

POSTMASTERS

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KENYA (ROBINSON)

"I carry a #WHITEMANINMYPOCKET. I have often appeared in public with a box on my head and consider myself an artist, socialite, and philanthropist. Others have called me a mischief-maker and shitstarter. I cop to all of these. Mostly though, I am an international southerner, using privilege as plastic material, to get into grown folks' business."

- Kenya (Robinson)

Born in 1977 in Landstuhl, Germany, Kenya (Robinson) is a community-taught artist from Gainesville, FL. A past resident of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's WorkSpace Program, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art and the Triangle Arts Foundation, she began her residency at Pioneer Works in May 2017. A member of the 2014 class for the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, she recently completed a short-term residency at NurtureART where she explored the intersection of homemade sex toys and the prison industrial complex.

(Robinson) has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the 60 Wall Street Gallery of Deutsche Bank. Her sculpture, *Commemorative Headdress of Her Journey Beyond Heaven*, was acquired by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture for their permanent collection in 2014. She has presented performance work at Sid Gold's Request Room; MoMA PS1; JACK; The Kitchen; Thomas Hunter Project Space; The Museum of Modern Art. And, in 2011, her durational project, *The Inflatable Mattress*, was featured in the Home Section of The New York Times. (Robinson) has been a contributor to The Huffington Post and Intercourse Magazine and was included in the October/November 2016 issue of Modern Painters with her essay, *"The Fate of Excellence"*. An iteration of her Creative Capital funded project, CHEEKY LaSHAE: Karaoke Universal, will be presented during the Out of Line Series for the High Line on August 17th, 2017.

EDUCATION

- 2014 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison (ME)
- 2013 Yale University, New Haven (CT), US (MFA, Sculpture)
- 2003 Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Los Angeles (CA), US (AA, Apparel Design and Production)

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 Pioneer Works, Brooklyn (NY), 'WHITE MAN ON A PEDESTAL' (November 2017)
HOWL! Happening: An Arturo Vega Project, New York (NY), 'Interiority Complex XVII', curated by Laurie Berg, Monstah Black, and Amy Khoshbin (June 2017)
Outpost Artists Resources, Ridgewood (NY), Stranger Things', Curated by Doreen Garner (June 2017)
- 2016 Cindy Rucker Gallery, New York (NY), 'FUCKYOURCOUCH' (solo)
Morlan Gallery at Transylvania University, Lexington (KY), 'INTER/ACTIVE', Curated by Andrea Fisher
- 2015 Cindy Rucker Gallery, New York (NY), 'Pussy Don't Fail Me Now'
- 2014 RUSH Arts Gallery, New York (NY), 'GIRL BYE!', Curated by Rashaad Newsome,
Cindy Rucker Gallery, New York (NY), 'we seemed to be unanimously elected...', Curated by Cindy Rucker
- 2013 Present Company Gallery, Brooklyn (NY), 'Antithesis', Curated by Omar Lopez – Chahoud Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn (NY), 'March On!', Curated by Dexter Wimberly

- 2012 RECESS Activities, Inc., New York (NY), 'Sonic Diagrams', Curated by Kenya (Robinson)
 New York Photography Festival, Brooklyn (NY), 'What Do You Believe In?', Curated by Amy Smith--Stewart
 C24 Gallery New York (NY), 'CAMPAIGN', Curated by Amy Smith--Stewart
- 2011 The Skylight Gallery- Restoration Plaza, Brooklyn (NY), 'Crown Heights Gold', Curated by Dexter Wimberly
 Branch #47, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn (NY), 'All Over The Place' *(solo)*
 The Kitchen, New York (NY), 'Shame The Devil', Curated by Petrushka Bazin Larsen
- 2010 The House of Bumble, New York (NY) 'University Model Project Emerging Artist Showcase', Curated by Forever & Today
 Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn (NY), 'Brooklyn Based', Curated by Ali Evans
 60 Wall Street Gallery-Deutsche Bank, New York (NY), 'There is No Looking Glass Here', Curated by Kimberli Gant
 Hendershot Gallery, New York (NY), 'Digression', Curated by Jessica Elena Shaefer
 Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn (NY), 'Ain't I A Woman?', Curated by Kimberli Gant
 Jersey City Museum, Jersey City (NJ), 'Hair Tactics', Curated by Rocío Aranda-Alvarado
 Aljira, Newark (NJ), 'Dreamtime overtones from a fantastic brown planet', Curated by Edwin Ramoran
 Thomas Center Galleries, Gainesville (FL),
 'HAIRPOLITIC: Pomade In America' *(solo)*

