

RACHEL KABUKALA

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📍 Bloomington, Indiana

EDUCATION

Center for Curatorial Leadership

Summer 2023

CCL/Mellon Foundation Seminar in Curatorial Practice

New York, NY

- Participated in a two-week intensive training program that combines exhibition and collection tours, conversations with curators and cultural leaders, and group exercises at New York City institutions
- Completed coursework led by Columbia Business School faculty, which covered fundamental business principles and managerial leadership
- Engaged with directors, curators, conservators, registrars, educator, and trustees at various New York City museum institutions
- Observed, analyzed, and engaged in the critical responsibilities of museums through a range of institutional contexts
- Explored ideas behind acquisition, care, interpretation, and display as they relate to permanent collections and temporary exhibitions
- Participated in a practicum exercise to critically assess the mission and program of a New York City institution and to apply skills and perspectives gained from the seminar
- Met with senior curatorial advisor for individualized on-on-one mentorship
- Selected to be one of 16 cohort members from a pool of global PhD candidate applicants

PhD (ABD), Indiana University

2019 - Expected 2024

Bloomington, IN

Major: Art History

Minor: African Studies

Advisor: Bárbaro Martínez-Ruiz

Examination Fields: The past, present, and future of art museums in the United States; Arts of Africa and its Diaspora, with a focus on Kuba textile traditions

Additional Research Interests: Connectivity, hybridity, and cross-cultural exchange; women textile artists; and vernacular artistic traditions

Advanced to Candidacy: March 10, 2023

Graduate Certificate, University of Pennsylvania 2017
Philadelphia, PA
Executive Program in Arts & Culture Strategy with National Arts Strategies

Bachelor of Arts (cum laude), St. Olaf College 2005
Northfield, MN
Major: Studio Art
Minors: African & the Americas; American Racial & Multicultural Studies
Education Licensure Program: Visual Arts (K-12)

EXHIBITIONS

Congo Gravitational Waves // A Metadigital & Tantalean Tale 2021 - 2022
College of Visual Arts & Design Galleries, University of North Texas
Guest Curator
Denton, TX - June 14 - September 2, 2022

- Curated exhibition featuring Kinshasa-based artist collective Kongo Astronauts in their first ever solo show
- Produced all didactic, educational, and marketing materials
- Led tours for classes and key university stakeholders
- Facilitated incorporation of exhibition into campus programming and orientation activities for incoming students in fall 2022
- Exhibition intro and gallery images linked [here](#)
- Exhibition review on *Glasstire* linked [here](#)

Radical Revisionists: Contemporary African Artists Confronting Past and Present
Moody Center for the Arts, Rice University 2018-2020
Guest Curator
Houston, TX - January 24 - May 16, 2020*

- Curated exhibition featuring work by Sammy Baloji, Serge Attukwei Clottey, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Omar Victor Diop, Adama Delphine Fawundu, Zanele Muholi, Robin Rhode, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Mary Sibande, and Pascale Marthine Tayou, and shown in conjunction with FotoFest 2020 (in collaboration with curator Mark Sealy MBE)
- Coordinated a site-specific installation and public performance by Serge Attukwei Clottey
- Worked to secure Robin Rhode for the adjacent artist-in-residence program
- Facilitated a VR experience designed by Mary Sibande as part of the exhibition

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- Acted as the primary liaison between the Moody staff, Rice University faculty, lenders, international galleries, and participating artists
 - Managed logistics surrounding the transportation of art and installation of works
 - Produced all exhibition content and press materials
 - Provided training for the Moody's gallery guides and volunteers
 - Led behind-the-scenes tours for donors and funders
 - Exhibition intro and gallery images linked [here](#)
 - Exhibition review on *Glasstire* linked [here](#)
 - *Exhibition closed to the public early due to COVID-19 pandemic

