

Education:

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2007 MFA **University of Tennessee**, Knoxville
Concentration: Printmaking

2001 BFA **Virginia Commonwealth University**, Richmond
Concentration: Painting and Printmaking
Polytechnic School of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, VCU summer study abroad, 2000
The National Gallery, London, VCU summer study abroad, 1999

Professional Experience:

2018-Present **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, On the Road Coordinator**, Art and Education Division, Richmond, VA

- Travel and schedule residencies with Partner Sites around Virginia
- Install and deinstall the artwork on the artmobile
- Create educational programs for school visits of SOL-related lesson plans
- Develop and demonstrate art activities connected to the artwork on the artmobile
- Facilitate school tours and general tours for all visitors

Teaching Experience:

2018-2010 **Instructor in Fine Arts**, Fine Arts Department, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA

- Taught and scheduled visual art studio and lecture courses
- Advised fine arts majors and art club members
- Curated and installed the annual student art exhibition
- Organized student internships off campus
- Served on the committee for the Center of International Studies
- Served on the committee for the Art & Literary Magazine
- Recruited/orientated visual art adjuncts
- Served as faculty representative for the VMFA College Art Council

2013-2008 **Assistant Professor**, Art Area, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA

- Worked on both campuses, Downtown Richmond & Glen Allen
- Taught visual art courses & assisted with the annual student art exhibition
- Certified to teach online (distant learning) and hybrid courses
- Co-organized student trips to museums in Washington D.C.
- Served as faculty representative on the VMFA College Art Council

Awards:

2026 The Denis Diderot Grant, Château d'Orquevaux Artists & Writers Residency, Champagne-Ardenne, France
2025 Runner-up prize for Soul of Artists 2nd International Juried Online Exhibition 2025, Lihue, HI
2017 Honorable Mention at the National Arts Program Exhibition of Richmond, Pine Camp Art and Cultural Center, Richmond VA
2013 Style Weekly Honoree, Women in the Arts, Richmond, VA
Exceptional Ability & Outstanding Recognition, Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL

Solo Exhibitions:

2026 *Young Warriors*, Arts Council of the Valley at Smith House Galleries, Harrisonburg, VA
2025 *Young Warriors*, Rawls Museum Arts, Courtland, VA
2025-2022 *Still Warriors & Fluid Connections in Watercolor*, Women's Business Center RVA, Richmond, VA
2021 *Young Warriors*, Pine Camp Cultural Arts Center, Spotlight Gallery, Richmond, VA
Arts in Healthcare, VCU Health System, Stony Point Massey Cancer Center, Richmond, VA

Continued solo exhibitions:

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- 2019 *Young Warriors*, Women's Business Center RVA, Richmond VA
Fluid Connections, Slant Wall Gallery, Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, VA
- 2017 *Dancing Ink*, Conference Center Gallery at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA
- 2016 *Flag Series: Fingers Tracing Places of Aspiration*, Elegba Folkore Society, Richmond, VA
- 2014 *Dancing Ink*, Artspace Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2010 *Setting on a Rise*, Gellman Room, Richmond Public Library: Main Library, Richmond, VA

Juried Exhibitions:

- 2025 *2nd International Juried Online Exhibition 2025*, Soul of Artists Group, Lihue, HI
- 2025-2024 *Artfields: 9-day Art Competition*, Lake City Artfields Collective, venue at Tammy's, Lake City, SC
- 2022 *Coined in the South:2022*, Young Affiliates of the Mint and the Mint Museum Uptown, Charlotte, NC
Artfields: 9-day Art Competition, Lake City Artfields Collective, Bold & Sassy Children's Boutique, Lake City, SC
- 2013 *Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition*, Museum of Science & Industry Chicago, IL
- 2009 *All Media Show*, Art Works Inc., Juror Anne Hart Chay, Richmond, VA
- 2009 *Decadence*, Cultural Art Center at Glen Allen, Juror Christophora Robeers, Glen Allen, VA
- 2008 *Hand Heads Hearts*, Pen & Brush Gallery, Awarded Honorable Mention, Juror Howardena Pindell, New York, NY

Collaborative Project:

- 2020 Paint & Sip instructor with Hype Art VA & Your Day Entertainment at Capital One Café, Richmond, VA
- 2018 Project *Take the Bus*, Art180 collaborates with GRTC to celebrate their 20th year anniversary and put artists' artwork inside 160 buses, Richmond, VA
Dance After Work: Claves Unidos, dancer with Claves Unidos at the VMFA, Richmond, VA
Mardi Gras RVA, dancer with Claves Unidos Dance Group at Dogtown Dance Theatre, Richmond, VA
- 2017 *Mardi Gras RVA*, community dancer with Latin Vintage Dance Company at Dogtown Dance Theatre, Richmond, VA
- 2015 Southern Graphic Council International Conference, performance, *Dancing Ink*, Knoxville TN
- 2011 Painting, *Sarah's Blood* Playwright Rebekah Pierce, The Strawberry One Act Festival, Hudson Guild Theater, NY

Selected Group Exhibition:

