

D. Denenge Akpem

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EDUCATION

- MFA 2004 School of the Art Institute of Chicago**, Chicago, IL **Performance Art**, Art & Tech studies
- BA 1997 Smith College**, Northampton, MA **Studio Art**, Theatre, African Studies
- Kendall College of Art & Design**, Grand Rapids, MI Foundation Courses, Special Study: Illuminated Manuscripts (1994-95)

Experience Abroad: Born and raised in Nigeria (Benue & Plateau States); lived in United States (MA, DC, IL, MI, CA); Travel in: Turkey, Nigeria, The Netherlands, France, Mexico, Cuba

Language Studies: Fluent: English; Familiarity with: Spanish, French, Tiv

Technical Skills: Excel, Word, Photoshop, QuarkXpress, InDesign, Powerpoint; Basic HTML, Flash
All major woodshop machinery; 20+ years sewing/design; electrical expertise; monoprinting; foundry

SELECTED PERFORMANCE-INSTALLATIONS

- 2006 **Art 44/46** (Upcoming: October)
Invitational: curated by Stuart Keeler
***Rapunzel Revisited: Afri-sci-fi Space Sea Siren Tale**
Juried by: Miesha Harris with Tricia Van Eck, Dominic Molon, Julie Rodriguez, Elizabeth Smith
Super Space Riff: Ode to Mae Jemison & Octavia Butler Takeover, Invited by HPAC Curator Allison Peters
- 2004 **La Morena**
Interactive performance/installation
Goat Girl
Hand-cast bronze-fur boots for performance
- 2003 ***Weight of Words: Wearing, Washing**
Private performance ritual
- 2002 **mercy**
"O-ah" bit-part in Meredith Monk & Ann Hamilton multi-media show & community collaboration
Red Tree/Weeping Willow
Durational performance
Transitory and Freak (the show)
- 2001 **Mutatis Mutandis**
Interactive performances/installations
- 2000 **I Dream of Leslie**
Sang theme song, developed performance
- 1999 **Trial By Fire**
Set design, Black Sphota Cocoon collective
- Site-specific sculpture exhibition in 44th and 46th wards, Chicago
12 x 12: New Artists/New Work
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
Hyde Park Art Center (inaugural exhibition), Chicago
Gallery 2 and Project Space, Chicago
Sisterfire Conference, Chicago
Big Wig/Dominatrix Waitrix Movie Benefit, Chicago
2M Space, SAIC, Chicago
PAC (Performing Arts Chicago)
Anthenaem Theatre, Chicago
Le Montage, Board of Trustees Gala, Art Institute of Chicago
SAIC Performance Department, Spring Series, Chicago
SAIC Performance and Art History Depts., Chicago (see also "Selected Exhibitions", Page 2, for other venue)
Insight Arts Annual Women's Performance Jam, Chicago
Women in the Director's Chair, Chicago

* Indicates solo exhibitions; see Page 2 for "Selected Exhibitions" (non-Performance), 1999-2006

FILM/VIRTUAL

- 2005 **"Untitled" ?**
Scream/Hands A Program of New Short Film and Video (invitational), Studio 13, Chicago
Film/video screening at Patchwerks (invitational), HotHouse, Chicago
- 2004 **www.denenge.com**
www.saltmark.org Design and coding of online archive for my work
Design and coding of online archive for performance artist Jessica Almy Pagan
- 2003 **Virtual Exorcism** Online ritual at www.denenge.com
- 2002 **Dragonflygirl** Interactive animation at www.denenge.com
- 1999 **Wake Up Gone** Five collages in feature film by director Steven Foley, Chicago

HONORS

- 2005 **Motherboard: Site-Specific Commission**, Sandee Kastrul/i.c.stars, Chicago
- 2004 **Anna Louise Raymond Juried MFA Fellowship Award**, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Juried by: Carlos Basualdo, Sofia Hernandez Chong Cuy, Nick Debs, Eugenie Tsai
- 2003 **Connecting Communities Leadership Award**, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2002 **Marion Parry Travel Grant (Committee Award)**, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Connecting Communities Leadership Award, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Don't Let Your Life Pass You By: Site-Specific Residential Commission, Steve Miller, Origin Ventures, Chicago
- 1998 **The HistoryMakers**, Logo design for new organization/website archiving African-American historymakers
- 1997 **Gardner Prize in American Studies**, Smith College American Studies Dept., Northampton, MA
- 1996 **Fine Arts Council of Smith College Purchase Prize**, Smith College, Northampton, MA

