



## Nikesha Breeze Bio and CV

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NIKESHA BREEZE B.1979 USA

Working from a Global African Diasporic, Afro-Centric and Afro-Futurist perspective, Nikesha Breeze's interdisciplinary work reimagines inter-generational traumatic inheritance through the intersection of art and ritual. Nikesha's work centers Black, Brown, Indigenous, Queer and Earth bodies existing within realms of past, present, and future. Nikesha uses performance art, film, painting, textiles, sculpture, and site-specific engagement to create otherworldly spaces centered on African Diasporic reclamation and honoring. Nikesha's methodologies call upon ancestral memory and archival resurrection to bring forward the faces, bodies, stories, and spirits that have been

systematically erased from the master narrative. Their performance art and film work reimagines relationships with the body, the invisible world, and the social space.

Originally from Portland, Oregon Nikesha Breeze lives and works in the high desert of Taos, New Mexico, on the unceded land of the Taos Pueblo People. Nikesha is an African American descendant of the Mende People of Sierra Leone, and Assyrian American Immigrants from Iran. Nikesha has shown work both nationally and internationally, featured in the MOCADA Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts Brooklyn, The Albuquerque Museum, University Art Museum, Portland Art Museum, NkinKyim Museum of Ghana, and various galleries and art fairs across the globe. In 2021 Nikesha's, 5000 sq ft solo exhibition FOUR SITES OF RETURN, gained national acclaim and was featured in American Art Collector, Hyperallergic, Metalsmith Magazine and the NY times. Nikesha was awarded National recognition at the 2018 International ARTPRIZE exhibition, winning the juried 3D Grand Prize Award as well as the Contemporary Black Arts Award, for their Sculptural installation: **108 Death Masks: A communal Prayer for Peace and Justice**. 2021 was National Performance Network Creative Fund and Development Fund Grant Recipient for their collaborative work , **Stages of Tectonic Blackness**. In 2023 Nikesha's work will enter the permanent collection and National archive with a large-scale public installation within the **EJI Legacy Museum** in Alabama.

"My work is deeply invested in reclaiming both historical narratives of the African diasporic body and the reclaiming of Afro-futures. I work through multiple mediums and interdisciplinary practices. As a large scale oil painter, my work deals with archival imagery of the Black subject through time. Through my methodologies I play with historical tension and the palpable spirits of resilience. As a ceramicist and sculptor I work with clay and natural materials to draw from ancestral memory, and earth memory, I sculpt bodies and stories that have been invisibilized within our master narrative and give them voice and form. As a performance artist, I use my own body to press and shape itself into the living memory of the diaspora. I allow time to work through me as a medium, enacting durational mourning rituals and radical reclamations of space. I work in a performative body as an act of Black sovereignty and continued transformational power. As an installation artist, I build large scale immersive environments of sacred space. I support engagement of the public body, drawing people into ritual acts of care, of prayer, of witnessing, as a form of critical accountability. As a writer, poet, and filmmaker I seek the recapitulation of language and narrative as a tool of post-colonial reclamation.

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## AWARDS AND GRANTS

2022 MAKERS MUSE; ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT | Kindle Project |  
National

2022 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK STORTELLER'S GRANT | NPN and  
Partners | National

2021 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK CREATION FUND/DEVELOPMENT FUND  
GRANT | NPN and Partners | National

2020 NY Artists Relief GRANT | NY arts fund | New York, NY

2020 "WE RECOGNIZE YOU" GRANT RECIPIENT | Three sisters collective | Santa Fe NM

2020 Vermont Studio Residency Fellowship Award | Paseo Taos | Taos, NM

2018 ARTPRIZE 10: 3D INSTALLATION JURY AWARD WINNER | 108 Death Masks: A  
Communal Prayer for Peace and Justice | GRAND RAPIDS, MI

2018 BLACK CONTEMPORARY ARTS AWARD WINNER | 108 Death Masks: A Communal  
Prayer for Peace and Justice | ARTPRIZE Grand Rapids MI

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## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 (UPCOMING) NEW SOLO EXHIBITION | Richard Levy Gallery | Albuquerque NM

