

# DENESE KING-ASHLEY

Multi-Disciplinary Artist | Drawing | Painting | Performance Baltimore, Maryland | 443-301-4105 | [www.deneseKingAshley.com](http://www.deneseKingAshley.com) | IG @eyelashes95

## ARTIST STATEMENT

As a multi-disciplinary artist working at the intersection of drawing, painting, and performative arts, my practice explores the profound connections between personal narrative and universal human experience. Born in the West Indies, I draw inspiration from the region's vibrant chromatic heritage, where intense colors serve not merely as aesthetic choices but as cultural signifiers and emotional catalysts. My work, particularly in large-scale portraiture and botanical transformations, investigates themes of identity, family history, and cultural memory.

Through intuitive mark-making and deliberate compositional strategies, I create works that hover between representation and metaphorical exploration. My current practice in Baltimore, Maryland, continues to evolve through experimental drawing techniques, performative elements, and innovative approaches to traditional media.

## EDUCATION

- Certificate in Administration & Supervision (Present)
- Master of Fine Arts, Maryland Institute College of Art (2021)
  - Focus: Drawing, Painting, and Interdisciplinary Practices
  - Thesis: "An Exploration of Beauty, Personal and Witnessed Trauma, and Resiliency."
- Certificate in College Teaching, Maryland Institute College of Art (2021)
  - Specialized in Contemporary Art Pedagogy and Inclusive Teaching Methods
- Standard Professional Certificate, Continuing Instructional Education Program (2020)
  - Advanced Certification in Arts Education
- Master of Arts, Museum Studies, Morgan State University (2010)
  - Thesis: "Preserving Legacy-Developing Critical Consciousness/Analysis about Morgan State University's Visual Artists who have Contributed to the Art World"
- Bachelor of Fine Arts, Fine Art, Morgan State University (1996)
  - Concentration in Drawing and Painting

## SELECTED EXHIBITION

- 2023 "The Cost of Living," An Observation of The Resistance, Resilience and Joy of the Black Woman, Dupont Underground Washington DC
- 2022 "Unveiling Resistance", Galleries at CCBC, Baltimore MD
- 2020 "Despite the Distance", Virtual Exhibit, Maryland Institute College of Art
  - Curated exploration of artistic response to global isolation
  - Featured large-scale portrait series examining family dynamics

- 2020 "Color Tomorrow (2)", Montgomery Park Building, Washington, MD
  - Group exhibition featuring experimental drawing techniques
  - Presented series of botanical transformations
- 2020 "NOW", Ely Center of Contemporary Art, New Haven, CT
  - Juried exhibition exploring contemporary drawing practices
  - Showcased innovative mark-making techniques
- 2019 "Of Nature and Identity", Hamilton Arts Collective
  - Solo section featuring floriography works
  - Installation incorporating found text and botanical elements
- 2019 "Left Space", Popup Exhibition, Wicomico Chesapeake Building, MD
  - Site-specific installation combining drawing and performance
  - Interactive elements engaging viewer participation

## **ARTIST TALKS & WORKSHOPS**

- 2023 "The Cost of Living" An Observation of the Resistance, Resilience and Joy of the Black Woman, Dupont Underground Washington DC
- 2021 "Intuitive Mark-Making in Contemporary Practice"
  - Maryland Institute College of Art, First Year Experience
  - Workshop focusing on experimental drawing techniques
- 2021 "Crossing Boundaries: Performance and Visual Art"
  - Department of Graduate Studies, MICA
  - Lecture and demonstration on interdisciplinary approaches
- 2021 Public Art Project
  - Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County
  - Spoken word performance integrated with visual elements
- 2020 "Color as Cultural Memory"
  - Ely Contemporary, curated by Margaret Roleke
  - Discussion of West Indian influences in contemporary practice

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2024- MICA MAT Practicum Mentor Teacher
- 2021-Present Drawing Tradition & Innovation, Maryland Institute College of Art
  - Developed innovative curriculum combining classical and experimental approaches
  - Lead advanced workshops in mark-making and composition
- 2000-Present Art Instructor, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Fundamentals of Art, Drawing & Painting
  - Created comprehensive curriculum for diverse student populations
  - Integrated contemporary art practices with traditional techniques

## **CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE**

- 1996-1998 Assistant Curator, James E Lewis Museum, Morgan State

- Coordinated exhibitions focusing on contemporary African American artists
- Developed educational programs and community outreach initiatives

## **PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA**

- 2020 Cover Art & Feature
  - Yellow Arrow Publishing, Highlandtown Writers-In Residence
  - Created series of illustrations exploring narrative and visual poetry
- 2018 Featured Artist
  - Wyrld & Wyse Literary Magazine
  - Portfolio showcases of experimental drawings

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Member, College Art Association
- Member, National Art Education Association
- Member, Baltimore Artists' Network

## **SKILLS & TECHNIQUES**

- Drawing: Graphite, charcoal, conte, experimental mark-making
- Painting: Oil, acrylic, mixed media
- Digital: Adobe Creative Suite, digital documentation
- Performance: Spoken word, movement-based drawing
- Installation: Site-specific work, mixed media installation