

PAMELA WOOLFORD

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PROFILE

As an interdisciplinary artist, I intertwine my work as a writer, immersive-media director, filmmaker, and performer to create new forms of narrative work about Black Americans and others whose joy, imagination, history, and inner life are under-explored in American media and popular art. My art explores intimate moments and memories, the revealing of truth through memory, and the relationship between memory and imagination.

SELECTED MEDIA AND FILM WORK

- In-Progress *Up/Rooted: Pamela Woolford's Cabin Windows*, series of virtual-reality experiences; writer, director, sound designer, and performer; Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant, aSHE Fund grant, and grants from Smith Center for Healing and the Arts
- In-Progress *Disrupt/ed (a mem-noir)*, illustrated memoir with augmented reality; writer and director; Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant
- In-Progress Experimental documentary film on 102-year-old Howard Stokes, one of the first Black streetcar operators in Washington, DC; writer and director; Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant
- 2022 *Antoine and Me*, sound-designed photo (SDP) narrations, NFTs, and hand-made photo albums; writer, director, voice actor, and model; founder of the SDP artform; 2 Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grants; expanded site-specific installation at Baltimore Museum of Art (2022-2023) and exhibitions at Current Space (2024) and *WOCAX: A Woman of Color Art Expo* (2022)
- 2020 *Interrupted: Prologue to a Mem-noir*, film; writer, director, editor, and onscreen performer; Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant; premiere event cosponsored by Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, the George Mason University Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, and Busboys and Poets
- 2018 *Generation*, screendance film; writer, director, editor, sound designer, voice actor, onscreen actor and movement-arts performer; North Beach American Film Festival Best Experimental Film, Animation Film, or Music Video; CR8:BLK (Create Black) Black Women Cinema Week Audience Choice Award; Black Continental Independent Movie Awards Jury Award for Originality and Best Short Film nominee; Canada Shorts Award of Commendation; and Experimental Forum Honorary Mention Award for "vision and the film's unique contribution to cinema;" collected by North Carolina State University's Film-Art-Dance on Tour; screened at the In Your Ear series at DC Arts Center; official selection and/or award winner for 14 film festival internationally
- 1992 *Emile*, screenplay; screenwriter; Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & FILM FESTIVALS

- 2024 Baker Artist Awards Finalist Showcase, Current Space, Baltimore, MD (exhibition containing my multimedia and mixed-media works)
- 2022-23 *Baltimore, Addressed*, Baltimore Museum of Art (exhibition containing my site-specific installation of my sound-designed photo narrations, handmade art, and stories and related ephemera)
- 2022 *WOCAX: A Woman of Color Art Expo*, Columbia, MD, (pop-up-gallery and virtual-gallery exhibition containing pieces from my NFT series)
- 2019 Black Bottom Film Festival, August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh, PA; screening and on-stage interview
- 2019 CR8:BLK (Create Black) *Black Women Cinema Week*, Eaton Workshop Cinema, Washington, DC

- 2019 Lakefront Film Festival, Columbia, MD
 2019 In Your Ear with Pamela Woolford, Morowa Yejide, and Katy Bohinc, DC Arts Center, Washington, DC; screening and featured artist at three-person showcase
 2018-19 FAD Festival Collection, Film-Art-Dance on Tour, cosponsored by North Carolina State University
 2018-19 Underground FilmFest, Stockholm, Sweden
 2018 Women of the Lens Festival, London, UK
 2018 Genre Celebration Festival, Tokyo, Japan
 2018 Gary International Black Film Festival, Gary, IN
 2018 Canada Shorts, Saint John, Canada
 2018 North Beach American Film Festival, North Beach, MD
 2018 Kwanzaa in August: Unboxed and Unbound Films, Anacostia Arts Center, Washington, DC

SELECTED WRITINGS

1992- present Author of more than 100 memoir, fiction, human-interest, profile, interview, and think pieces published in *Poets & Writers Magazine*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Transition* of the Hutchins Center at Harvard University, *The Crisis Magazine* of the NAACP, *Map Literary* of William Paterson University, and other publications.

Selected Fiction

- “Threshold,” Anthologized, *The Fire Inside, Volume III* edited by Bernice L. McFadden and Victoria Adams-Kennedy, 2024. Rick DeMarinis Short Fiction Contest semifinalist at *Cutthroat, A Journal of the Arts*, 2014.
- “Pleasant People,” Anthologized, *Grace and Gravity*, republished with a new introduction, 2022. Pushcart Prize nominee, 2018. *Alfie Dog Fiction*, 2016. Anthologized, *Amazing Graces*, Paycock Press, 2012.
- “Just After Supper,” Pushcart Prize nominee, 2018. *Origins Journal*, 2016. Film adaptation, *Generation*, 2018.