Through the Eyes of Picasso

2017 - 2018

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Curatorial Assistant

Kansas City, MO - October 20, 2017 - April 8, 2018

- Managed exhibition checklist and coordinated with international lending institutions
- Prepared, with head registrar, all necessary documentation for The National Endowment for the Arts Indemnity Program
- Helped to coordinate couriers from multiple international institutions, especially the musée du quai Branly, and assisted with logistics of exhibition installation and deinstallation
- Served on the publication team which edited the English language exhibition catalogue and created interpretive elements, label copy, and marketing materials in collaboration with the museum's education and PR departments
- Produced initial English translation of French object checklist, labels, and catalogue essays
- Led public tours and provided docent training

EXPERIENCE

Indiana University

2023 - present

Associate Editor, *Orbis Africa Journal*

Bloomington, IN

- Manage the Editorial Board, coordinating their activities and ensuring they are meeting their responsibilities (this includes assisting the Editor-in-Chief in recruiting new board members, scheduling board meetings, and managing communication between the board and the Editor-in-Chief)
- Establish the publication schedule, monitoring the progress of articles through the editorial process and ensuring all content is published on schedule

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- Oversee the editorial process from submission to publication, ensuring all articles are reviewed and processed in a timely manner
 - Manage the peer review process, including working with editors and authors to ensure articles meet the journal's standards
 - Contribute to article selection, reviewing submissions and providing feedback on their suitability for publication
 - Work with authors to develop articles that meet the journal's requirements and provide guidance on the submission and revision process

Indiana University

Summer 2023

Associate Instructor, Department of Art History

Bloomington, IN

- Developed content for the online, asynchronous six-week summer course ARTH-A102 "Renaissance Through Modern Art" using materials available from previous sections
- Organized course syllabus, as well as daily/weekly modules on Canvas
- Communicated with students regularly regarding course progress and assignments
- Coordinated with instructors of other sections to ensure continuity in curriculum
- Graded all assignments and projects, including multiple weekly written responses, visual analyses, and final projects

Eskenazi Museum of Art, Indiana University

2022 - present

Provenance Researcher

Bloomington, IN

- Support ongoing provenance research and documentation of objects in the African art collection whose histories of ownership merit additional inquiry
- Review and augment existing object records, documentation of ownership history, exhibition history, and publication references for objects in the collection
- Consult with colleagues at other institutions to gather additional information on constituents and object histories
- Implement policies and procedures for object records and gallery labels in keeping with best practices for provenance research in museum institutions
- Create provenance files (both analog and digital) containing accumulated research notes for each object's ownership history
- Update The Museum System (TMS) records as necessary

Eskenazi Museum of Art, Indiana University

2021 - 2022

Publication Project Assistant

Bloomington, IN

- Worked with head registrar to develop an internal database for a large collection of African ceramics and textiles that were donated to the museum
- Catalogued the African ceramics by reviewing and compiling information from museum records in preparation for a collection catalogue publication
- Researched comparable works for valuation and scholarship for contextual information
- Examined works to offer detailed information about techniques employed in making them
- Executed condition reports for African ceramics included in the project
- Supported museum staff in coordinating professional photography of the selected works

Irma Stern Museum, University of Cape Town

2020

Consultant, Collection Reinstallation Project

Cape Town, South Africa*

- Contributed to a working group made up of faculty and staff at the University of Cape Town, as well as scholars from around the globe, to reimagine the interpretation and display of the Irma Stern African Collection as part of a larger “recreation” project
- Wrote new extended labels for objects to include increased contextualization and address complex issues within the collection
- Worked on early website overhaul ideas
- *Meetings were conducted online due to COVID travel restrictions

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

2018 - 2019

Curatorial Assistant, African Art

Kansas City, MO

- Oversaw all aspects of departmental operations as the sole African Department employee
- Co-authored and received a \$750,000 Mellon Foundation Grant
- Co-organized with Dr. Kristina Van Dyke a major international conference, *A State of the Field Convening: The Future of African Art*, held at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art March 22-24, 2018 (more information [here](#))
- Curated two permanent collection rotations and one loaned rotation annually
- Strengthened community relations through outreach initiatives
- Collaborated with education department to produce robust public programs
- Initiated and facilitated art acquisition through major auction houses and galleries