PERFORMANCES + SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 2017 Friends of the High Line, New York (NY), 'CHEEKY LaSHAE/KARAOKE UNIVERSAL: LISTEN WITHOUT PREJUDICE VOL. 01011863' for the Out of Line Performance Series
 New York Arts Practicum, New York (NY), Mentor
 NurtureART, Brooklyn (NY), 'Only The Finest of Fifis' conversation with Illya Szilak
 Creative Capital Offices, New York (NY), ST4NKLOV3 Live! 'TrapBack Season' for Clocktower Productions
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (NY), presentation for "Viral Images: Exploring the Historic and Conservation Challenges of Objects Created for Social Protest and Solidarity" - sponsored by the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works
 Pioneer Books, Brooklyn (NY), ST4NKLOV3 Live! 'Two in the Pink, One in the Stink' for Clocktower Productions
- 2016 Sid Gold's Request Room, New York (NY), 'CHEEKY LaSHAE + THAT-THONG-SONG-SING-ALONG
 New York Arts Practicum, New York (NY), Mentor
 University of Texas at Austin (TX), 'CHEEKY LaSHAE Sings BLACK SABBATH' – for *Sampling*, Curated by the INGZ Collective
 The WINTER SHACK, Brooklyn (NY), 'The Cashmere Bouquet Reads: Waiting Is Not Easy', Curated by Nicole Antebi and Alex Branch
 Clocktower Productions, Red Hook (NY), #trashDAY, Confessions of the ArtWorld™ - Radio Streamcast w/ Doreen Garner
- 2015 Thomas Hunter Project Space, New York (NY), 'kenya eats a (big) cracker', Curated by Aisha Bell
 Arresting Patterns Conference: Perspective on Race, Criminal Justice, Artistic Expression and Community, New Haven (CT),
 'DAVE meet MARK, No.091215' New York Arts Practicum, New York (NY), Mentor
 Clocktower Productions, Red Hook (NY), #trashDAY, Second Sundays - Radio Streamcast (May - ongoing) w/ Doreen Garner
 Triangle Arts Open Studios, DUMBO, (NY), 'CHEEKY LaSHAE: True or Falsetto'
 University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas (USVI), '#TRASHDAY', Live Radio Broadcast
- 2014 The Bemis Center, Omaha (NE), '#WHITEMANINMYPOCKET(S)'

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- The Bemis Center, Omaha (NE), 'Six Thousand is A Lot', A Pilot Program and Work for Performance in collaboration with the *Ready in Five* Program
Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Madison (ME), 'CHEEKY LaSHAE at The Upper Field'
Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Madison (ME), 'twerkTRON 062014 (or Kenya's 37th Birthday)'
Poets House, New York (NY), CHEEKY LaSHAE Presents KEVIN YOUNG MONEY
Mike Shultis Studio, Brooklyn (NY), CHEEKY LaSHAE + The Red Bath Mat
- 2013 Brown Studio, Brooklyn (NY), 'CHEEKY LaSHAE + The Cashmere Bouquet'
Instagram @kenya9 (online), '#WHITEMANINMYPOCKET'
ShapeShifter Lab, Brooklyn (NY), 'CHEEKY LaSHAE: Sack of Stars'
- 2012 Museum of Modern Art, New York (NY), 'A Study for Staircase, No. 111012' w/ Jerome Marshak
Creative Time, Rockaway Beach (NY), 'Female Prostate'
Maple Street School, Brooklyn (NY), 'Drawing Without Crayons'
RECESS Activities, Inc., New York (NY), 'spoken for'
Triangle Arts Gallery, Brooklyn (NY), 'Like A Girl Being Pretty'
C24 Gallery, New York (NY), 'MONDAY NIGHT'
- 2011 AD Projects, New York (NY), BLOW'
The Kitchen, New York (NY), 'YOURMAMADONTWEARNODRAWS'
New York City (NY), 'The Inflatable Mattress'
The Kitchen, New York (NY), 'kenya eats a cracker'
- 2010 The House of Bumble, New York (NY), 'Displaced Threshold' w/ Isis King
Wall Street Gallery - Deutsche Bank, New York (NY), 'cut to fit'
Third Streaming, New York (NY), 'The Ten Commandments' w/ Nicky Enright (aka DJ Lightbolt)
Museum of Modern Art, New York (NY), 'Sit-In or Slaying the Minotaur'
RECESS Activities, Inc., New York (NY), 'WHITEMANTALKING'
P.S.1, MoMA, New York (NY), 'Black Trash: Sacred Melodramas'
Cabinet Space, Brooklyn (NY), '(W)RAPPING'
- 2009 Eyebeam: Art + Technology Center, New York (NY), 'Universal Access' w/ Rashaad Newsome
Low Lives: A Series of Live Networked Performances, Brooklyn (NY) - Miami (FL) - Houston (TX), 'Dark Seeds(2)'

RESIDENCIES / FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 Pioneer Works Residency, US
NurtureART Residency, US
Thomas Hunter Artist Residency, US
- 2016 apexart Travel Fellowship, Uruguay
Thomas Hunter Artist Residency, US
- 2015 Thomas Hunter Artist Residency, US
Triangle Arts Residency, US
Fountainhead Residency, US
- 2014 Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, US
- 2011 2013 ANALOG: Recess Activities, Inc., Online Residency, US
- 2009 2010 Workspace Residency, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, US