Selected Nonfiction

- *Meditations on a Marriage: A Memoir of Our Year and a Half*, excerpt shortlisted for Fish Publishing Short Memoir Prize, 2017. Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards creative-nonfiction finalist, 2016. Excerpts in *Eunoia Review*, 2017.
- “Here I Am Looking,” *Eunoia Review*, 2017. German translation, *Briefe aus Amerika*, 2017.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & PERFORMANCES

- 2024 Book launch of *The Fire Inside: Collected Stories and Poems from Zora’s Den, Vol. III*, Charm City Cultural Cultivation headquarters, presenting writer
 2024 Two-women show of Marita Golden monologues, The Outpost at the Last Resort Artist Retreat, director and performer
 2023 Performance of Harriet Tubman monologue, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, DC
 2023 *The New Black Woman: A Busboys and Poets Presentation*, Pamela Woolford interviews Marita Golden live on stage
 2023 In Our Words reading series, Eubie Blake Cultural Center, featured performative reader
 2022 Deconstruction of Being: A Symposium presented by University of Manitoba School of Art Gallery and Patterns Collective, keynote presenter
 2021 Nat King Cole Storyteller Listening Session: His Music from Films, an episode of *Spaceship in the Black* with Chukwudubem Ukaigwe, curator and co-moderator
 2020 Marymount University Bisson Lecturer in the Humanities

- 2020 United Way of Central Maryland TogetHER Women's Forum, session keynote speaker
- 2020 Art as a Response to Anti-Blackness presented by Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University and Busboys and Poets, forum curator and speaker
- 2020 SHIFT Baltimore presented by Artists U, performative reader
- 2020 Baker Artist Awards Literary Showcase presented by Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, performative reader
- 2019 *Visionary Women, The Journey: Art About Women by Women* Columbia Art Center exhibition panel discussion presented by Columbia Archives, guest-artist panelist
- 2019 Changemaker Challenge sponsored by United Way of Central Maryland and Horizon Foundation, featured speaker
- 2019 *The Sky Had Vanished* directed by Kevin Gilligan, film voiceover actor
- 2018 Women Writers of Color brunch hosted by Marita Golden, featured reader
- 2018 Golden Hearts Black History Month author and filmmaker presentation at St. John Baptist Church of Columbia, Maryland, dramatic reader and film discussion
- 2017 Denée Barr art exhibition at Robinson Nature Center, featured reader
- 2016 *Project s2 v143* Fabrice Monteiro photograph project, model
- 2014 *Little Patuxent Review* series at Columbia Art Center, featured reader
- 2014 *Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins* at 1st Stage, voiceover artist
- 2000-07 Various performances (including Dick Gregory show at Bohemian Caverns, Black Heritage Art Show at Baltimore Convention Center, Fell's Point Fun Festival, and AFRAM), choreographer and solo dancer
- 2003 City Museum of Washington, DC, and Historical Society of Washington, DC, voiceover artist for PSAs
- 1994-96 Aurora Dance Company, dance troupe member

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Storyknife Writer's Residency, Artist-in-Residence, Homer, Alaska (upcoming in June)
- 2024 The Last Resort Artist Retreat, Artist-in-Residence, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 Bard College at Simon's Rock, Artist-in-Residence, Great Barrington, MA
- ongoing Long Reach Village Center Studios, Resident Artist, Columbia, MD
- since '20
- 2019 NES Artist Residency, Artist-in-Residence, Skagaströnd, Iceland

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

- 2024 Baker Artist Award, Mary Sawyers Baker Prize finalist in interdisciplinary arts, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance
- 2024 Boston Writers of Color Literary Support Stipend, GrubStreet
- 2024 Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant
- 2024 Maryland State Arts Council Professional Development Opportunity Grant
- 2024 Maryland State Arts Council Grants for Artists grantee
- 2023 James Weldon Johnson Fellowship in the Arts, James Weldon Johnson Foundation
- 2022 Maryland State Arts Council Independent Artist Regional Award for notable artistic achievement
- 2022 Baker Artist Award, Mary Sawyers Baker Prize in interdisciplinary arts, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance
- 2022 Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant
- 2022 aSHE Fund Micro-grant
- 2021 Baker Artist Award in interdisciplinary arts, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance
- 2021 Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant
- 2020 Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant

- 2020 Baker Artist Award, Mary Sawyers Baker Prize finalist in literature, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance
- 2019 She Writes Press and SparkPress Toward Equality in Publishing (STEP) Contest finalist
- 2019 Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant
- 2019 Changemaker Challenge Award, United Way of Central Maryland and Horizon Foundation
- 2019 Audience Choice Award, CR8:BLK Black Women Cinema Week
- 2019 Jury Award for Originality, Black Continental Independent Movie Awards
- 2019 Best Short Film nominee, Black Continental Independent Movie Awards
- 2018 Best Experimental Film, Animation Film, or Music Video; North Beach American Film Festival
- 2018 Experimental Forum Honorary Mention Award for “vision and the film’s unique contribution to cinema”
- 2018 Canada Shorts Award of Commendation
- 2018 Pushcart Prize for fiction two-time nominee
- 2017 Fish Publishing Short Memoir Prize, shortlisted
- 2016 Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards finalist for creative nonfiction
- 2014 Rick DeMarinis Short Fiction Contest semifinalist, *Cutthroat, A Journal of the Arts*
- 1994 Maryland House of Delegates Official Citation for editing and cofounding *Jambalaya Magazine*
- 1992 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award

SELECTED CURATIONS & COLLECTIONS EDITED

- 2020 “Art as a Response to Anti-Blackness,” online panel discussion in collaboration with George Mason University and Busboys and Poets with participation from author Marita Golden, musician Bob James, artist and business owner Andy Shallal, historian Dr. Charles Chavis, and Joseph Lewis, founder of Black Bottom Film Festival and executive director of Jazz Bridge
- 2015 *Twenty Years, Twenty Poets, Volume II*, works by Sherman Alexie, Eavan Boland, Lucille Clifton, Billy Collins, Rita Dove, Martin Espada, Donald Hall, Robert Hass, Edward Hirsh, Jane Hirshfield, Maxine Cumin, Li-Young Lee, Philip Levine, Paula Meehan, W. S. Merwin, E. Ethelbert Miller, Mary Oliver, Patricia Smith, Mark Strand, and Sekou Sundiata (editorial committee chair, Howard County Poetry & Literature Society)
- 2014 “A World of Difference: Rita Dove and Joshua Coyne Celebrate History and Creativity” Dove reading, Coyne performance, shooting of documentary film scenes, onstage interview—all inspired by 18th century Afro-Polish violinist George Augustus Polgreen Bridgetower; Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center, Columbia, MD
- 2014 Dominique Morisseau’s *Sunset Baby*, Rep Stage, Columbia, MD; live-streamed to Center Stage, Baltimore, Kwame Kwei-Armah, host; and associated workshops, panel discussion, and taped interview
- 1996 Maryland Jambalaya-Fest: exhibitions from six museums; Lucille Clifton, W. Paul Coates, and E. Ethelbert Miller literary symposium; Haile Gerima and Dr. Ben Carson keynote speeches; author and artist showcases; workshops; and performances
- 1992-96 *Jambalaya Magazine*: visual art, fiction, poetry, features, profiles, and interviews. Awarded Maryland House of Delegates Official Citation and honors from NAACP, Office of the Howard County Executive, and others. Archived in the Little Magazine Collection, Department of Special Collections, University of Wisconsin—Madison Libraries, Madison, WI.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Selected Books

- Commander, Michelle D. *Afro-Atlantic Flight: Speculative Returns and the Black Fantastic*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017.
- de B'béri, Boulou Ebanda. *Mapping Alternative Expressions of Blackness in Cinema: A Horizontal Labyrinth of Transgeographical Practices of Identity*. Bayreuth: Thielmann & Breitingner, 2006.

