MAYA FREELON

mayafreelon.com

BIO

Maya Freelon is an award-winning visual artist whose work was described by the late poet **Maya Angelou** as "visualizing the truth about the vulnerability and power of the human being."

Cosmopolitan magazine featured her in June 2015 in "Art Stars," calling her one "of the most badass female artists in the biz."

She was commissioned by ***Google*** to design original art for their *OnHub* router, by ***Cadillac*** to create a live-sculpture for their *Dare Greatly* creative campaign, by the ***North Carolina Museum of Art*** to create a collaborative tissue paper sculpture celebrating the opening of their African Art wing and by ***Halcyon*** to create a monumental sculpture for the First Annual By the People Festival at the ***Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building.***

Her unique tissue paper art, praised by the *International Review of African American Art* as "a vibrant, beating assemblage of color," has been exhibited internationally, including shows in Paris, Jamaica, Madagascar, and Italy.

She was selected by *Modern Luxury Magazine* as Best of the City; by *Huffington Post* as "Black Artists: 30 Contemporary Art Makers Under 40 You Should Know"; and by *Complex* magazine as "15 Young Black Artists Making Waves in the Art World."

Maya has completed residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine, the Korobitey Institute in Ghana, and the Brandywine Workshop in Philadelphia. She earned a BA from Lafayette College and an MFA from the School of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

B.1982

EDUCATION

2007 M.F.A. School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
2005 B.A. in Art, *Cum Laude*, Lafayette College, Easton, PA
2004 The American University in Paris, France

RESIDENCIES

2019 Queenspace Residency, NYC
2016 University of Maryland Eastern Shore Mosley Gallery
2015 University of Wilmington - Clothesline Muse
2014 University of Maryland Inaugural Stamp Gallery
2010/11 C. Sylvia and Eddie C. Brown Studio at the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, Baltimore, MD
2009 Sonja Haynes Stone Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC
2008 The Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
2007 The Kokrobitey Institute, Accra, GHANA
2006 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 *The Feeling is Mutual,* Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts, Kalamazoo, MI
2018 *Color-pop*, Hem+Spire & Carrack, Durham, NC
2017 *Threads Celebration: UBUNTU* (site-specific installation) North Carolina Museum of Art
2017 *The Weightlessness of Forgiveness*, Cary Arts Center
2015 *Impermanence*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
2013 *Scattered to the Wind,* Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, Baltimore, MD
2011 Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, NC
2009 *The Beauty of Now*, Reginald Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, Baltimore, MD
Free, Stone Center: Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum, UNC Chapel Hill, NC
2008 *Art & Soul*, Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture, Duke University, Durham, NC
2007 *EnterACTION*, Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston, MA
2006 *Independence,* Lyda Moore Merrick Gallery, Durham, NC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Across County Lines: Contemporary Photography from the Piedmont*, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC
By The People, Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building, Washington, D.C.
Prizm Art Fair, Morton Fine Art (Art Basel Week), Miami, FL
2016 *Radical Intimacy*, Durham Arts Movement Gallery, Durham, NC
2015 Aqua Art Miami, Morton Fine Art, Miami, FL
2014 *Timeless Remnants*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
Aqua Art Miami, Morton Fine Art, Miami, FL
2013 *Fair Focus*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
Art Hamptons, Morton Fine Art, Bridgehampton, NY
2012 *DC NOW,* Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
AQUA Art Miami, Morton Fine Art, Miami, FL
Houston Art Fair, Morton Fine Art, Houston, TX
2011 *Material Girls,* Reginald Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, Baltimore, MD
Stories that Breathe, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
2010 *Art in Embassies*, U.S. Embassy, Antananarivo, MADAGASCAR
Art in Embassies, U.S. Embassy, Rome, ITALY
Pulp, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Mind Body & Spirit, University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, MD
2009 *Funktified*. Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook University, NY
Stars and Stripes: Pride and Hope, Smith Farm Center for Healing and the Arts, Washington, D.C.
2008 *Passion*, Anyone Can Fly Foundation ACA Gallery, New York, NY
Double Exposure, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA
She's So Articulate: Black Women Artists Reclaim the Narrative, Arlington Art Center, Arlington, VA
From Taboo to Icon: Africanist Turnabout, Ice Box Project Space, Philadelphia, PA
2007 *Ubuntu*, Kokrobitey Institute, Kokrobitey, GHANA
Memory and Place, IAAA Gallery: New York University, New York, NY
Transparency, Tufts University, Medford, MA
Seeds, Piano Factory Gallery, Boston, MA
Access: A Feminist Perspective, Rhonda Schaller Studio, New York, NY
2005 *What is Freedom?,* Gallery of Social and Political Art, Boston, MA
2004 *And then there were 3,* Combes Gallery, The American University of Paris, France

