

MAYA ISABELLA MACKRANDILAL

Artist, Writer, Educator, Community Arts Organizer | Los Angeles, CA

<http://mayamackrandilal.com>

EDUCATION

- 2008-2011 School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), Chicago, IL
Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art, Sculpture Concentration
- 2003-2007 University of Virginia (UVA), Charlottesville, VA
BA Studio Art, High Distinction. Sculpture Concentration, English Minor, Dean's List

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017-- *ANTI/body*, boundary, Chicago, IL
- 2016-- *Our Bodies are a Reckoning*, The Dojo, Chicago IL
- 2015-- *Kal Pani*, THE MISSION Gallery, Chicago IL
- 2008-- *Anchor Baby*, Off-Grounds Gallery, Charlottesville, VA
- 2007-- *Ritual Complex*, Off-Grounds Gallery, Charlottesville, VA

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- 2021 *LACUNA*, South Asian Women's Creative Collective, New York, NY
An interactive virtual reality art installation and community building space for artists of the Indo-Caribbean diaspora.
- 2019 *Schizophrene*, Threewalls In-Session series, Chicago, IL
Collaborative performance and panel exploring migration, citizenship, and ritual
- 2018-Present *#NEWGLOBALMTRIARCHY Poetry and Performance Night*, Los Angeles Valley College, Valley Glenn, CA
Yearly event featuring the work of women and queer/trans artists, poets, and performers of color, held as an interactive virtual reality installation and performance event in 2021
- 2017-Present Member of *The Association of Hysterical Curators*, Los Angeles, CA
Collective of women-identified artists and curators in Los Angeles that organizes collaborative performance festivals, exhibitions, screenings and panels around feminist themes
- 2016-Present *#NEWGLOBALMTRIARCHY* collaborations with Stephanie Graham
A series of collaborations that included performance, video, exhibitions, and a 24/7 livestream event with ACRE TV in Chicago, IL
- 2015-2017 Founding Member of *FEMelanin*, Chicago, IL
Collective of women of color-identified artists and performers creating original work for alternative spaces like *Mana Contemporary*, *The Dojo*, *Salonathon*, and *Kid's Fringe*
- 2015 Collaborative art object "Ransom Note to White Supremacy" with Pedro Vélez for his show *Ransom Notes and Surrender Flags* at AREA, Caguas, Puerto Rico
- 2014-Present Collaborative writing with Eunsong Kim
Together with scholar and poet Eunsong Kim, I write critical essays that reflect on a variety of topics in the art world.
- 2014 Collaboration with Pedro Vélez on his contributions to the *2014 Whitney Biennial*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021-- *Encounters*, Jamaica Center for the Arts and Learning, New York, NY
GARDEN, LADIES' ROOM Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020-- *What She Said*, ace/121 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Reaching for the Horizon, Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 2019-- *What is Feminist Art?* Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery, The Smithsonian Institution - Archives of American Art, Washington, DC November 2019 - November 2020
CALAFIA: Manifesting the Terrestrial Paradise, Armory Center for Art, Pasadena, CA
New Editions: Into the FLXST, FLXST Contemporary, Chicago, IL

