

**Diana Blain Fine** is an interdisciplinary artist from The Gambia whose works on paper incorporate photography, collage, painting and installation. Diana employs the body as both material and visual landscape to explore the hierarchical nature, complexity, absurdity and innumerable contradictions that exist between empire, borders, and the diasporic communities that straddle all three.

Her work fuses her sociological background with the intimate and introspective practice of self-portraiture to interrogate prescribed norms and aesthetic ideals, exploring the ways in which they frame blackness and power. Diana places herself in her work as both the objectified and objectifier, the ill-favored and the idealized, deconstructing ideas around around purity, power, beauty, and the female body.

Diana spent her formative years across continents and has lived in The Gambia, the U.K., Pakistan, Liberia, Indonesia and the U.S. Her personal experiences living under state-sanctioned military dictatorship in South Asia as a child, as a young teen witnessing the dawn of a bloody military coup in Liberia, and as an immigrant temporarily transplanted to the suburbs New York, all continue to inspire the subversive nature of her work.

Diana is a graduate of Columbia University with a B.A. degree in Sociology. An artist and a farmer, she lives and works on her flower farm in rural upstate New York.

## **Current Work**

### ***“Re-Touched”***

“Re-touched” is my recent series of meta self portraits, altered representations of the past and present. The images reframe time and space, exploring both the physical body and collective memory. My work engages femininity and power in ways that are simultaneously historical, transgressive, disobedient, playful and libidinous. I am my own muse. I create in a way that is both visual and visceral and in defiance of a gaze that situates the female body as the bearer of meaning and never the maker of it. Obscuring the line between subject and object, they explore the intersection of race, gender, nationality and sexuality in complex social realities. Layered in meaning, “Re-touched” critique’s both desire and desirability, blurring lines between glamour and vulgarity.

### ***“Aunty Vicky”***

Aunty Vicky is a documentary about my aunt, Vicky Blain. After an unfortunate event found her at the center of a family scandal at age 13, Vicky was sent away from Gambia to a Catholic boarding school in Ireland where she began to sing choral music. On a school trip to Paris, she was discovered by Loulou Gasté, the renowned French composer, and landed a recording contract with RCA, ultimately performing on the Johnny Carson Show in 1971. Beautiful, spritely and confident, Vicky was mentored by Miriam Makeba and soon found herself in the center of the Pan African arts movement rubbing shoulders with Haile Selassie, Kwame Toure, Leopold Senghor, Nina Simone, and Harry Belafonte. A 1979 interview in South Sudan started rumors of her being a spy, and she suddenly disappeared from the public, leaving everyone wondering what really happened to Vicky Blain.

## **Exhibitions**

- 2026      *Terra Narratives*  
*Laramie County Library, Cheyenne, Wyoming*
- 2026      *Resilience, Strength, Persistence, and Determination*  
*Spring Street Gallery, Saratoga, NY*
- 2025      *For Liberation and For Life*  
The Albany Institute of History & Art  
Group show of contemporary artists including  
Elizabeth Catlett, Kerry James Marshall, Roy  
DeCarava, Alison Saar, Romare Bearden, Zanele  
Muholi, Lola Flash and Henry Ossawa Tanner
- 2024      *POP: Art with Mass Appeal Exhibition*  
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Maryland  
In association with The Smithsonian Institute  
Winner of one of three Juror awards.
- 2024      *Critical Forum Arts Exhibition*  
The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, NY
- 2023      *Fence Select Exhibition*  
The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, NY  
Juried by Corinna Ripps Schaming and Yael Erel
- 2023      *Life Thru the Lens*  
The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, NY
- 2022      *Adorned: Inspired by Fabric and Fashion*  
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Maryland

- 2019      *Future Now Group Show*  
Pierro Gallery, South Orange, New Jersey
- 2018      *Blue Scarf Collective: Art in the Time of Resistance*  
Pierro Gallery, South Orange, New Jersey

### **Awards & Residencies**

- 2025      Yaddo Residency (December 2025)
- 2025      Ucross Residency (September 2025)
- 2024      Vermont Studio Center Residency  
Pollock-Krasner Fellowship Award

### **Additional Work**

Farmer and Founder of Holy Forest Farms, Nassau, New York,  
[www.holyforestfarm.com](http://www.holyforestfarm.com)

### **Education**

Columbia University, New York, NY, B.A. Sociology