

El/yse Ambrose

www.elyseambrose.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Religion and Society, Drew University, Madison, NJ, August 2019

Concentrations: Ethics and African American Studies

Certificate: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

B.B.A., Howard University, Washington, DC, May 2007

Courses toward MFA, Fashion Institute of Technology, 2018

SELECTED RESIDENCIES, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Black August Arts Residency, Tkaronto/Toronto, Canada, 2025.

Grant Project: Black Trans Ethical World(un)making Lab, Engaging Humanities Grant, University of California Humanities Research Institute, 2024-2025.

Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies (BBQ+) Fellow, 2024-2025.

Martin Luther King Jr. Collegium of Scholars Inductee, Morehouse College, 2023.

Grant Project: "black queer subjectivity and the science of black queer freedom making," Art, Politics, and Publics of Black Faith Grant, Henry Luce Foundation and the Columbia University Center for African American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice, 2020-2021 (collaboration with interdisciplinary artist, storäe michele).

ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Individual

stilled waters | "water overflows with memory", photo-sonic experiment in river water, black geography, and black feminist poesis, in-progress.

Burying Lies, part of the series "Elemental Freedom Pursuits," video/a counterspell/countering ritual employed to destroy lies told across centuries to criminalize and demonize black children in justification of their murder by agents of the state, utilizing curse words upon Lizzie Durr (d. 1895) and Michael Brown (d. 2014) as a point of entry, in-progress.

"Spirit in the Dark Body: Black Queer Expressions of the Im/material," IX Congresso Latino-Americano de Gênero e Religião, São Leopoldo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, August 2025.

"release," photo-sonic experience, *Animisms, Those Queer Transmissions*, Curator: Jaguar Mary X, Local Project, June 2023, Long Island City, NY. 4 min, 59 sec., 2021.

"Spirit in the Dark Body: Black Queer Expressions of the Im/material," House of Mark West (virtual showing), Bronx, NY, June 2020.

"Spirit in the Dark Body: Black Queer Expressions of the Im/material," L Street Fine Arts Gallery, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2019.

Collaborative

Cinematographer and intellectual collaborator, with conceptual artist Jessica Susan Oler, "the revolutionary demand for happiness," in-progress.

Cinematographer, "a ritual for handwashing" (2020), *Outfest Fusion 2023 One Minute Movie Contest: ENVISIONING ABUNDANCE*, April 2023, Los Angeles, CA.

Cinematographer, experimental archives as meditations/rituals from Lambda Literary Award Finalist *mama [rose.]*, written and performed by storæ michele, "ceiling | sky: a meditation, archive #293," 2021.

Cinematographer, Executive Producer, and Co-Creative Director, experimental archives as meditations/rituals from Lambda Literary Award Finalist *mama [rose.]*, written and performed by storæ michele, "a practice in freedom-making, #28" featuring song performed by Be Steadwell, 2021.

Cinematographer and Co-Creative Director, experimental archives as meditations/rituals from Lambda Literary Award Finalist *mama [rose.]*, written and performed by storæ michele, "planets and stardust, archive #716," 2021.

Contributor, Research and Development Workshop, *A Burning Church* a musical by Zhailon Livingston, Alex Hare, and Nehemiah Luckett, December 2020, Premiered at New Ohio Theater, New York City, NY, 2021.

Contributing Poet and Researcher, *Humanitas: A Conscious Coloring of Kindness* by Jé Exodus Hooper, Frequency House Productions, 2018, Premiered at The Society for Ethical Culture, New York City, NY, 2019.

ARTS-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

(Invited by editor) Co-authored with storæ michele, "Queer and Trans Performance and Ritual," *Palgrave Handbook of Queer and Trans Studies in Religion*, edited by Melissa M. Wilcox (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2025).

Contributor, *Cane: A New Critical Edition Oracular Card Deck*, a project by Diane Exavier, Carlos Sirah and Anne de Marcke (Olympia, WA: The 3rd Thing Press, 2023).

"Aesthetic Intimacies: Reflections on Elle Pérez's Devotions at the BMA," BMoreArt, September 2022.

Co-authored with Benae Beamon, "From James Booker to Big Freedia and Back Again: Black Queer Expression, Agency and Potentiality," in *Queering Spirituality and Community in the Deep South*, ed. Kamden Strunk (Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing Inc., 2019), 139-158.

(Invited) "What's Magnificent about It and What's Miserable about It': Blackqueer Ethics, Community, and the Abject-Sublime," *The Message Is?* (an edited volume on the religious in the art of Arthur Jafa), eds. Jessica Davenport and Nathanael Homewood, in progress.

SELECTED ARTIST TALKS

Panelist (with writers Hari Ziyad, Donja R. Love, Kleaver Cruz, and storæ michele), "A Stoop Conversation: Writing Black Queer Life Stories," PEN America's Lit Crawl NYC, Brooklyn, NY, October 2018.

Panelist, "Lost in Lust" with Mike Albo and Ophira Eisenberg, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn, NY, June 2018.

SELECTED ART-RELATED PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

Presenter, "Collage | Assemblage: Sensorial Worlding as Pedagogical Insurgence," American

Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2024.

Co-Organizer and Co-Facilitator, Insurgencies/Counterinsurgencies: A Conversation on Aesthetics, Archives, and Autonomy with Shellyne Rodriguez and Orisanmi Burton, Center for Ideas and Society, University of California, Riverside, April 2024.

Interviewer, “*Keloid* Reflections,” Conference on Queer and Trans Studies in Religion, University of California, Riverside, February 2024.

Presider, “QTSR and Art,” Conference on Queer and Trans Studies in Religion, University of California, Riverside, February 2024.

Panelist, “Redefining Black Intra-Relationality with Black Queer Women: The Dialogues between James Baldwin, Nikki Giovanni, and Audre Lorde,” Les Amis de la Maison Baldwin, St. Paul de Vence, France, June 2020 (prevented by COVID-19).

“Decolonizing the Icon: Gabriel García Román’s Queer Icons and the Deconstruction of Iconoclasm,” Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2018.

SELECTED ARTS-RELATED INTERVIEWS

Pre- and Post-screening Commentator, *Hell-Bound Train* (1930), SPOOKS: A Black Horror Film Series by Scary Black Folks (Dr. Courtney R. Baker and John Jennings), UCR Arts, Riverside, CA, October 2023.

Interviewer and Series Curator, “Feminism, Religion, & Art Mini-Series | An Invitation to Transformation/‘New Skin’” with storæ michele, Feminists Talk Religion Podcast, Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc., January 2022.

Interviewer and Series Curator, “Feminism, Religion, & Art Mini-Series | An Invitation to Ancestral Healing” with Isabel Mareş, Feminists Talk Religion Podcast, Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc., November 2021.

Interviewer and Series Curator, “Feminism, Religion, & Art Mini-Series | An Invitation to Rewilding,” with Monét Noelle Marshall, Feminists Talk Religion Podcast, Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc., May 2021.

Interviewer and Series Curator, “Feminism, Religion, & Art Mini-Series | Vessel of Mystery” with Autumn Brown, Feminists Talk Religion Podcast, Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc., April 2021.

Invited Panelist, “Our Lives: Art as Resistance,” Blaque Political Collective, October 2020.