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

- 2018-- *CALAFIA: Manifesting the Terrestrial Paradise*, The Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art, San Bernardino, CA
Juried Exhibition 2018 (panel: Jamillah James, Jonathan Griffin, Steven Nelson), LA Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Reality Sandwiches, juried by Alison Saar for the Women's Caucus for Art, Art Share L.A., Los Angeles, CA
- 2017-- *#jailbeddrop*, guerilla art project organized by JusticeLA, Los Angeles, CA
Alumni Show, Ruffin Hall Gallery, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Queer Horizons, online exhibition with the Center for Art + Thought
The Petty Biennial, The South Side Arts Incubator, curated by La Keisha Leek and Sadie Woods, Chicago, IL
Archival Alchemy, organized by the South Asian Women's Creative Collective, Abrons Arts Center, New York, NY
A Change is Gonna Come, Avenue 50 Studio, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016-- *Un|Fixed Homeland*, Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ
Batten Down the Hatches, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL
Winter Experiment: SAIC at MMG, Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2015-- *Tele-novella*, ACRE TV, curated by Robyn Farrell
Women as Witness, TI Art Studios, Brooklyn, NY
Neon Dreams, Threewalls Benefit Auction, Chicago, IL
Reference Rot, 3-person show, Chicago Artist's Coalition, Chicago, IL
Flash, presented by the Foundation for Asian American Independent Media, Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, IL
RESPOND, Smack Mellon, New York, NY
- 2014-- *Hands Up Don't Shoot: Artists Respond*, multiple venues, Saint Louis, MO
Words We Live By, multiple venues (North Branch Projects and White Box Studio Gallery) Chicago, IL
The Making of Artists, Pedestrian Project gallery, Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL
Renaissance Revisited, South Side Community Arts Center, Chicago, IL
- 2012-- *New Natural History*, Ruffin Hall Gallery, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- 2011-- *Unearthed*, IX Project Space, Charlottesville, VA
Touched by Virginia, Ruffin Hall Gallery, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Garbhagriha, Two-person installation in SAIC MFA Thesis Exhibition, Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL
Sexier, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago IL
- 2010-- *Uncommon Territories*, Heaven Gallery, Chicago IL
Permission to Work, What It Is Gallery, Chicago IL
- 2009-- *Fake ID*, Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago IL
- 2008-- *Legion*, RAWSTUFF Gallery, Charlottesville, VA (co-curator and participating artist)
Double Vision, Touchstone Gallery, Washington DC
- 2007-- *Past Meets Present*, Off-Grounds Gallery, Charlottesville, VA
Art In the Gardens, University Programs Council, Charlottesville, VA

PUBLICATIONS AS AUTHOR

- 2022-- (Forthcoming) *Diasporic Rhizome* (exhibition review), *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*, vol 1 issue 1-2, Brill
- 2021-- *How to Be a Monster* (essay and visual art) in the anthology "The Art of Being Dangerous: Exploring Women and Danger through Creative Expression" edited by Jo Shaw and Ben Fletcher-Watson, Leuven University Press
- 2020-- *Keeping Wake* in the anthology *Liminal Spaces: Migration and Women of the Guyanese Diaspora* edited by Grace Aneiza Ali. Open Book Publishers, Cambridge, UK
- 2019-- *Ethnic Studies Still Under Attack*, The Davis Vanguard, October 1, 2019 – republished on Latino Rebels October 3, 2019
- 2017-- *The Aesthetics of Empire: Neoclassical Art and White Supremacy* (critical essay), *contemporary*, November 2017
- 2016-- *The Impossibility of Art and Trouble at Mill Hill* (interview and critical essay), *Sixty Inches from Center*, December 2016
#NewGlobalMatriarchy (co-authored with Stephanie Graham) in the collection *Feminist Advice from the City of Broad Shoulders*, December 2016
How to Be A Monster (essay), *Skin Deep Magazine*, September 2016
An Ethnography of White Men by the Goddess Kali (poetry), *Drunken Boat #23*, April 2016
Diverus: The Past, Present, and Future of "Diversity Work" (critical essay), *MICE magazine*, Issue 1, April 2016
The Freedom to Oppress (critical essay co-authored with Eunsong Kim), *contemporary*, Issue 1, April 2016
- 2015-- *The Virus of Scarcity and the Culture of Abundance* (critical essay), *Sixty Inches from Center*, September 2015
Art Without Artists, Against the Artist CEO (critical essay co-authored with Eunsong Kim) *Sixty Inches from Center*, February
- 2014-- *The Whitney Biennial for Angry Women*, *The New Inquiry*, April 4, 2014. Selected as one of the best essays of 2014 by the editorial staff at artnet
Pedro Velez Poses Questions, (conversant) 2014 Whitney Biennial Catalogue. Yale University Press p. 393-394