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2009 – 2013
Emerging Artist Mentorships, Bromo Arts Tower & Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD
2007-2008
Faculty, *Design and Art History*, Towson University, Baltimore, MD
Faculty, *Mixed Media and Art History*, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD
Instructor, *Mixed Media Collage*, The Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD

2005
Founder & Instructor, *Make Your Mark Art,* Philadelphia, PA
Co-Teaching, *Public Art Public Action Youth*
Art In Action, SMFA Boston, MA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016 SPIKE DBB + Cadillac, Artists Who Dare, Harlem, NY
2015 GOOGLE OnHub featured artist and designer, Mountain View, CA
2008 Director of Photography, 'Conversation Between Elizabeth Catlett and Maya Angelou' Delta Fine Arts Center, Winston-Salem, NC (Film)
2007 Coordinator, 2nd African and African American Art and Film Conference, New York, NY
Curator/ Moderator, Panel Discussion '*Racing Yourself*', invited artists: Senga Nengudi, Dread Scott and Aisha Bell, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

HONORS AND AWARDS

2015 Cosmopolitan Magazine (Featured Artist)
2014 National Performance Network (Participating Artist)
New England Foundation for the Arts – National Theater Project: Grant Winner
2013 Best of D.C., Modern Luxury Magazine
30 Contemporary Art Makers Under 40 You Should Know, Huffington Post
Style Maker "Maya Freelon Asante", Luxe Magazine
2010/11 C. Sylvia and Eddie C. Brown Studio Award
2010 Hometown Hero Award - Chapel Hill, NC
2008 The Brandywine Workshop Young Artist Fellowship
2007 City of Boston, City Council Official Recognition and Resolution (Enter-ACTION Exhibition)
Tufts University AS&E Diversity Fund Award
The School of the Museum of Fine Arts Presidential Funding ('Racing-Yourself' Panel)
2006 Camille Hanks Cosby Fellowship (Skowhegan Residency)
2005 Lafayette Honors Thesis Award
Outstanding Leadership Award (Philadelphia FIGHT)
Riley Temple Creative and Artistic Citizenship Award
2004 EXCEL Research Scholar

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008 Director of Photography, 'Conversation Between Elizabeth Catlett & Maya Angelou' Delta Fine Arts
2007 Coordinator, 2nd African and African American Art and Film Conference, New York, NY
Curator/ Moderator, Panel Discussion 'Racing Yourself', invited artists: Senga Nengudi, Dread Scott and Aisha Bell, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

2013 The Clothesline Muse, University of Wilmington, NC
Art of Cool, Mother/Daughter Mashup, Durham, NC
2011 The Hayti Heritage Center Durham, NC (Lecture)

2010 Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore, MD (Lecture)
2009 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC (Lecture)
2008 Maryland Institute College of Art, 'Beyond the Imagination' Baltimore, MD (Guest Critic)
Duke University, Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture 'Art & Soul', Durham, NC (Lecture)
Crane Arts Ice Box Gallery, 'From Taboo to Icon', Philadelphia, PA (Panel Discussion)
2007 The Museum of the National Center of AfroAmerican Art, Boston, MA (Lecture and Workshop)
College Art Association Conference, New York, NY Arts Exchange (Participating Artist)
Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT (Featured Artist)
2004 Woodmere Art Museum, 'Allan Freelon: Pioneer African American Impressionist', Philadelphia, PA

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2018 "Maya Freelon's Immersive and Interactive Sculptures Bring Tissue Paper to Life", by Jacoba Urist, Smithsonian Magazine.
"Our City, Through the Lens of 13 Photographers", Oct/Nov issue, Durham Magazine
"Bleeding Art", Issue 87, by Shelley Rose, American Lifestyle
2016 "Fine Art Focus: Maya Freelon Asante", by: Grace Bonney, Design Sponge

2015 "Clothesline Connects Culture to Community", Lumia News, March
"Muse weaves tales told by the threads", Start News, March
"Scattered to the Wind" (Cover Art), Signs Journal, Winter

2014 "Maya Freelon Asante: Volume" Washington Post, Jan
"Remarkable Women" Durham Magazine (Feature Cover), June

2013 "Style Makers: Maya Freelon Asante" Luxe Magazine, Fall
"Black Artists: 30 Contemporary Art Makers Under 40 You Should Know" Huffington Post, Feb
"Material Girl: Maya Freelon Asante", Modern Luxury – DC Magazine: Best of DC, Jan

2012 "Material Girls: Contemporary Black Women Artists At Reginald F. Lewis Museum." Huffington Post
"Critics Pick" Time Lapse – Material Girls, Art Forum online
Lamb, Evelyn,"Bridging the Gap Between Math and Art" Scientific American (web slideshow)
Anderson, John "Take it to the Bridge: Week 1 – Maya Freelon Asante", Washington Post
Rabil, Evelyn "Maya Freelon Asante: Morton Fine Arts", Bethesda Patch*: Art*
Colleen, Dorsey. "Baltimore artist Maya Freelon Asante shares with 'Like/Dislike'." Baltimore Sun.
Lewis, John. "What to Do? What to Do?." Baltimore Magazine.

