

ZINDZI I. HARLEY

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EDUCATION

Art Theory, Aesthetics and Philosophy Ph.D Student, The Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, 2024–present

MA, Museum Studies, University of the Arts, 2020

Thesis: “Making a Way: The Importance of Black Cultural Sites in Modern Day Museum Culture”

Advisor: Mickey Maley

BA, Arts Administration minor Art History, University of Kentucky, 2019

Areas of Specialization: Museology/ Museum Studies, Black Museums, Contemporary Art, Art of the African Diaspora, Black Art

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Art Basel Fair Curator, REVOLT, Miami, FL
2025–Present**

Responsible for curating a series of diverse social and educational programming for the Mural Arts Black Artist Fellowship 2023 cohort to cultivate their skills and network as artists within the local creative economy. Handled program coordination, logistics, and outreach to institutions, arts professionals, artists studios, public speakers, etc. This programming created opportunities for fellows to deepen their connections through the city with institutional practitioners and peer artists, develop their businesses, and empower them to engage with the broader arts and culture industry.

**Black Artist Fellowship Programming Co-curator, Mural Arts, Philadelphia, PA
2023–2024**

Responsible for curating a series of diverse social and educational programming for the Mural Arts Black Artist Fellowship 2023 cohort to cultivate their skills and network as artists within the local creative economy. Handled program coordination, logistics, and outreach to institutions, arts professionals, artists studios, public speakers, etc. This programming created opportunities for fellows to deepen their connections through the city with institutional practitioners and peer artists, develop their businesses, and empower them to engage with the broader arts and culture industry.

**Founder & Editor-in-Chief, *Zindzine*, Philadelphia, PA
2023–Present**

Curated, released, and distributed 3 issues of *Zindzine*. Executed partnerships, visual campaigns, and ad space for cultural organizations such as Paradigm Gallery, Museum for Art in Wood, Clay Studio, Design Philadelphia, TILT Institute for the Contemporary Image, NextFab, Ray Philly, Jasper House, and more. Facilitated public and private programs in partnership with Black Girls in Spaces and local institutions such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Fabric Workshop Museum, Philadelphia Magic Gardens, Blah Blah Gallery, and Mural Arts providing diverse communities access to art-centric experiences and networks. Secured and stewarded partnerships with local and internationally recognized brands including Urban Outfitters and Atmos USA that included in-person activations and art direction to diversify and promote engagement to deepen connections with local creative communities. Led creative direction and conceptualization of the first print campaign for Nuuly increasing user engagement by over 30 new members. Hosted a private dinner honoring Black artists, cultural producers, and tastemakers in partnership with Paradigm Gallery + Studio, Mural Arts, and local sponsors, Citrine tablescapes, and Mishka Vodka.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Art Director, CADO Marketplace, Philadelphia, PA 2022–2023

Executed 3 iterations of a Black marketplace for the discovery of local Black culture, artistry, and ideas alongside Founder, Debora Charmelus. Moderated 2 artist talk panels titled *Black Creativity Defined* and *Preservation* featuring local artists and museum professionals. Curated a pop-up exhibition, *Preservation*, featuring 5 local Black artists working in archival mediums including collage and photography. Procured 5+ press hits over the span of 3 markets including the Philadelphia Inquirer, Fox29, Audacy, and WHYY. Secured 2 in-kind sponsors and partnership with Mural Arts hosting their Black Artist Fellowship for 2 private social programs to kickoff and culminate the 2022 and 2023 cohorts of fellows.

Assistant Curator, African American Museum in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 2021–2023

Acted as a liaison between artists and their representatives, arts institutions, and funders for traveling exhibitions including *Derrick Adams: Sanctuary* and *Vision & Spirit: African American Art | Bank of America Collection*. Coordinated shipping, handling, and installation of traveling and in-house exhibitions. Monitored and maintained budgets for 5+ exhibitions including but not limited to obtaining estimates, processing invoices, and coordinating with the finance department. Ideated, developed, and delivered robust monthly cross-departmental programming initiatives such as *Art Break* and artists workshops to provide educational, recreational, and social opportunities for patrons to engage with the museum and collection. Assisted in the conservation of several works on paper in the museum collection with Winterthur's conservation lab for the annual collection exhibition, *Taking Care: Recent Acquisitions & Conservation*. Accessioned 3+ artworks donated by notable community members into the museum collection from appraisal to documentation adding historical artifacts that will support the storytelling of local histories by the institution. Curated 3 exhibitions exhibiting collage, mixed media, and photography in the Jack T. Franklin Auditorium featuring local Black artists.