2022 FOUR SITES OF RETURN: Ritual, Remembrance, Reparation, Reclamation | UAM  
Contemporary Art Museum | Las Cruces, NM

2021 FOUR SITES OF RETURN: Ritual, Remembrance, Reparation, Reclamation |  
April-June 2021 | Form and Concept Contemporary Art | Santa Fe, NM | [Exhibition Guide](#)

2020 RITUAL AND REMEMBRANCE | UNM Atrium Gallery| Taos, NM | Read Taos News Article

2019 108 DEATH MASKS: A Communal Prayer for Peace and Justice | Santa Fe Community College | Inaugural artist for Black History Month | Santa Fe, NM

2018 WITHIN THIS SKIN: New Oil Paintings | The Harwood Museum of Art: Studio 238| Taos, NM

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## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 INDELIBLE BLUE | Albuquerque Museum of Art | Albuquerque, NM

2020 CHARCOAL | Curated by Kianah Jay | Richard Levy Gallery, Albuquerque NM

2020 CONTEMPORARY 20/20 | The Harwood Museum of Art | Taos NM

2020 AN OVERWHELMING RESPONSE | Curated by Carmen Hermo |A.I.R Gallery Contemporary Art, Brooklyn NY |

2019 GIVE ME BODY! | DIVINE FEMME | MOCADA Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts, Brooklyn NY

2018 FERAL HOWL: A Feminist Response to Our Time | Freeform Art Space | Santa Fe, NM

2017 CRYING OUT LOUD curated by Micol Hebron | CCA Center for Contemporary Arts | Santa Fe, NM

2017 CURRENTS NEW MEDIA INTERNATIONAL ARTS | Opening Night, El Museo, | Santa Fe, NM

2017 AHA FESTIVAL OF PROGRESSIVE ARTS | WITHIN THIS SKIN 40 foot interactive installation | Santa Fe, NM

2016 FOUND | curated by Sarah Stolar | Atrium Gallery UNM, Taos NM

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## SELECTED PERFORMANCE ART/ THEATER

2022 BLACKDOM a full length film project filmed in Blackdom, NM Directed and developed by Nikesha Breeze | premiered at UAM Museum and 516 Museum | Albuquerque NM

2019 BLACK OBRONI a solo Performance as a part of “ADeakyeabia\_ENubueke” Curated by VaBene Elikem Fiatsi | Alliance Francais | Kumasi, Ghana

2019 THE ENCHILADA WESTERN: Collaboration with Guillerrmo Gomez-Pena. | Paseo Contemporary Art Festival, Taos NM

2019 BODY AS CONDUIT: In Collaboration with Guillerrmo Gomez-Pena and Balitronica Pena | Taos, NM

2016 CIRCUS LUMINOUS; Writer/Director/Set Design/Costume Design, THE Lensic Performing Arts Center, Santa Fe NM

2015 SEE/SAW; Wise Fool NM; acrobatics, aerial stilts, dance, Bogota, Colombia

2014 TEARS OF EROS | Penasco Theater | Penasco NM

2013 SEARCHING FOR SHAMS | Aha Festival of Experimental Arts | Santa fe, NM

2014 FLEXION; Wise Fool NM; acrobatics, aerial stilts, dance, Atlanta, Georgia

2012 EMERGENCE; Aha Festival of experimental Arts, Santa fe, NM

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## RESIDENCIES

2022-2023 Osramba Studio West African Bronze Casting Residency with Ibrahim Aska | 3.5 months | Nuhalenya Ada, Ghana

2021 Earthseed Global Artist Residency | 6 Weeks Afro-Mexico Residency | Mexico

2019 Osramba Studios Artist Fellowship with Kwame Acoto Bamfo | 5 week Sculpture Residency | Ada, Ghana

2019 PaIR Perforcraze International Artist Residency | 2 weeks Performance Art Residency | Kumasi, Ghana

2015 6 Month Artist Residency | Penasco Theater New Mexico | Penasco, NM

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## EDUCATION

2020 BFA in Socially Engaged Art Goddard College

2017-2019 AFA University of New Mexico-Taos

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## COLLECTIONS

EJI Legacy Museum Permanent Collection

Sara M. and Michelle Vance Waddell Collection

David Naylor Interiors

Sacred Arts

Multiple Private Collections