- 2024 *Sentara's Loaned Art Program*, Sentara Brock Cancer Center, Norfolk, VA
Vacations-2024, curated by Biafarin as an online exhibit by Exhibizone
- 2024-2023 *The Art Experience Exhibit*, Virginia Executive Mansion, Richmond, VA
- 2023 *Celebrating Black Artists*, Gloucester Arts on Main gallery, Gloucester, VA
- 2021 *Inside Out: Staff Show 2021*, VMFA Studio School, Richmond, VA
- 2020 *Art Under the Pines*, curator Emily Dandridge, Pine Camp Cultural Arts Center, Richmond, VA
- 2019 *The Art of Freedom*, curator Alvin Lester, Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, Richmond, VA
- 2018 *Abstraction Through Insight*, curator LaShaunn Casselle, Capital One's West Creek Town Center Gallery, Henrico, VA
Let The Lite Shine Brite, curator Walton Gallery Inc., Gallery at Main Street train station, Richmond, VA
- 2015 *Redefining Print: Contemporary Prints from Women of the African Diaspora*, Community Artists' Collective, Houston, TX
Suntrust Bank Center, Black History Exhibit, Art Gallery, Richmond VA
Isn't She Lovely, Spotlight Gallery, Pine Camp Art & Community Center, Richmond, VA
- 2014 *Artroulette* collaborating and fundraising event, Artspace, Richmond, VA
- 2013 *Ladies First*, Walton Gallery, Petersburg, VA
Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *The World Should Know Her Name*, Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN

Publication:

- 2014 Best, Sukenya. *Chocolate Bella*. Self-Published, 2014, ISBN: 978-0615881201

Bibliography:

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- 2026 Jensen, Steph. "Young Warriors: Portraits of Strength, Spirit, and Story." *Shenandoah Living*, May 2026, pp.18
- 2025 "Fables' and 'Warriors featured at RMA," The Tidewater News, December 3, pp. B1& B3
- 2022 *WorkHARDAholic* podcast, Interviewer Shirley Crawford, The Box Richmond 99.5
- 2021 Grey, Lucy. "Inside Out: VMFA Staff Art Exhibition 2021." VMFA Blog, July 22
- 2017 *Talk of the Town*, Interviewer LaTika Lee, Comcast channel 95, Richmond, VA
- 2016 "So to Speak," feminist + language + art literary, Visual Art, Fall 2016 Issue, online publication, George Mason University, <http://sotospeakjournal.org/the-flag-series-fingers-tracing-places-of-aspiration/>
- 2014 "Black History in Richmond," Richmond Times Dispatch, February 6, pp. A8-9
Adams, Amanda Dalla Villa. "Respite," Style Weekly, January 22, pp. 22
- 2013 Langford, Hilary. "Women in the Arts," Style Weekly, August 21, pp. 38
- 2010 Waterfield, Cesca Janece. "Minority Exhibition Sparks Community and Conversation," The Urban Views Weekly, September 29th, pp. 1 Front Cover.
"Indy Media Live," Richmond Independent Radio Station 97.3 FM, Art180 Mural Dumpster Project
- 2008 Studio Visit Magazine, The Open Studio Press, Juror Carl Belz, Volume 3, pp. 26
- 2006 "Bare Sole 2," Richmond Times Dispatch, August 16, pp. F21, Weekend section
- 2006 "Amreekan Curry," work published in catalogue for exhibition, Vadodara, Gujarat India
- 2003 Lippard, Lucy, The Art of Whitfield Lovell: Whispers from the Walls. 2nd Edition, pp.7
"Acknowledgements," California: Pomegranate Communications

Lectures/Workshops/Panel/Volunteer:

- 2026 Outreach Program, led a workshop on *Professional Practices for the Visual Artist* and a hands-on art activity, at Rawls Museum Arts, Courtland, VA
- 2025 Artist Talk, Rawls Museum Arts for solo-exhibition, Courtland, VA
- 2020 Afrikana Independent Film Festival, virtual panel talk of video "Brian Palmer: VMFA on the Road," with Anna Edwards & Brian Palmer, Richmond, Virginia
VMFA Artmobile exhibition's virtual tour, *A view from Home: Landscapes of Virginia*, Richmond, VA
Glen Allen Public Library, gave talk about African American Art, Glen Allen, VA
- 2018 Panel discussion of film *Gurumbe: Afro-Andalusian Memories*, presented by Afrikana Independent Film Festival and Claves Unidos at Dogtown Dance Theatre, Richmond, VA
- 2017 *African & African American Art: Adornment*, Community Gesture Drawing for Family Day, VMFA Richmond, VA
ChinaFest: Year of the Rooster, face paint volunteer for Family Day, VMFA, Richmond, VA
- 2016 Film & Talk, Kehinde Wiley an Economy of Grace, panel discussion, VMFA, Richmond, VA
Family Day, Watercolor Demonstration, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
Children's Collage Workshop, Black History Museum of Virginia, Richmond, VA
- 2015 Architect Exchange East Conference, AIA Virginia Chapter, Talk on Creativity & Inspiration, Convention Center, Richmond, VA
- 2014 Artist Talk, Delver Woman's Club Annual Luncheon Meeting, Virginia Union University, VA
Chocolate Bella book signing and presentation, Virginia Union University, VA
- 2012 Visiting Artist Talk, Diggs Gallery, Winston Salem State University, NC
- 2010 Art180, Paint *Outside the Box Day*, Program Leader for Southwood Boys & Girls Club, Mobil mural, Richmond, VA

Curatorial Projects:

- 2018-2016 Curated Art Exhibition, Virginia Union University Fine Arts Students, Richmond Main Public Library, Gellman Room, Richmond, VA
- 2017 Curated Art Exhibition, Virginia Union University Fine Arts Students: *Our Arts Desire*, collaboration with Shaunn Casselle at Pine Camp Arts & Community Center, Richmond, VA
- 2015 *Fine Arts Festival: A Bridge to the Community*, Virginia Union University's 150th Anniversary, Belgian Building on campus, Richmond, VA