Manager of Community Programs, Ars Nova Workshop, Philadelphia, PA 2021–2021

Acted as a representative within communities, creating and supporting partnerships and collaborative projects including New Grass in collaboration with the Woodlands, Philadelphia's largest public park, and various local organizations such as the Annenberg. Procured and managed publicity and press inquiries and requests from media outlets including WHYY and the Philadelphia Tribune. Evaluated community programs to make data-driven improvements to increase the impact on community health through intentional surveying. Organized and coordinated the production of *Milford Graves: A Mind-Body Deal* exhibition publication in collaboration with Inventory Press following the ICA exhibition and travel to Artists Space in New York.

Program Coordinator + Curator, Past Present Projects of CultureTrust, Philadelphia, PA 2020–2023

Interviewed exhibiting artists to develop original content for the Past Present Projects website and blog. Co-curated, maintained exhibition planning materials, and organized 3 exhibitions in various historic sites throughout Philadelphia including Fabric Row, Hatfield House, and Delaware State Park. Conducted exhibition research and contributed to exhibition didactics and catalog writing for collaborating artists and audiences. Obtained Puffin Foundation Grant for artist residency featuring artist Monroe Isenberg with Delaware State Parks that culminated in a site-specific exhibit exploring the local American beach grass species in Cape Henlopen.

Library Archivist, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA 2020–2020

Responsible for managing the Von Hess library resources for student and faculty use. Coordinated use of the archive and organization of sourced materials to keep track of collection offerings. Provided students with support in procuring research-related texts including past thesis and dissertation manuscripts. Fulfilled requests from professors for instructional resources and key text.

Membership & Visitor Services Assistant, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA 2019-2020

Interacted with visitors, and members by answering questions, assisting with the registration process, fielding phone calls, and ticket sales. Distributed information about institutional programming offered and resolved problems visitors have for a more enjoyable guest experience. Achieved highest monthly membership sales and tracked visitor attendance/managed record keeping.

EXHIBITIONS

“The Future of Clay,” Clay Studio, Curator, 10/5/2024–12/31/2024

“Amplified: Art, Music, Power,” National Liberty Museum, Jury Panel, 1/6/2024–4/8/2024

“In Communion,” Delaware Contemporary, Curator, 6/9/2023–8/27/2023.

“Imagined Futures,” National Liberty Museum, Jury Panel, 1/20/2023–4/24/2023

“Dune Drawings,” Past Present Projects, Curator, 5/8/2023–5/14/2021.

“Beloved | Habibi,” African American Museum in Philadelphia, Curator, 12/28/2022–9/5/2023.

“Black Healthcare Studies,” African American Museum in Philadelphia, Curator, 10/6/2022–12/11/2022.

“Vision & Spirit: African American Art | Bank of America Collection,” African American Museum in Philadelphia, Assistant Curator, 10/1/2022–2/19/2023.

“Derrick Adams: Sanctuary,” African American Museum in Philadelphia, Assistant Curator, 6/7/2022–8/28/2022.

“Taking Care: Recent Acquisitions & Conservation,” African American Museum in Philadelphia, Assistant Curator, 4/7/2022–8/28/2022.

“Gilberto Wilson: Di Nada,” African American Museum in Philadelphia, Assistant Curator, 12/10/2021–3/6/2022.

“Portals + Revelations: Richard J. Watson Beyond Realities,” African American Museum in Philadelphia, Assistant Curator, 10/21/2021–3/6/2022.

“Ancestors Returning Again / This Time Only to Themselves,” Past Present Projects, Project Curator, 8/14/2021–9/19/2021.

“Distant Memory,” Past Present Projects, Project Curator, 9/1/2021–10/30/2021.

PUBLIC WRITING

Publications/Exhibition Catalogues

Harley, Zindzi. “The Future is Everything, Everywhere, All at Once.” *The Future of Clay* Catalogue (November 2024). Clay Studio.

Christman, Mark, Elms, Anthony and DiNucci, Celeste, Milford Graves: A Mind-Body Deal. Ars Nova Workshop, Inventory Press, 2022.

PUBLIC WRITING CONTINUED

Articles

Harley, Zindzi. "Musée de Mélanine." *Magic & Melanin* blog (July 2020). *Magic & Melanin Magazine Issue II Decolonization be Like*.

Harley, Zindzi. "Crafting A Canon of Color." *Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts* newsletter (December 2024). Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts.

Zines

Harley, Zindzi. *Zindzine Vol. I For the Love*. Philadelphia, PA: *Zindzine* (Self Published), 2022.