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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- (* indicates solo exhibition)
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|------|---|--|
| 2006 | Flower Poufs for Neo-Con Guerrilla Show
<i>Cyclone (Take Another Little Piece of My Heart Now, Baby)</i>
Juried by: Tania Bruguera, Marco Poloni
Entorno: Grass Grows Greener on the Other Side
Invitational: Curated by Jesús Macarena-Avila | Kasia Kay Art Projects , Chicago
Last Stand at Gallery 2 and Project Space , Chicago
Polvo , Chicago |
| 2005 | Dragonflygirl (interactive animation) | Black Harvest Film Festival Exhibition
Gene Siskel Film Center , Chicago |
| 2004 | La Morena at MFA Thesis Exhibition | Gallery 2 and Project Space , Chicago |
| 2003 | Home Work(s)
*Mutatis Mutandis
Making Our Mark: YBW | Betty Rymer Gallery , Chicago
Dillard University Art Gallery , New Orleans, LA
Christopher Art Gallery at Prairie State College , Chicago |
| 2002 | Group Exhibition
Art Windows 2002
Project Enduring
Interrogating Diversity
Black Creativity Annual Juried Exhibition | Gallery 2 and Project Space , Chicago
G'bani Shoes , Chicago
1926 Exhibition Space , Chicago
Betty Rymer Gallery , Chicago
Museum of Science and Industry , Chicago |
| 2001 | Creating Pride 2nd Benefit Art Auction
YBW: Young Black Women
*i.c.stars Presents Denenge | Sotheby's , Chicago
Frick Center , Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL
i.c.stars , Chicago |
| 2000 | KCAD 2000 Juried Exhibition (Sandy Skoglund)
*Duyst/Akpem: A Tale of Two Families | Kendall College of Art & Design Gallery , Grand Rapids, MI
Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts , Grand Rapids, MI |
| 1999 | *Duyst/Akpem: A Tale of Two Families
Hard Art | Alumnae Gallery of Smith College , Northampton, MA
McKinley Design , Chicago |
| 1997 | Views: An Installation | Hillyer Hall & Garden , Smith College, Northampton, MA |
| 1995 | Out of Africa
The Art of Healing | Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts , Grand Rapids, MI
Western Michigan Cancer Center & venues 1995-98 |

PRESS

- FLAVORPILL online*, Visual Art Selection of the Week: D. Denenge Akpem, MCA 12 x 12, June 13, 2006.
The Chicago Reader, The List: front of Section 2 recommended June 2, 2006, "Glowing Tentacles, Anyone?", MCA 12 x 12.
 Hawkins, Margaret. "Breaking Boundaries: Hyde Park Art Center's New Home Knocks Down Art." Review under the heading "Total Immersion." *Chicago Sun Times*. May 6, 2006.
CAN TV21 Community Forum. Interview with HPAC Curator Allison Peters and D. Denenge Akpem. April 15, 2006.
POLVO newsmagazine, featured in the *Performance Art issue*, Fall 2004. (photo)
YBW: Young Black Women Exhibition Publication. Frick Center, Elmhurst College. 2002.
 Heidel, Michele. "The Color of Art: Interrogating Diversity at Betty Rymer Gallery." *F News*. March 2002.
 Byle, Ann. "Exhibit Reveals a Tale of Two Cultures." *The Grand Rapids Press*. July 27, 2000.
 Steil, Michelle. "Family Ties." *The Paper*. July 27-August 2, 2000.
 Gohlert, Tanja. "Akpem Exhibit at Alumnae House." *The Sophian*. November 18, 1999.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2001-present: Visiting Artist Presentations, Workshops and Lectures Given**
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|------|--|
| 2004 | Performance Art Workshop , Gallery 37 for Hyde Park Academy, Chicago |
| 2003 | Mutatis Mutandis exhibition, Dillard University, New Orleans, LA
Utopia: installation/community performance, October, A+CCT , Chicago
Camp C.R.E.A.T.E. Lead Artist/Instructor, Chicago Park District , Chicago
Creation Lab Instructor (2000-03), Museum of Contemporary Art , Chicago |
| 2002 | Performance Art , 6-week workshop, Hyde Park Academy, Chicago
Interrogating Diversity Exhibition Panelist, School of the Art Institute, Chicago |
| 2001 | Duyst/Akpem Exhibition Artist Lecture, Alumnae Gallery of Smith College, Northampton, MA |
| 2000 | Lead Artist/Instructor, Insight Arts, Chicago |
- 1996- present: Curatorial and Program Development Experience**
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| 2003-06 | Program and Fellowship Coordinator, SAIC Visiting Artists Program , Chicago |
| 2004 | Project Coordinator: Speak Out/Speak Art, Brown v. Board Conference:
Interactive Collaborative Performance, Illinois Humanities Council, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago |
| 2002 | Program Evaluator for curator Mary Jane Jacob, Conference Assistant to Suzanne Lacy
Evoking Histories, Spoleto Festival USA , Charleston, SC |
| 1996 | Education Dept. Internship, Smithsonian Institution , National Museum of African Art, Washington DC |