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- Worked closely with local collectors and stakeholders
 - Cultivated donor relations and conducted scholarly research
 - Worked with an interpretive planner, as well as the education and IT departments, to create four original digital interactives for the African galleries
 - Monitored and maintained departmental budget

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

2014 - 2018

Department Assistant, African Art

Kansas City, MO

- Supported curator Nii Quarcoopome, who had a joint appointment between the Detroit Institute of Arts and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Acted as department liaison within the museum, with other institutions and the public
- Oversaw maintenance of all departmental files and records
- Conducted research for exhibition proposals and specific objects in the collection
- Curated six large-scale rotations in the African galleries
- Served as project coordinator for the reinstallation of the African galleries

Rachel Kabukala Photography

2009 - 2016

Owner & Creative Director

Jackson, MS and Kansas City, MO

- Served as chief operating officer of an S-Corp specializing in wedding photography, senior portraits, and professional head shots
- Photographed upwards of 25 weddings per year, in addition to 50+ sessions for senior portraits and professional head shots
- Created branding and marketing materials, budgeting and bookkeeping, and order fulfillment for the studio
- Managed client relations and collaborated with major vendors for large-scale events (including events for state dignitaries at the Mississippi Governor's mansion)
- Completed necessary post-production tasks, including editing in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, and organizing online galleries for image access and purchasing
- Featured in local and regional wedding and event publications

Parents & Kids Magazine

2009 - 2012

Managing Editor

Jackson, MS

- Met with publisher on a quarterly basis to discuss editorial needs for the largest print publication in Mississippi with a monthly circulation of over 100,000 and readership of over 250,000 per issue

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- Served as a liaison between the owner/publisher and writers
 - Assigned all articles and sought out new writers
 - Edited all content submissions
 - Wrote two original columns each month
 - Created and submitted invoices for freelance authors

Jim Hill High School, Jackson Public Schools

2006 - 2009

Art & French Teacher

Jackson, MS

- Taught art and French for both traditional classes and as part of the certified International Baccalaureate High School program at Jim Hill High School
- Created original curriculum for introductory visual arts courses
- Collaborated with the other IB art and French teachers to ensure that lesson plans met the rigorous International Baccalaureate standards
- Provided individualized instructions and assignments to students with IEPs
- Assessed and recorded students' progress and provided grades and feedback, including regular phone calls home to parents
- Incorporated social justice issues into lesson plans for both subject areas
- Helped facilitate the student-led organization, "Civil Rights, Civil Liberties"

Austin High School, Austin Public School

2006

Photography Teacher

Jackson, MS

- Served as long-term substitute for the photography teacher in the art department
- Taught students basic mechanics of SLR cameras, as well as film and print development
- Developed a curriculum that incorporated diverse artists and subject matter in a community with a recent growth in BIPOC families
- Maintained all elements of the in-class darkroom and photo lab
- Made SLR camera repairs as necessary

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Organizer

Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA), Triennial Conference (Virtual), 2021

A State of the Field Convening: The Future of African Art, Conference co-Organizer with Dr. Kristina Van Dyke, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, 2018

Presenter

Congo Gravitational Waves: A Metadigital and Tantalean Tale, for the panel “African Artistic Imaginaries, from the Jet Age to the Space Race,” Co-chairs Kate Cowcher and Abel Tilahun, European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), *African Futures*, Cologne, Germany, May 31-June 3, 2023

Collecting Kuba: The Legacies and Collecting Practices of William Henry Sheppard and Joseph Cornet

The Sainsbury Research Unit Graduate Conference, *Missionary Collecting in Africa: A Comparative Analysis of Catholic and Protestant Missions*, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England, May 25-26, 2023

Archive as Site of Resistance: Rejecting the Colonial Gaze Through African Portraiture, Past and Present