Harley, Zindzi. *Zindzine Vol. II Concrete Carnival*. Philadelphia, PA: *Zindzine* (Self Published), 2023.

Harley, Zindzi. *Zindzine Vol. III The Dezine Issue*. Philadelphia, PA: *Zindzine* (Self Published), 2025.

Harley, Zindzi. *Distant Memory Vol. I*. Philadelphia, PA: Past Present Projects (Self Published), 2021.

Harley, Zindzi. *Ancestors Returning Again / This Time Only to Themselves Zine*. Philadelphia, PA: Past Present Projects (Self Published), 2021.

Artist Interviews

Harley, Zindzi. "Distant Memory Zine: Interview with Monroe Isenberg." *Past Present Projects* blog (May 2021). Past Present Projects.

Harley, Zindzi. "Distant Memory: Interview with Emily Carris-Duncan." *Past Present Projects* blog (January 2021). Past Present Projects.

Harley, Zindzi. "Distant Memory: Interview with Colin Pezzano." *Past Present Projects* blog (January 2021). Past Present Projects.

Harley, Zindzi. "Graffiti & Ornament: Interview with Leo Tecosky." *Past Present Projects* blog (June 2020). Past Present Projects.

Harley, Zindzi. "Victoriana Reimagined: Interview with Talia Greene." *Past Present Projects* blog (February 2020). Past Present Projects.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Podcast/Radio

Cryer, Logan, "Curating Change - Zindzi Harley on Black Museums, Digital Storytelling, and the Future of Art Activism" *Artblog* (April 2025). Artblog Radio.

Symposium

Speaker, "I Go to Prepare a Place for You: Afro Feminist Approaches to Spacemaking and Curating in Modern Museums" Presenter for the CraftNOW Symposium, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 7, 2024.

Panels & Workshops

Speaker, "How to Approach Galleries, Wholesalers, and Store Owners Workshop." Presented a workshop with 2 speakers for Tools of the Trade in collaboration with CraftNOW and NextFab, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 22, 2024.

Moderator, "CADO: Preservation." Moderated for the CADO Panel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 30, 2023.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTINUED

Moderator, “Artrepreneur: The Art of Creative Business.” Moderated for the Mural Arts Artist Talk, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 27, 2023.

Moderator, “Juneteenth & Phenomenal Women.” Moderated conversation featuring artists in the *Phenomenal Women* exhibition at the Moody Jones Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 15, 2023.

Moderator, “CADO: Black Creativity Defined.” Moderated for the CADO Artist Talk panel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 19, 2023.

Moderator, “Monroe Isenberg Walk & Talk at Cape Henlopen.” Moderated artist talk with Artist-in-Residence Monroe Isenberg for Past Present Projects, Cape Henlopen, Delaware, January 7, 2023.

Speaker, “How to Approach Galleries, Wholesalers, and Store Owners Workshop.” Presented a workshop with 2 speakers for Tools of the Trade in collaboration with CraftNOW and NextFab, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 25, 2023.

Panelist, “Preserving the Narrative: Art, Culture, and Stewardship.” Spoke in panel discussion representing the African American Museum in Philadelphia during the Everyday Futures Fest for the DaVinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 14, 2022.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES / SERVICE

Stocksdale Award Committee, Museum for Art in Wood (2025–present)

The Painted Bride, Programming Committee, (2025–present)

Clay Studio, *The Future of Clay*, Curatorial Team (2024)

National Liberty Museum, *Amplified: Art, Music, Power* Jury Panel (2023)

National Liberty Museum, *Imagined Futures* Jury Panel (2023)

Black Girls in Art Spaces, Host, (2022-2024)

Emerging Museum Professionals Seminar, Studio Museum in Harlem (2020)

Programming Committee, CraftNOW (2022–present)

Rising Wing, Philadelphia Contemporary (2022–present)

FELLOWSHIPS/ GRANTS / SCHOLARSHIPS

David C. Driskell Fellowship, Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, 2024

Artist Residency Grant, Puffin Foundation, 2023

President’s Fund for Excellence, University of the Arts, 2020

Diversity Equity & Inclusions Fellow, University of the Arts, 2020

Trustee Scholarship, University of the Arts, 2019

Provost Persistence Scholarship, University of Kentucky, 2019

William C. Parker Scholarship, University of Kentucky, 2015-2019

COMPUTER / TECHNICAL SKILLS

Proficient in Canva, Google Suite, Microsoft Office Suite

Arts Enterprise Software: Tessitura

Collections Management Software: Past Perfect, TMS

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Alliance of Museums
Association of Art Museum Curators
Arts Administrators of Color Network