

Sukenya I. Best

sukenyabest@gmail.com

www.sukenyabestartistry.com

page 1 of 3

Education:

- 2007 MFA **University of Tennessee**, Knoxville
Concentration: Printmaking
- 2001 BFA **Virginia Commonwealth University**, Richmond
Concentration: Painting and Printmaking
- 2000 **Polytechnic School of Bulawayo**, Zimbabwe, summer study abroad
- 1999 **The National Gallery**, London, summer study abroad

Awards:

- 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
- 2007-2004 Geier Fellowship, University of Tennessee, School of Art, Knoxville, TN
- 2006 Juror's Award, *Migrations of the African Diaspora*, Women of Visions Inc., Pittsburgh Center of Arts, PA
- 2004-05 Herman E. Spivey Graduate Fellowship, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
- 2005 Arts and Cultural Alliance Legacy Award Program for Interdisciplinary arts, University of Tennessee, School of Arts, Knoxville, TN

Solo Exhibitions:

- 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
- 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
- 2007 *Bare Sole 2*, 312 Gallery, Richmond, VA
Bare Sole, MFA Thesis Exhibition, Fluorescent Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2005 *We went Over and Around*, 1010 Gallery, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Juried Exhibitions:

- 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
- 2006 *Migration of the African Diaspora*, The Women of Vision Inc, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Juror Lydia Thompson, Pittsburgh, PA

Collaborative Projects:

- 2020 Paint & Sip instructor with Hype Art VA and Your Day Entertainment at Capitol 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 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 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
- 2006 *Sincerely KATRINA JONES*, performance collaboration between Millicent Johnnie World Grotto, and Carpetbag Theater, Knoxville, TN
Collective Rhythmic Interpretations, group performance, University of Tennessee, Music Hall, Knoxville, TN
- 2004 Mural, Helen Ross McNabb Facilities, Knoxville, TN
- 2001 *Whitfield Lovell*, The Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Apprentice to Artist, Richmond, VA

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 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

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Selected Group Exhibitions continued:

page 2 of 3

- 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 *Arttroulette* 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
- 2010 *Minority Art Exhibition*, Metro Space Gallery, Richmond, VA
Annual Juneteenth Exhibition, Art 6 Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2008 *Award Winners Exhibition*, Pen & Brush Gallery, New York, NY
- 2006 *Amreekan Curry*, traveling show in India's Palm Court Area, India
Habitat Center, New Delhi, ABS Lanxess Gallery, Vadodara Gujarat, India
Stories of Women in Print, Landmark Arts, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Collections:

- 2022 Cook Foundation, Gloucester, VA
- 2006 India Habitat Center, New Delhi, India
- 2005 Clemson University, Clemson, SC
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
Southern Graphics Council Archives, University of Mississippi, MS

Exchange Portfolio:

- 2015 *We Print For Barbara!* curated by Jacquie Boileau, Studio Two Three, Richmond, VA
- 2014 *Printmaking an Agent of Social Change*, curated by Mildred Beltre, Southern Graphics Council International
Conference, "Bridges: Spanning Tradition, Conference, Innovation, and Activism," San Francisco, CA
- 2007 *Communication and the Art of Deception*, Southern Graphics Print Conference, "Points, Ploys, Points," Kansas City, MI
- 2006 *Body Parts*, co-curated by Lisa Renz, Heather Corley, & Sukenya Best; Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MI
Imprint, Southern Graphics Print Conference, "Genetic Imprint," University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- 2005 *Up and Coming*, Southern Graphic Print Conference, "Power in Print," Corcoran School of Arts, Washington, DC

Bibliography:

- 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
- 2005 "Footprints mark show of support," Knoxville News
- 2004 "Festival highlights campus diversity," Richmond Commonwealth Times, April 15, pp.15 (illus.)
- 2003 Lippard, Lucy, *The Art of Whitfield Lovell: Whispers from the Walls*. 2nd Edition, pp.7
"Acknowledgements," California: Pomegranate Communications

Work 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
 - Facilitate school tours and general tours for all visitors
- 2017-2012 **Instructor in Fine Arts**, Fine Arts Department, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA
- Teach drawing, painting, printmaking, basic design, museum studies, art appreciation, junior seminar, and senior comprehensive examination
 - Schedule visual art courses
 - Advise fine arts majors and art club members
 - Curate/hang the annual student art exhibition
 - Organizing student internships off campus
 - Serve on the committee for the Center of International Studies and the committee for the Art & Literary Magazine
 - Recruit/orientate adjuncts
 - Serve as faculty representative for the VMFA College Art Council

Work Experience continued:

Page 3 of 3

- 2011-2010 **Faculty**, Fine Arts Department, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA
- Teach drawing, painting, and design courses
- 2013-2008 **Assistant Professor**, Art Area, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA
- Work on both campuses, downtown Richmond and in Glen Allen
 - Teach art studio courses: painting (acrylic/watercolor), basic design, drawing, and figure drawing
 - Certified to teach online (distant learning), teaching both face to face and hybrid courses
 - Co-organized student trips to museums in Washington D.C.
 - Served as faculty representative for the VMFA College Art Council
 - Assisted in the hanging and gathering student work for the annual student art exhibition
- 2008 **Instructor**, Virginia Commonwealth University, VA
- During the VCUarts Summer Intensive Program I taught a two-week painting course. This program gave high school students a chance to create paintings for their college admissions' portfolio.
- 2007-2005 **Graduate Teaching Associate**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
- Solely responsible for teaching one section each semester of basic drawing or intermediate color and design. In addition to assisting six hours per week in printmaking courses.

Lectures/Workshops/Volunteer:

- 2020 Afrikaana 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 Afrikaana Independent Film Festival and Claves Unidos at Dogtown Dance Theatre, Richmond, VA
- 2017 *African & African American Art: Adornment*, Community Gesture Drawing for Family Day, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
- ChinaFest: Year of the Rooster*, face paint volunteer for Family Day, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
- 2016 Film & Talk, Kehinde Wiley an Economy of Grace, panel discussion, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
- Family Day, Watercolor Demonstration, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
- Children's Collage Workshop, Black History Museum of Virginia Junior, 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
- 2009 Art180, *Print Project*, Program Leader/ Lead Artist, Richmond, VA
- 2006 Artist talk, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MI
- Lithography workshop, *Thinking at the Press*, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MI

Curatorial Projects:

- 2018 Curated Art Exhibition, Virginia Union University Fine Arts Students: *Leading with Our Art*, Richmond Main Public Library, Gellman Room, Richmond, VA
- 2017-14 Curated Student Art Exhibition, Virginia Union University Fine Arts Students, 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
- Curated Art Exhibition, Virginia Union University Fine Arts Students: *Our Arts Desire*, Richmond Main Public Library, Gellman Room, Richmond, VA
- 2016 Curated Art Exhibition, Virginia Union University Fine Arts Students: *A Limitless Future in the Creation of Art*, Richmond Main Public Library, Gellman Room, Richmond, VA
- 2015 *Fine Arts Festival: A Bridge to the Community*, Virginia Union University's 150th Anniversary, Richmond, VA
- Curated Art Exhibit, *Virginia Union University Fine Arts Graduates: A Limitless Future: Painting Our World* Richmond Main Public Library, Gellman Room, Richmond, VA