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 2020-- *Womb Chamber*, ongoing YouTube performance project
Cyborg Divinations in collaboration with Scarlett Kim, ace/121 Gallery, Glendale, CA
- 2019-- *Ritual for Decolonization*, Los Angeles Valley College Art Gallery, Valley Glen, CA
(participant) *The Revolution is Coming* by Thinh Nguyen in Love and/or Fear performance event organized by Freewaves, Los Angeles, CA
(participant) *Crowd Out* by David Lang, performed in Walt Disney Concert Hall, organized by the LA Philharmonic as part of *Noon to Midnight*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018-- *Exorcism*, The Mortuary, Los Angeles, CA
Ritual for Decolonization, Los Angeles Valley College Art Gallery, Valley Glen, CA
- 2017-- *Ritual for Decolonization*. Terrain Biennial LA: Ana Mendieta Performance Day, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016-- *Letters to White Boys with the Goddess Saraswati*. Performed as part of #NewGlobalMatriarchy at AcreTV and at the Chicago Home Theatre Festival, South Shore, both in Chicago, IL
Letter to Jeb Bush, SWARM Artist Residency, East Troy, WI
- 2015-- *Bedtime Stories of White Supremacy with the Goddess Lakshmi*. Performance and installation in collaboration with FEMelanin, MANA Contemporary, Chicago, IL
Teenage Activist Slumber Party as part of the performance collective FEMelanin, The Dojo, Chicago, IL
- 2013-- *Seated Woman*. Durational performance, The Fralin Museum of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- 2010-- *Manomaya*. Durational performance, Heaven Gallery, Chicago IL
- 2009-- *Aaji*. Video Installation and Durational Performance, Chicago, IL

LECTURES + PANELS

- 2021-- *Collaboration and Consent*, visiting artist lecture at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
- 2020-- *Liminal Spaces* panel at the Indo-Caribbean Women's Empowerment Summit, New York, NY
Liminal Spaces book event hosted by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University
Collaborative Art Praxes: Collective Work, Solidarity, and World Building, American Studies Association Freedom Course
- 2019-- #NEWGLOBALMARIARCHY, Lunchtime Lecture Series, Women's Leadership and Resource Center, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
- 2018-- Plenary Panel, *Sexual Violence and Racialized Bodies: Re/Centering Creative Practices of Representation and Resistance*, Race.Sex.Power Conference, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL
- 2017-- Open Platform project (with Stephanie Graham) at Open Engagement 2017, Chicago, IL
How to Be a Monster—Panel presentation, *Who Cares? Asian American Contemporary Art, Cultures and Queer Communities*, Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Portland, OR
Practices of Transgression: Accessing the creative potential of liminal identities to imagine radical futures panel co-chair, Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014-- *Lacuna*-- Panel presentation, *Mixed Race Art: Hybrid Identities and Studio Practice*, Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference, DePaul University, Chicago, IL
- 2014 -- *Lacuna*-- Panel presentation, *Miscegenating Racial Representations: Critical Mixed Race Strategies and the Visual Arts*, College Art Association Conference, Chicago IL
- 2013-- *Lacuna*-- Panel presentation, *The Afterlives of Forms*, Association of Asian American Studies Conference, Seattle, WA
Strategies for Existence-- (performative lecture), McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- 2011-- *A Theory of the Flesh*-- Panel presentation, *Theorizing at the Intersection of Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Class*, Minority Graduate Student Association Conference, University of Chicago.
- 2010-- *This Bridge Called My Back*-- Sculpture Department Lecture, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL
Art/Writing-- Lecture to Introduction to Foundry class, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL
- 2009-- *And Either I'm Nobody, or I'm a Nation*-- Sculpture Department Lecture, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL

VISITING ARTIST

- 2020-- Teaching & Socially Engaged Artist Series, California State University, Fullerton, CA
- 2019-- Women's Leadership Center, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
- 2018-- College of Education, California State University, Long Beach, CA
Department of Art, Media, and Design, DePaul University, Chicago, IL
- 2016-- Cities of Creativity and Change, Chicago, IL
- 2015-- City Colleges of Chicago- Truman College, Chicago, IL
- 2014-- Critical Practices Inc. LaTableRonde: *Who Do You Speak For, Who Do You Speak To?* New York, NY
City Colleges of Chicago- Harold Washington College, Chicago IL.