The Clark Art Institute Graduate Symposium, *Refraction and Resistance: Writing African Art*, Williamstown, MA, April 14, 2023

Activating the Spectator through Site-Specific Performance and Installation: Serge Attukwei Clottey and a New Typology of Socially Engaged Artistic Practice, Graduate Students in African Studies 10th Annual Symposium, *African Urbanities: Mobility, Creativity, and Challenges*, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, March 24-25, 2023

Perennial Resilience: Botanical Refusal in the Work of Joiri Minaya, Art History Association Graduate Student Symposium, *Envisioning Resilience: Narratives and Counter Narratives*, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, March 26, 2022

Remembering the Future to Imagine the Past: Artists Envisioning a New Normal, for the panel “How Not to Return to Normal,” Co-chairs Francesca Cavallo and Emily Candela, College Art Association (CAA), virtual, February 12-15, 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Kabukala, Rachel. “Remembering the Future to Imagine the Past: Artists Imagining a New State of Being.” *emerge journal, Irresistible Futures*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, (2020-2021). <https://saicemerge.com/irresistible-futures>

Kabukala, Rachel. “Through the Eyes of Picasso.” *ÌMÒ DÁRA* (blog), February 27, 2018. <https://www.imodara.com/magazine/through-the-eyes-of-picasso/>

COMMITTEE & ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICE

Bloomington Arts Commission, Commissioner, Bloomington, IN. 2021-present

Graduate Students in African Studies, Indiana University, member. 2019-present

College Art Association (CAA), member, 2017-present

Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA), member 2017-present

Art History Association, Indiana University, President, 2021-2022

IU African Studies Program Executive Committee, Student Representative, 2020-2022

Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA), Executive Board Member, 2019-2021

ArtsKC, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Group, Member, 2018-2019

Association of Art Museum Curators, Member, 2017-2021

Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Chair, Junior League of Kansas City, MO, 2016-2018

Diversity Committee – Académie Lafayette, Founding Member, Kansas City, MO, 2016-18

Junior League of Kansas City, MO, Member, 2013-2019

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- **Tanner-Opperman Fellowship for Research & Travel**, Indiana University, Summer 2023
- **College of Arts and Sciences Academic Year Fellowship**, Indiana University, 2022-2023
- **Theodore R Bowie Fellowship for Research & Travel**, Indiana University Summer 2022
- **Art History Graduate Fellowship**, Indiana University, Fall 2021
- **Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship**, Indiana University, 2020-2021
- **Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship**, Indiana University, Summer 2020
- **Tanner-Opperman Chair in Honor of Roy Sieber Fellowship**, Indiana University, 2019-2023
- **Kloeck-Jenson Endowment for Peace and Justice Scholarship**, awarded for a self-directed, five-week program in Africa, including time in Kenya, Zambia, and Katanga Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2004

RELATED PROFICIENCIES & LANGUAGES

- French: fluent in speaking, proficient in reading and writing
- Lingala: intermediate
- TMS (The Museum System) collections database
- Adobe Photoshop & Lightroom

REFERENCES

Dr. Catherine Futter

Director of Curatorial Affairs

Brooklyn Museum

913-593-7844

Catherine.Futter@brooklynmuseum.org

Dr. Futter was my direct supervisor at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. We also worked closely on the exhibition *Through the Eyes of Picasso*, and she continues to serve as a mentor.

Dr. Bárbaro Martínez-Ruiz

Tanner-Opperman Chair of African Art History

Indiana University

812-855-1056

bmart@iu.edu

Dr. Martínez-Ruiz is my PhD advisor and has helped shape the trajectory of my graduate school experience. I currently work as his Associate Editor for *Orbis Africa Journal*.

Dr. Kristina Van Dyke

Independent Curator & Scholar

314-562-0246

kristinavandyke@gmail.com

Dr. Van Dyke and I co-organized an international conference titled *A State of the Field Convening: The Future of African Art* at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in 2018, and she continues to serve as a mentor.