

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Columbia College Chicago

Graduated May 2016

Non degree Study

Study Abroad: L'Institut Catholique de Paris, France

February – May 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Center For Humans and Nature

Land Reciprocity Program Developer

November 2022 - Present

Project management:

- Develop and manage a broad, deep, diverse list of potential partners (including artists, community gardens, past CHN fellows, current organizational partners, possible future organizational partners, and more) with a focus on humans and nature
- Collaborate and engage in reciprocal care with the land

Strategic Programming:

- Develop a refined list of fleshed out programs and art residencies based on reciprocal relationship with the land, working with community partners
- Explore possibilities for semi- permanent nature based art installations on site
- Explore funding possibilities and build relationships

Outreach and Communications:

- Social media engagement through leading Land Based Meditations
- Explore heart and spirit centered storytelling with the Kalliopeia Foundation
- Support Kalliopeia Foundation research work on Land Access.

Publications:

- Collaboratively develop a booklet/journal based on land reciprocity
- Support the Center's yearly print publication "Minding Nature"

Chicago Park District

Art Facilitator; Lead Teaching Artist

June 2018 - August 2022

- Engage 1,500 youth through Chicago Park District ArtSeed programming across 50 public parks in Chicago's North, Central, and South Sides each summer.
- Design and facilitate nature based workshops for youth aged 3-14 years old with a focus on social and environmental justice.
- Co-founder and Co-Facilitator for *small is all* a program under Young Cultural Stewards (Part of the Chicago Park District)

Community Outreach Coordinator -

October 2018 – May 2020

- Manage public relations, marketing, and social media efforts for Young Cultural Stewards in the Culture Arts and Nature Department
- Develop and strengthen new and existing relationships with community organizations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, Chicago

Art Facilitator

Soil as Story, Body, and Medium

(seasonal) 2022

- Facilitate and develop an intergenerational interdisciplinary art course
- Develop curriculum based on soil and our ancestral connections to soil
- Guide participants on how to make soil pigment paints, natural inks, take basic soil tests, naturally dye with tannins, and develop a deeper connection to soil

Pigment Exploration and the natural world facilitator

(seasonal) 2021

- Facilitate Pigment exploration workshops for seniors 55+
- Develop curriculum on natural pigments, spices, flowers, natural dyeing, botanical dyeing, as well as plant gratitude focused writings
- Publish and design a culminating book

Nature Journaling art facilitator

(seasonal) 2020

- Facilitate Nature Journaling workshops for seniors 55+
- Develop curriculum on nature journaling with a focus on indigenous plants, creative writing, and nature based art.
- Publish and design a culminating book

Marwen Arts, Chicago

September 2020 - June 2022

Teaching Artist Cohort

- Work collaboratively with a team of emerging teaching artists, young artists, and staff to design class content and curriculum with a focus on nature and social justice over 12 weeks;
- Provide one on one mentorship with emerging young teaching artist partners weekly
- Facilitate arts program and coordinate field trips to urban gardens

See the Vision Grab the Vision | OUT OF SIGHT Chicago

February 2020 - March 2020

Marketing and Communications Coordinator

- Create social media content and produce weekly progress, tracking and evaluation reports
- Write and distribute communications calendar items, individual Press Releases and newsletters

Color me Africa Fine Arts

January 2020 - September 2020

Project Manager

- Create, develop and manage website content
- Support organization as needed
- Work closely with gallery director to achieve organization goals

Thomas J. Waters Elementary School

October 2018 – December 2019

Special Education Classroom Assistant

- Work with individual students and assist as needed in classrooms and small groups of students to reinforce learning material and skills outlined in the school syllabus.
- Supervise activities for diverse learners and maintain communication skills.

Chicago Art Source

April 2018 – June 2018

Art consultant

- Source artwork and conduct research to create catalogs for potential clients
- Curate work for Client offices, hospitals, hotels, and other organizations as needed
- Print large format works on canvas and paper; design detailed floor plans using inDesign; perform other administrative duties ahead of gallery shows
- Support with framing large artwork, packing, and shipping

PRESENTATIONS

Futurescaping Truth & Reconciliation: Indigenous & Black Land Conversations, Black Women's Blueprint and The North American Indigenous Center for Culture, Equity and Economic Empowerment Conference, April, 2023

International Women's Day Panel: *Navigating the Landscapes of Care, Culture and Community*, NEIU March 2022

Sustainable Art making with Tea, coffee and ephemeral material, College Art Association conference, February 2021

Sustainable art making using Tea and Coffee, The Nature of Cities Festival - an online conference on the climate crisis. February 2021

Art workshop facilitation on Self care at the Reclaiming Our Love Social Justice and Domestic violence conference, March 2021.

Art workshop facilitation on natural pigments at the University of Chicago, October 2021

Restorative Self-Care, Art making and Reiki Healing- A mini Retreat. November, 2020

COMMISSIONS & AWARDS

New Futures Awardee, The Other Art Fair, Chicago 2022

Public Art Commission, *Title: Migratory Dreams*, Fiber glass heart installed in Back of the Yards, Chicago, September 2021

FELLOWSHIPS

Threewalls in session Fellow 2023

Professional Museum Fellowship, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, 2022

RESIDENCIES

W.A.R.P Resident, The Weaving Mill, Chicago, 2021

Abena Motaboli

abenamotaboli@gmail.com | www.abenaart.studio

Self directed residency, Respite in the Round, North Carolina, 2020

ART EXHIBITIONS

Please inquire for a detailed document of Exhibition History or see abenaart.studio