VISITING ARTIST (continued)

- 2013-- Museum of Contemporary Art/Schurz High School Teaching Partnership, Chicago, IL
Urban Gateways Summer Option Program in partnership with the SAIC Photography Department, Chicago, IL
- 2012-- Associated Colleges of the Midwest: Chicago Program, Chicago IL
Urban Gateways Summer Option Program in partnership with the SAIC Photography Department, Chicago, IL
- 2011-- McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

AWARDS + RESIDENCIES + RECOGNITION

- 2020-- Secretland Artist Residency, Altadena, CA
Look What She Did: Artists of LA, featured artist
- 2018-- Making Lightly Communal Residency Artist, Atche Art Space, Los Angeles, CA
Emerging Arts Leaders of Los Angeles, Protégé Program
- 2016-- SWARM Artist Residency Apiary Artist, East Troy, WI
- 2015-- HATCH Projects Resident Artist: Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL
- 2011-- Odyssey Travel Grant. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Support travel and research in Guyana
- 2009-- Jacob K. Javits Fellowship. The US Department of Education.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + INTERVIEWS

- 2021— “Say Something” (interview) webcast produced by Keeping It 100 Solutions, keepingit100.solutions, March 19
- 2020-- Yeapanis, Stacia, *OtherPeoplesPixels Interviews Maya Mackrandilal*, OtherPeoplesPixels, August 19
- 2019-- Mohabir, Nalini, “Kala Pani: Aesthetic Deathscapes and the Flow of Water after Indenture,” *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*, 5 (2019) 293-314
- 2018-- Decker, Arden, *Review: Bienal de MexiCali 2018: Calafia, California, USA*, Terremoto, October 27
- 2017-- Bierei, Kayla, *Art that Liberates the Community* (profile), The Buena Park Independent, September 1
Sargent, Antwaun. *Feeling Petty About the Art World? This Biennial Is For You*. Vice, May 26
Cotter, Holland. *10 Galleries to Visit on the Lower East Side*. The New York Times, April 27
Kina, Laura and Jan Christian Bernabe. *Queering Contemporary Asian American Art*. University of Washington Press.
- 2016-- Mitter, Siddhartha, *Vital Signs*, The Village Voice, July 28
Cooch and Cookies Episode 01, Dojo Radio podcast, April
Ali, Hiba. *New Global Matriarchy*. VAM Magazine, February
- 2015-- Burke, Stephanie. *Top 5 Weekend Picks! (4/24-4/26)*. Bad at Sports. April 23
Cotter, Holland. *Raging at Racism, From Streets to Galleries*. The New York Times, January 22
- 2011-- Brooks, Kimberly. *10 New Artists to Watch: School of the Art Institute of Chicago 2011 MFA Sculpture Grads*, The Huffington Post, June 17
McLeod, Deborah. *Touched By Virginia* Catalogue. McIntire Department of Art, The University of Virginia. September
- 2009-- Velez, Pedro, *Open Gates*, artnet, November 6
- 2008-- Shaw-Eagle, Joanna, *60 Artists Show Off Their Own Interests*, The Washington Times, January 26

TEACHING + YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Program Manager, Exploring the Arts

Los Angeles, CA (2019-Present)

Working with Title I partner high schools and arts organizations across Los Angeles County, manages the Arts Internship Program providing youth development through social and emotional learning (SEL) in the arts, produces Network Programs supporting arts educators and program alumni, and manages the Arts Access Grant.

- Identifies and recruits youth from underserved communities to apply to the AIP program
- Designs and implements workshops that develop creative skills, workplace skills, college preparedness, and SEL skills for high school juniors and seniors
- Works directly with youth to navigate challenges, identify personal strengths/opportunities for growth, and create post-secondary plans
- Coaches mentors in effective youth development strategies with a focus on trauma-informed practices and social and emotional learning competencies

TEACHING + YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE (continued)

Teaching Artist, Urban Gateways

Chicago, IL (2016)

Taught summer course for advanced high school and college students in poetry and video production

- Supporting successful learning outcomes for students from underserved communities and school systems
- Encouraging students to find their creative voice and engage with critical issues within their lives, communities, and the city as a whole

Adjunct Lecturer, Art History, The Illinois Institute of Art, Chicago

Chicago, IL (2015-2016)

Taught Art History Survey: GEN 211 (Prehistoric to Middle Ages) and GEN 212 (Renaissance to Present)

- Supporting successful learning outcomes for student population with a large proportion of first generation college students and veterans as well as students from underserved communities within the public school system
- Incorporating feminist and post-colonial critical perspectives in a “big history” approach to the curriculum that encouraged thinking broadly across time and culture

Adjunct Lecturer, Sculpture, The University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA (2013)

Taught Introduction to Sculpture and Intermediate/Advanced Sculpture, exploring traditional and new media.

