

Ashanté Kindle

American, b. 1990

"Kindle's work details the jubilation of Black hair through elements of earth, origin and discovery. Her matriarchal sense of community, she says, comes from regularly being at hair salons and barbershops in her hometown. This experience serves as a direct inspiration in Kindle's artistic journey to capture Blackness through portraits and interpretations of Black hair. "

-Rachel Ebio

BIOGRAPHY

Ashanté Kindle is a multidisciplinary artist most known for her sculptural wave paintings. Kindle has developed a personal visual language informed by the textures that form in Black hair naturally and through a range of styling techniques.

"My practice exists as a form of personal healing as I create with a desire to celebrate the history and beauty of Blackness. I find inspiration in the s-curl waves that form in Black hair through wetting and different styling techniques like finger waves and daily brushing. Through the use of mark making in drawing, painting and sculpting, the marks transform into abstracted wave forms that resemble the natural textures that occur in Black hair. The process of creating becomes as important as the final piece as these durational marks begin to represent the echo of a soft whisper or a frenzied scream of emotion.

Kindle continues, "Transformation tends to hide what was once there but can not deny its existence. I sit with and embrace the vastness and beauty of my identity. The circle calls to the crown of the body as an infinite portal. I embed the work with objects like hair bows, beads, barrettes and black obsidian. This symbolic act of adornment infuses joy and protection into memory while on a journey of healing."

She currently resides in New Haven, CT as a NXTHVN 04 Studio Fellow. She received her BFA from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN and her MFA from The University of Connecticut. She has exhibited at Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, The Benton Museum (Connecticut), Red Arrow Gallery (Tennessee) and numerous other galleries and institutions. She is currently preparing for an upcoming solo exhibition at Belmont University opening in March.

EDUCATION

- 2022 MFA (candidate) in Studio Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2019 BFA in Studio Art, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

SOLO/TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Convergence: A Personal Investigation of Color, Texture, and Identity, Leu Gallery, Belmont University, Nashville, TN
2022 We're on the Move, Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, Philadelphia, PA
Gesturing Joy, Red Arrow Gallery, Nashville, TN
A Dream Transformed, Jorgensen Gallery, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2021 Copper Planted Seeds, Finlandia University Gallery, Hancock, MI
2020 Merging Headwaters, Red Arrow Gallery, Nashville, TN
2019 Stranded, Barbara Beach Gallery, Clarksville, TN
2018 Heritage, Barbara Beach Gallery, Clarksville, TN

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 The Alchemists, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2022 I Hope This Finds You Well, The Benton Museum, Storrs, CT
Red Arrow - Show Up!, The Parthenon, Nashville, TN
Wading: When the Water Rises, Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA
Black, Artsy x The KNOW Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA
Interior/Exterior, Red Arrow Gallery, Nashville, TN
2021 Hereditary, Swivel Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Vocoder, Macy Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY
The Future Is Female: Art & Activism, SK Artspace, Brooklyn, NY
Pour, Spill, Drip, Stain, Strohl Art Center, Chautauqua, NY
Alternating Currents, Fridman Gallery, New York, NY

2021

On the Road: Chocolate Cities, TONE Headquarters, Memphis TN

When Two or More Are Gathered, Sperone Westwater, New York, NY

Resurgence, The NYC Culture Club, New York, NY

Yard Sale, The Wolfsonian Design Store, Miami, FL

The Last Supper, LatchKey Gallery, New York, NY

Painting Abstraction: 197X - Today, Zeit Contemporary Art, online

2020

Merging Headwaters, Red Arrow Gallery, Nashville, TN

Abstraction in the Black Diaspora, FALSE FLAG, New York, NY

In the Hallway, Alternate Roots, online

Unseen Sacrifices, Center on Contemporary Art (CoCA), Seattle, WA

Desire Lines, Artfare, online

#ForTheCulture, Miami Beach Urban Studios, Miami Beach, FL

2019

VACI Emerging Artists Exhibition, Fowler-Kellogg Art Center, Chautauqua, NY

Cut Me Up Issue 3: Tabula Rasa, Cut Me Up Magazine

2018

Measuring Histories with Sonya Clark, The New Gallery, Clarksville, TN

50th Annual Student Juried Exhibition, The New Gallery, Clarksville, TN

2017

49th Annual Student Juried Exhibition, The New Gallery, Clarksville, TN

2017

Annual Juried Art EXPO, Downtown Artist Co-op, Clarksville, TN

TALKS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

2023

Artist Talk, Belmont University, Nashville, TN

2022

Artist Talk, Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, Philadelphia, PA

Artist Talk, The Benton Museum, Storrs, CT

Artist Talk, Jorgensen Gallery, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

2021

Artist Talk, Michigan Tech, Houghton, MI

Artist Talk, Finlandia University, Hancock, MI

- Panel Discussion, On the Road : Chocolate Cities Virtual Talk with Anita Bateman, TONE Headquarters
- 2021 Panel Discussion, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, Virtual Series, LatchKey Gallery
- 2020 Panel Discussion, Abstraction in the Black Diaspora, False Flag
- Panel Discussion, In the Hallway, Alternate ROOTS
- 2019 Artist Talk, Celebrating Black Womanhood in Art, Black Women In Creative Spaces Conference, Nashville, TN

GRANTS/AWARDS (Grants/Fellowships, Awards/Honors, Residencies, etc.)

- 2022-2023 Artist in Residence, NXTHVN, New Haven, CT
- 2021 Artist in Residence, Chautauqua School of Art, Chautauqua, NY
- 2019 - 2021 Maric Fellowship, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
- 2019 Artist in Residence, Chautauqua School of Art, Chautauqua, NY
- Center of Excellence for the Creative Art Chautauqua Residency Scholarship, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN
- 2017 - 2019 Artist in Residence, Austin Peay State University Living Gallery, Clarksville, TN
- 2018 Center of Excellence for the Creative Art Research Grant, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN
- Permanent Collection Purchase Award, 50th Annual Student Juried Exhibition, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN
- Becky Hall Photography Award, 50th Annual Student Juried Exhibition, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN
- Best in Show Award, 50th Annual Student Juried Exhibition, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN
- Center of Excellence for the Creative Art Student Work Scholarship, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

ARTICLES

2022

[UConn Today - Spring Art Shows Put Graduating Students' Work on Display ...](#)

[Artsy - 10 MFA Grads on the Rise in 2022](#)

[Artsy - 10 Emerging Black Artists Show That Blackness Is Not a Monolith](#)

[Nashville Scene - Ashanté Kindle's Paintings Detail the Jubilation of Black Hair](#)

[Meet 3 Contemporary Artists Who Use Innovative Techniques to ...](#)

[Clarksville Now - APSU College of Arts & Letters to launch podcast ...](#)

2020

[The Brooklyn Rail - Abstraction in the Black Diaspora](#)

[Hyperallergic - Black Artists Claim Their Birthright of Abstraction](#)