STIPENDS AND GRANTS

- 2016 Creative Capital Grant - Emerging Fields
2015 Rema Hort Mann Grant for Emerging Artists
2013 National Endowment for the Arts/ Grant for the curatorial project 'TOONSKIN'
2011 Residency Stipend, ANALOG, US

2008 Brooklyn Arts Council Re-Grant, Department of Cultural Affairs, US

AWARDS

2015 Creative Capital 'On Our Radar' (March – September 2015)

2011 Smack Mellon 'Hot Picks' Artist

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2013 ArtSPACE, New Haven (CT), 'TOONSKIN'

2012 RECESS Activities, Inc., New York (NY), "Sonic Diagrams"

2010 Brennan Gallery, Jersey City (NJ), 'Vessel'

2009 Brennan Gallery, Jersey City (NJ), 'AfricanAmericana'

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2017 Hillary Bonhomme and Alex Teplitzky, "Kenya (Robinson) Challenges the Imagination to Remold Privilege," Creative Capital (The Lab), March 9
 Cassie da Costa, "The Podcast as Performance Art," The New Yorker, January 28
- 2016 Brandon Stosuy, "Kenya (Robinson) on Creating Your Own Opportunities," The Creative Independent, December 16
 Jillian Steinhauer, "ThatThong-Song-Sing-Along," Hyperallergic, October 11
 Scott Indrisek, "5 Can't Miss Gallery Shows in New York," Blouin ArtInfo, June 24
- 2015 Intercourse Magazine, #4: "Hood Tales – Fictional Pulp Fiction" (*portfolio*)
 Ilya Szilak, "Kenya Eats a (Big) Cracker," Huffington Post Arts + Culture, December 15
 Jillian Steinhauer, "Last Chance: Pussy Don't Fail Me Now," Hyperallergic, August 11
 Carey Dunne, "At Karaoke Universal, CHEEKY LaSHAE Wants YOU to Be a Performance Artist," Brooklyn Magazine, July 20
 Charlie Schmidlin, "CHEEKY LaSHAE Marries Karaoke, Puppetry, and Performance Art," The Creators Project, July 8
 Coralie Claeysen-Gleyzon, "Kenya (Robinson) Mischief Maker," LAPALME Magazine, Summer 2015
 Priscilla Frank, "How A 'White Man in My Pocket' Can Help You Understand Privilege," Huffington Post Arts + Culture, April 3
- 2013 Lee Ann Norman, "Kenya (Robinson)," BOMB Magazine, March 20
- 2011 Andrew Russeth, "Kenya (Robinson) Eats a Cracker in The Kitchen," The 16 Miles of String,
 Penelope Green, "The Serial Sleepover Artist," The New York Times, April 13
- 2010 "The NADA Emerging Artist," The L Magazine
 "10 Female Artists You Should Know About," Essence Magazine, January 26
 "There is No Looking Glass Here: The current exhibition at the Wall Gallery of Deutsche Bank," Deutsche Bank ArtMag,
 Samantha Raglan, "Drawing Outside the Lines," The International Review of African American Art, Vol. 23, No. 2
 David Cohen, "LES GALLS," artcritical, September 28
 Kathleen Massara, "Who Ain't Woman?," The L Magazine, August 4
- 2008 Amritha Alladi, "Hair, Art and Culture: Kenya Robinson Transforms the Familiar Into the Thought Provoking," Gainesville Magazine

SELECTED WRITING

- 2017 HILOBROW.com, "Political Objects (12): Burner Phone" (*essay*)
- 2016 Blouin Modern Painters Magazine, "The Fate of Excellence" (*critical response*)
 Ether and Agony, Exhibition Catalog, "Doreen Garner is Gross" (*essay*)
 JamaicaFlux: Workspace & Windows 2016 Catalog, "The Prep Is an Old School Dance: Performing The SAT - a Work for Performance by Ayana Evans" (*essay*)
- 2015 Intercourse Magazine #4, "Hood Tales – Fictional Pulp Fiction" (*essay*)
- 2014 Featured Blogger - Huffington Post Arts & Culture | "Practically Magic", "Romantical", "Ass, et al."

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- 2013 Featured Blogger - Huffington Post Arts & Culture | "Shorty Wanna Be a Thug", "Blue for Black", "Crap: A Philosophy of Shit"
- 2012 Featured Blogger - Huffington Post Arts & Culture | "Black Love: Off the Chain", "Is That a Rectangle in your Pocket, or Are You Just Happy To See Me?", "Soul Seasoning", "The Box Marked Other", "The Crying Game", "...Bet Your Last Money", "The Unbearable Whiteness of Beyoncé"