- Course design centered around community engagement and asset-based student evaluation
- Art practice as creative and critical thinking strategy within a Liberal Arts education
- Community participation: organized student shows and lectures, collaborated with colleagues on projects

Teaching Assistant, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Chicago, IL (2009-2011)

Classroom management and mentoring in Contemporary Practices, Sculpture, Early College Program (Painting and Drawing), and Foundry departments

- Lesson planning and student evaluation
- Technical and conceptual skills development
- Led site visits to museums and material resources

ARTS ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

School Programs Coordinator, The Music Center

Los Angeles, CA (2018-2019)

Coordinated with Education Team, Teaching Artists, Schools, Districts, and other stakeholders to implement K-12 Arts Integration Partnerships across Los Angeles County serving thousands of students each year. Managed schedules, ensured consistency in course materials, helped teaching artists integrate social and emotional learning strategies into their curriculum, tracked expenses.

Fine Arts Coordinator, The City of Buena Park

Buena Park, CA (2016-2018)

Coordinated a wide variety of arts and cultural programming including art exhibitions, festivals, concerts, youth and civic theatre, cultural excursions, and special city events like the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Helped manage a budget in excess of \$200,000, generated and reviewed contracts, wrote and designed program materials, maintained Fine Arts Division website and social media.

Program Coordinator, Gallery Weekend Chicago

Chicago, IL (2014-2015)

Coordinated with participating galleries, cultural partners (including EXPO Chicago), and restaurant partners to execute events that promoted art in Chicago. Managed program budget, produced print materials, managed social media.

Freelance Arts Administration and Production

Chicago, IL (2013-2016)

Managed a wide variety of cultural events, from gallery exhibitions and performances, to video shoots and theatrical multi-media set design. Designed websites, social media, promotional materials, tracked budgets and produced events.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2021 -- Training in SEL implementation through virtual workshops provided by CASEL, UCLA Center for Arts and Healing, and others
- 2020 -- Art of Leadership, Los Angeles County Arts Ed Collective and Theory U, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 -- Undoing Racism, The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, workshop hosted by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture, Los Angeles, CA
REMAP:LA Cultural Equity Summit, California Institute of the Arts, at Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Los Angeles, CA
Little Tokyo Cultural Organizing Summit, LA Commons, Sustainable Little Tokyo, Arts & Democracy, and University of Southern California's Race, Art, and Placemaking Initiative, at Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 -- Protégé Program, Emerging Arts Leaders of LA, Los Angeles, CA
Creativity Connects Conference, Wolf Trap Institute of Early Learning Through the Arts and The Institute for Child Success at the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 -- Artway of Thinking, Experiential Workshop, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

SKILLS

COMPUTER + WEB

Mac & PC expertise
MS Office and Google Suite
HTML and CSS basic editing
Online Content Platforms and Course Development (*Wordpress, Blackboard, Google Classroom, Adobe Spark etc.*)
A/V troubleshooting
Google Drive, Dropbox, other FTP and collaboration tools
Constant Contact, MailChimp, etc
Database software (Salesforce, Artsystems Gallery Pro)
Basics of VR, Mozilla Hubs for art and virtual classroom facilitation and 3D Modeling with Blender

WRITING + EDITING + RESEARCH

Academic and creative writing (*journal publication, online publication, web content development, academic lectures*)
Proposal Writing
Editing
Research best practices

PHOTOGRAPHY + GRAPHIC DESIGN + VIDEO

Equipment (*DSLRs, lighting, etc.*)
Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign
Final Cut Pro, iMovie, Adobe Premiere and Audition
Design of promotional materials, exhibition catalogues, zines
Web video production and platforms

COMMUNICATION

Public Speaking (*lectures, classroom, gallery talks, tours, etc.*)
Presentation Design (*custom PowerPoint design, brochures, posters*)
Marketing (*web and print media*)
Social Media promotion

MANUAL SKILLS

Fine art installation and shipping
Carpentry and woodworking
Metalwork (casting, welding, light metals, etc.)
Ceramics, clay sculpting, plaster, resin casting
Sewing, embroidery, knitting, crocheting
Painting and Drawing
Bookmaking