black Art Reframed*, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- 2020 *The Show Must Go On*, Virtual Exhibition MortarandPestleart.com
- 2020 *In Response*: Virtual Exhibition, VirginiaMOCA.org
- 2019 **Solo Exhibition**, *Meet the Artist*, MEO Central Library's Art Gallery, Virginia Beach, VA
- 2019 *Hidden Figures/Energy Revealed*, NEON Festival, Norfolk, VA
- 2019 D'Art Center Featured Artists, The Main, Norfolk, VA
- 2019 **Solo Exhibition**, *Meet the Artist*, Bayside Library, Virginia Beach, VA
- 2019 **Solo Exhibition**, *MA Thesis Exhibition*, James Wise Gallery, Hamm Fine Arts Building, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA

- 2019 **Two-Person Exhibition**, Coastal Virginia Universal Universalists Gallery (with painter/printmaker, Walt Hardy), Norfolk, VA
- 2019 Taste of NSU, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- 2019 *Africa Unveiled: Art in its Many Forms*, Hampton University, Hampton, VA
- 2017 *The Human Experience*, EVMS, Norfolk, VA
- 2017 *Shadow Freeze*, NEON Festival, Norfolk, VA
- 2016 Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Does the Arts, Norfolk, VA
- 2014 Faculty Art Show, Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth, VA
- 2013 Faculty Art Show, Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth, VA
- 2011 **Solo Exhibition**, *Body Language*, The Living Well, Baltimore, MD

Collaborative Projects

- 2018 *Into the Future*, 8'x20' mural for the Department of Human Resources, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- 2018 *The African American Journey*, 8'x48' mural, Co-Project Leader, New Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA
- 2016 Ode to the USS Wisconsin, parking garage mural and way-finding project, acrylic and vinyl, Main Street Garage, Norfolk, VA

Awards

- 2022 Bronze with Distinction, Teen and Senior Portrait Category, Portrait Masters Awards, ThePortraitMasters.com
- 2021 Bronze, Contemporary Portrait Category, Portrait Masters Awards, ThePortraitMasters.com
- 2018 Judge's Award, Hermitage Handmade Festival, Hermitage Museum and Gardens Norfolk, VA
- 2016 First Place, Stockley Gardens Arts Fall Festival, Emerging Artist Competition, Norfolk, VA
- 2016 First Place, Stockley Gardens Arts Spring Festival, Emerging Artist Competition, Norfolk, VA

Community Presentations and Workshops

- 2023 Story Shield Workshop, Arts on Main, Gloucester, VA
- 2019 Empowerment Shield Project, Health and Science Summer Academy, Norfolk, VA
- 2018 Adire and Story Cloth Workshop, Health and Science Summer Academy, Norfolk, VA
- 2018 Nsibidi Stamping Workshop, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA
- 2018 Story Cloth Workshop, Boys & Girls Club, Virginia Beach, VA
- 2017 *Communitree Project*, Hampton Roads Gazeti, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- 2017 Painted Glass Workshop, Health and Science Summer Academy, Norfolk, VA

Additional Experience

- 2011- Freelance Portrait Photographer, Virginia Beach, VA
- 2018-20 Graduate Assistant, Norfolk State University, Department of Fine and Performing Arts-Division of Fine Arts, Norfolk, VA
- 2016-19 Photographer & Videographer, Atlantic Sotheby's International Realty, Virginia Beach, VA
- 2015-16 Marketing Photographer, Kris Weaver Real Estate, Virginia Beach, VA
- 2005-09 Staff Photographer, Urbanite Magazine, Baltimore, MD

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Teaching Philosophy

My photography teaching philosophy is based on the constructivist approach, which emphasizes the active construction of knowledge through hands-on experience and reflection. I believe that students learn best by doing, and that photography is an excellent medium for this type of learning.

I encourage students to experiment with different techniques and to take risks in their work. Through this process, they will develop a deeper understanding of the medium and their own unique perspective. I will provide guidance and feedback to help them refine their skills, but ultimately the goal is for the students to take ownership of their learning and develop their own style.

In addition to technical skills, I believe that it is important for students to learn about the history and context of photography. This will help them to appreciate the work of other photographers and to understand how their own work fits into the larger conversation.

I also believe that photography is a powerful tool for self-expression and personal growth. I will encourage students to use photography to explore their own interests, experiences, and emotions, and to develop a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

In my class, I will provide a safe and supportive environment where students can take risks, make mistakes, and learn from their experiences. I believe that this approach will enable students to develop their photography skills, their creativity, and their critical thinking abilities.

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January 31, 2023

Old Dominion University
Barry Arts Building
5115 Hampton Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23529

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to express my interest in the Assistant Professor of Photography (Tenure Track) position at Old Dominion University. As a skilled professional with a passion for photography and a strong background in both the technical and creative aspects of the medium, I am confident that I would be an asset to your program.

I hold an MFA in Visual Studies from Norfolk State University, where my research focused on documenting the personal mythologies of Black women within the African diaspora. I have also earned a Master's degree in Publications Design from the University of Baltimore, and a Bachelor's degree in Mass Media Arts from Hampton University. My academic credentials, combined with my multi-disciplinary fine art training, have equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the field of photography.

I have several years of experience teaching photography at the college level with students from racially and socio-economically diverse backgrounds. My teaching philosophy is centered on fostering a learning environment that encourages creativity, critical thinking, and hands-on participation. I have consistently received positive evaluations from students and colleagues for my ability to engage and inspire learners.

I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the educational mission of Old Dominion University. I am particularly interested in curriculum development and engaging in professional activities that will enhance the photography program and the students' artistic growth.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss how my qualifications and experience align with the needs of the department and the school.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,



LaKaye Mbah

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Artist Statement

My photography explores the complexities of identity and the multifaceted nature of self. Through portraiture and conceptual imagery, I examine the ways in which personal experiences, cultural backgrounds, and societal norms shape our understanding of who we are. My aim is to encourage self-reflection by challenging societal conventions and fostering critical engagement with societal norms.

As an African American woman, I am particularly passionate about exploring and representing the diverse experiences and perspectives of my community. I strive to challenge and disrupt stereotypes that often marginalize African American women in mainstream media. My goal is to give visibility to those who are often overlooked and to empower African American women by amplifying their voices and identities. I believe that photography has the power to tell important stories and promote empathy, understanding, and social justice.

In addition to my photographic works, I am also dedicated to preserving my West African heritage. I am passionate about passing down the traditions of West African women to the new generation of Black women and children. By sharing my ancestral history, I hope to inspire others to seek information about their heritage and to feel empowered by knowing their roots. Through my work, I seek to promote a deeper connection with one's ancestral history and to encourage the development of a new personal mythology.

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References

Solomon Isekeije, Professor of Fine Arts
Program Coordinator, Division of Fine Arts
Graduate Program Coordinator, MFA Visual Studies Program
Department of Visual and Performing Arts
Norfolk State University
700 Park Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23504
757-823-8844
srisekeije@nsu.edu

Timothy F. McCarthy, Community Leader
3845 Prince Phillip Circle
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-486-3375
mccarthy44@gmail.com

Nachè Snow, Entrepreneur
PO Box 2585
Washington, DC 20013-2585
301-523-7332
hello@nachesnow.com