- Falola, Toyin and Augustine Agwuele, eds. *Africans and the Politics of Popular Culture*. Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 2009.
- Field, Allyson Nadia and Jan-Christopher Horak and Jacqueline Najuma Stewart, eds. *L.A. Rebellion: Creating a New Black Cinema*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015.
- Henry, DeWitt, ed. *Breaking into Print: Early Stories and Insights into Getting Published, A Ploughshares Anthology*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2000.
- Iton, Richard. *In Search of the Black Fantastic: Politics and Popular Culture in the Post-Civil Rights Era*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Keeling, Kara. *The Witches Flight: The Cinematic, the Black Femme, and the Image of Common Sense*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.
- Lupton, Mary Jane and Lucille Clifton. *Lucille Clifton: Her Life and Letters*. Westport: Praeger, 2006.
- Ndounou, Monica White *Shaping the Future of African American Film: Color-Coded Economics and the Story Behind the Numbers*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2014.
- Patterson, Robert J. *Black Cultural Production after Civil Rights*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2019.
- Peterson, James Braxton, ed. *In Media Res: Race, Identity, and Pop Culture in the Twenty-first Century*. Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press, 2014.
- Setka, Stella. *Empathy and the Phantasmic in Ethnic American Trauma Narratives*. Lanham: Thielmann & Breitingner, 2020.
- Young, Cynthia A. *Soul Power: Culture Radicalism, and the Making of a U.S. Third World Left*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

Selected Academic Journals

- ALA Bulletin: A Publication of the African Literature Association* Volumes 21-23, University of Minnesota, 1995: 16.
- CLA Journal* Volume 42, College Language Association, 1998: 212.
- Research in African Literatures* Volume 27, University of California, 1996: 140, 142.

Selected Articles

- Abari, Tonya. ["How to Unlock Your Creativity at Any Age."](#) *Sisters From AARP* December 4, 2020.
- Eberson, Sharon. ["Black Bottom Film Festival features classic and contemporary cinema, guests Kim Coles and more."](#) *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* February 14, 2019.
- Faguy, Ana. ["Howard resident, author Pamela Woolford tells the untold stories of black Columbia."](#) *Baltimore Sun* February, 19, 2020.
- Faguy, Ana, ["Environmental, inclusive ideas win big at second Changemaker Challenge in Howard"](#) *Baltimore Sun* November 12, 2019.
- Friedman, Robert. ["Local filmmaker debuts film at festivals."](#) *The Beacon Newspaper* October 5, 2018.
- Glaros, Tony. ["Artists bring new life to shops."](#) *The Beacon Newspaper* December 20, 2020.
- Haddad, Anne. ["Stories as Background Music, Screendance Films: Pamela Woolford's Generation Travels the Film Festival Circuit."](#) *Her Mind Magazine* cover story, summer 2019.
- Henderson, Rebekah. ["Virtual Sundance Series: A Constellation Of Artists In Cyberspace."](#) *Culturs Magazine* February 2021.
- Johnson, Denise. ["Black Bottom Film Festival-'A celebration of the Black artistic voice and creative stamina.'"](#) *New Pittsburgh Courier* February 28, 2019.
- Lynn, Hannah. ["The Black Bottom Film Festival celebrates classic and modern innovations in Black filmmaking."](#) *Pittsburgh City Paper* February 19, 2019.

Ober, Cara and Michael Anthony Farley. ["Baltimore, Addressed: Baker Artist Awards at the BMA, A new exhibit of recent Baker awardees features work by Laura Amussen, David Page, Ernest Shaw Jr., Susan Waters-Eller, and Pamela Woolford."](#) *BmoreArt* November 23, 2022.

Selected Interviews

Cavalieri, Grace. [Featured video interview](#) and [featured audio interview](#) Library of Congress's *The Poet and the Poem* November 22, 2023 and December 2, 2023.

Frimpong, Rebekah. [Feature interview](#). *Black Women Cinema Week*, Puerto Rico, sponsored by CR8:BLK (Create Black), Fractured Atlas, Cinema Paradiso, and Film Fatales November 12, 2021.

Gordon, Tim and Charles Kirkland Jr. [Feature interview \(starts at 29:50\)](#). *DC Radio's FilmGordon Show* July 13, 2019.

McGhee, Tracy Chiles. [Featured video interview with mother and fellow interdisciplinary artist Rev. Sadie A. Woolford](#) "Have a Heart: Health, Love, and Self-Care" episode of *Unerased: Black Women Speak* February 22, 2024.

Miller, E. Ethelbert. [Feature Interview \(starts at 30:40\)](#). WPFW 89.3 FM's *On The Margin* October 27, 2016.

Roost, Amy. ["Writer and filmmaker Pamela Woolford on being a Black woman in Trump's America."](#) *Fury* August 23, 2018.

Slaughter, Judine. [Feature Interview](#). *By Any Ink Necessary* October, 6, 2018.

The Creative Outsiders. ["Interview with filmmaker: Pamela Woolford."](#) *The Creative Outsiders* October, 17, 2016.