

Afua Kafi-Akua
New York, NY

ARTIST STATEMENT

I consider myself an artist activist. It is my mission to use the artistic gifts that the creator blessed me with to touch the hearts and minds of others with positive words and positive images, becoming a catalyst for eradicating some of the pain, hatred and violence that has become the 21st century.

I have always been an “other” in all of the arenas where I live my life. I see my art as a place where I can wear all of my skins then gently peel away each vision, every thought, layer by layer, revealing my soil.

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

Afua Kafi-Akua has worked for over two decades at many cutting-edge media and arts organizations including Women Make Movies, The Cinema Guild, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Third World Newsreel. She is currently the Manager of full-time Education at the International Center of Photography.

Afua has been a poet, writer, musician and media artist for over 20 years. She began her artistic career in New York as a percussionist performing with many innovative performers and groups and was a founding member of the all-female funk/rock band IBIS. Her poetry and writing have been published in national publications including the Spelman College Journal of Women's Studies, SAGE. In 2006 & 2010 her interviews with music legends Betty Carter & Nona Hendryx were published in the avant-garde arts anthology *Encyclopedia*. She co-produced an award-winning documentary about violence against lesbians entitled *JUST BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE* which aired on PBS. Ten years ago, she began experimenting with digital photography and is creating mixed media installations of photographs, video, music and spoken word about various socially relevant and personal topics including being the grandchild of immigrants, Muses, gender identity and our political future. Her artwork has been exhibited on both coasts.

PUBLICATIONS

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| 2017 | Encyclopedia: Interdisciplinary annual arts journal Vol. 3 |
| | Digital photo collage – <i>So Here U Be</i> - published |
| 2010 | <u>Encyclopedia</u> : Interdisciplinary annual arts journal Vol. 2 |
| | Authored article about musician Nona Hendryx. |
| 2006 | <u>Encyclopedia</u> : Interdisciplinary annual arts journal Vol. 1 |
| | Authored article about musician Betty Carter. |

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Media Studies
New School University, NYC

Certificate in Television Production—1 Yr. Program
Institute of New Cinema Artists - National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, NYC

Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Howard University, Washington, DC

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Member: Alliance for Media Arts and Culture
Board Member: Third World Newsreel
Advisory Board Member SistersMATR
Member: Museum Hue
Member: New York City Museum Educator's Roundtable
Board Member: NewFest

EXHIBITIONS AND MIXED MEDIA PERFORMANCES

2017 & 2018

Spoken Word/Mixed Media Performance – *A Muse in 4 Moodments*
Dixon Place, New York, NY

2013

Summer Light Group Art Exhibit
Westbeth Gallery, New York, NY

2009

First Response Election Group Art Exhibition, First Place Award
Pen and Brush Gallery, New York, NY

2008

African American History Month Women Artists' Group Exhibit
Pen & Brush Gallery, New York, NY

2007

Sponsoring Organization: The Brecht Forum, New York, NY
Performance: Spoken word and digital gallery installation *Immigrant Soul/Citizen Birth*

2007

Sponsoring Organizations: Chashama Gallery & College of New Rochelle, New York, NY
Performance: Spoken word and mixed media from gallery installations *Immigrant Soul/Citizen Birth* and *7TH Avenue South*

2007

Glimpses in Time: Group Photography Exhibition in Honor of Gordon Parks, Jury Prize Joyce
Gordon Gallery, Oakland, CA

2007

13th Annual International Group Exhibition of Women's Art
Soho20 Chelsea Art Gallery, New York, NY

2007

Personal Secrets/Public Space Group Art Exhibition
SomArts Cultural Center Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Website: <https://westbeth.org/wordpress/artist-page/afua-kafi-akua>