2011 "Color Muse: Maya Freelon Asante ." *The Audacity Of Color*. Wordpress, 09 13 Dec
Phillip, Karin-Beate. "Material Girls." African and African-Caribbean Design Diaspora (AACDD) . The London Design Festival
"Beyond Bearden: Creative Responses " Charlotte Culture Guide: A Project of the Arts & Science Council, 2011
"On Time: Maya Freelon Asante", TV Episode "Sunday July 31, 2011." CBS Baltimore

2010 "ANTANANARIVO." Art In Embassies. Department of State
Swift, Tim. "10 things not to miss this week." *The Baltimore Sun* [Baltimore] 27 July
Shareef, Shaharzad. "An Artist to Watch." The International Review of African American Art v.22 n.3
Amoss, Marianne K. "The Scene." *The Urbanite* June
Johnson, S.Ann. "Talk, listen, and create with Baltimore based visual artist Maya Freelon Asante." *Examiner.com Baltimore* 22 July

Riley, Stephen. "Maya Freelon Asante: The Beauty of Now." *The Afro* [Baltimore] 29 July

2009 Meadows, Jessica. "Water-stained tissue paper" My NC. NBC17. North Carolina. 1 Feb.
"Tissue becomes art." The Triangle Tribune [Durham] 28 Jan.
Riley, Cheryl R. "Art: Family Portrait." Uptown Magazine Feb. & March: 28-29.
"Maya Freelon Asante." Marquis Who's Who in American Art. 29th ed.

2008 Rice, Robin. "Life in Turnabout." Philadelphia City Paper 23 Jan: 1
Frederick, Helen. "She's So Articulate: Black Women Reclaim the Narrative." Art Papers Sept.: 54. -
Nnenna Freelon: Better Than Anything. Rec. 15 Jan Original album artwork created by Maya Freelon Asante. "Better Than Anything", Tissue Paper Collage, 24"x23"
Henry, Lisa. "Double Exposure" Nueva Luz: En Foco 13.

2007 Kim, Jin-ah. "Maya Freelon is Unafraid." The Boston-Bay State Banner 3 May.
"Maya Freelon." The Callaloo Express. Cambridge Community Television. Cambridge, MA. Brittan, David, ed. "Transparent Reconstruction." Tufts Magazine Spring: 1.
Pough, Gwendolyn D., ed. Home Girls Make Some Noise! Hip-hop Feminism Anthology. Grand Rapids: Parker, LLC.

2006 Greenberg, Blue. "Freelon finds her political voice in visual arts." The Herald Sun [Durham] 22 Jan: E2.
Stasio, Frank. "IN-Dependence." The State of Things. - WUNC. Durham. 19 Jan.
Artists of Color. Boston News Network. Boston, MA. Sept.
Freeman, Sandi. "Celebrating Women." TRIBES Mar: 14+.
Endamne, Alice N., ed. "In The Eye of the Hurricane: Reflections on Katrina." Black Arts Quarterly.

2005 "Accessing the past to understand the future." The Daily Hampshire Gazette [Northampton]
Feeney, Leigh Anne. "Maya Freelon: Hybrid of Art & Soul." Nommo Newsmagazine [Los Angeles].

2004 "Human body is focus of exhibition." The Herald Sun [Durham, NC] Oct.
Lewis, Louis St. "Modern and Timeless." Metro Magazine Oct.
Rodgers, Kenneth G. "Allan Freelon: African American Impressionist." North Carolina Central University Art Museum March & April.

COLLECTIONS

First Citizens Bank, U.S. State Department, U.S. Embassy in Madagascar; U.S. Embassy Swaziland; U.S. Embassy Rome; Smithsonian; National Museum of African American History and Culture; The University of Maryland (David C. Driskell Center); Johns Hopkins University; Rocketship Rise Academy; The Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists; The Reginald F. Lewis Museum; The School of the Museum of Fine Arts; The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Lafayette College; The Brandywine Workshop; The Experimental Printmaking Institute; The Williston Northampton School; The Kokrobitey Institute; Lewis Tanner Moore; Dr. Maya Angelou