





RA'ANAA YAMINAH EKUNDAYO

Artist • Activist • Academic

CONTACT

 Tiohtià:ke (Montreal, QC)
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Doctorate of Philosophy in Art History exp. 2026

Concordia University, Department of Art History

Concentrations: Afrofuturism, Activist Art, Endarkened Storywork Placemaking, and Social Justice Praxis

With(Out) Space: Afrofuturist Placemaking and the Emergence of Black Activist Public Art in N'Swakamok

Masters of Architecture 2020

Laurentian University, McEwen School of Architecture

Concentrations: Black Art and Architecture, and Social Justice Praxis

The Architectural Segregation of Chicago: Black Identity in the South Side

Bachelor of Architectural Studies with Honours 2018

Minor in Classics and Certificate of Bilingualism

Laurentian University, McEwen School of Architecture

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

ACADEMIC

Research Assistant 2023-Present

McMaster University, Faculty of Humanities

Project: *The Art of Black Activism: Black Cultural Politics in Northern Turtle Island 2020-Present*

Sessional Professor Winter 2023

Laurentian University, McEwen School of Architecture

Course: *Art and Architecture in Canada*

Teaching Assistant Fall 2022

Concordia University, Department of Art History

Course: *Postcolonial Theory in Art History*

Research Assistant 2021-2022

Concordia University, Department of Art History

Project: *SSHRC-IDG Afrofuturism and Black Lives Matter in the Canadian Art Scene*

ARTISTIC

Facilitator 2023-2024

STEPS CreateSpace Public Art Forum

Shorts Programme Juror Fall 2023
North Bay Film Festival

Murals Coordinator Summer 2023
Up Here Urban Arts Festival

Set and Lighting Designer Spring 2023
Alex Tétrault and Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario
Nickel City Fifs

Advisory Panel Member Winter 2023
STEPS CreateSpace Public Art Residency

Producer 2022-2023
Independent Film
Collective Resistance – Short Documentary

Guest Curator Summer 2020
Up Here: Urban Arts Festival

Architectural Intern (Co-op Placement) 2019
Architects Four Limited

OTHER

Events and Communications Coordinator 2020-2021
Laurentian University, Liaison Services

ACTIVISM AND ARTS LEADERSHIP

Co-Founder and Chair 2020-Present
Black Lives Matter Sudbury

Installation Coordinator 2018-2022
Up Here: Urban Arts Festival

Co-Founder and Chair 2016-2018
McEwen Nuit Blanche Committee

AWARDS AND HONOURS

ACADEMIC

Doctoral Fellowship 2023-2026
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
\$60,000 over three years

Graduate Fellowship (PhD) 2021-2025
Concordia University
\$54,000 over four years

Barry Pashak Graduate Fellowship 2022-2023
Concordia University Social Justice Centre
\$5,000 over one year

LU In-course (merit) Scholarship 2017
Laurentian University
\$1,000 over one year

LU In-course (merit) Scholarship 2015
Laurentian University
\$1,000 over one year

LU Entrance (merit) Scholarship 2014
Laurentian University
\$1,000 over one year

ARTISTIC

Skills and Career Development: Arts Professionals of Colour 2023-2024
Ontario Arts Council (OAC)
Women of Colour Analogue Photography Mentorship
\$7,500 over one year

Northern Arts Projects: New Works 2023-2024
Ontario Arts Council (OAC)
Can You Feel it Now? – Poetic Documentary
\$15,000 over one year

BPO Project Funding 2022
Concordia University Black Perspectives Office
\$1,500

PIVOT: Black Artist Resource Fund 2021
Nia Centre for the Arts
\$375

OTHER

Young Woman of Distinction Award 2021
YWCA Sudbury

CREATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ARTISTIC RESEARCH RESIDENCIES

Black Arts Fellowship 2023-2024
Wildseed Centre for Activism and Art
\$10,000 over one year

CreateSpace Public Art Residency 2022-2023
STEPS Public Art
\$3,000 over one year

CreateSpace Public Art Forum 2023
STEPS Public Art
\$600

Take Roots Among the Stars Arts Residency 2022
Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture
In-kind residency support

FILM SELECTIONS

Collective Resistance

2023

Official Selection

Activists Without Borders Film Festival
(London, United Kingdom)

Official Selection

Queer Voices - New York City Film Festival
(New York, NY)

Official Selection

Canadian Shorts – Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival
(Ottawa, ON)

Official Selection

Stamped Film Festival
(Pensacola, Florida)

Official Selection

Reel East Texas Film Festival
(Kilgore, Texas)

Best Documentary Film

Nawada International Film Festival
(India, South Asia)

Official Selection

Shorts: Local Heroes – Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival
Tkaronto (Toronto, ON)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

elemental

2023

STEPS Public Art CreateSpace Residency

Looking In / Looking Out - FOFA Gallery, Tiohtià:ke (Montreal, QC)

Les courants - Armand-Bombardier Park, Tiohtià:ke (Montreal, QC)

Projet: Projections - Galerie de Nouvel-Ontario, N'Swakamok (Sudbury, ON)

The Lives They Lead

2022

Pat the Dog Theatre Creation and She & Her
Amberhill Gallery, N'Swakamok (Sudbury, ON)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Into the Matrix: Unearthing Black Futures

2021

Up Here: Urban Arts Festival
N'Swakamok (Sudbury, ON)

Ethereal

2020

Up Here: Urban Arts Festival
Kuppajo Espresso Bar, N'Swakamok (Sudbury, ON)

Faces of a Movement

2020

McEwen Nuit Blanche
McEwen School of Architecture, N'Swakamok (Sudbury, ON)

Nuit Noire 2019
McEwen Nuit Blanche
McEwen School of Architecture, N'Swakamok (Sudbury, ON)

Aurora Borealis 2016
Winter Stations. Kew-Balmy Beach
Tkaronto (Toronto, ON)

PUBLICATIONS

Ekundayo (née Brown), Ra'anaa. [Untitled] Reviewed Work: "As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic: Selections from the Wedge Collection" by Teju Cole, Liz Ikiriko, Mark Sealy, et al. *RACAR – salt. For the preservation of Black diasporic visual histories* 47, no. 2 (2022): 117-119

Ekundayo (credited Yaminah), Ra'anaa. *The Mirror*. Open Hearts: Community-Arts. Zine. Vol. 1. Sudbury (ON): 2022.

PRESENTATIONS

ACADEMIC LECTURES

"Cultural Curation: Black Placemaking & Activist Public Art." ARTH 379 – Archival Turn and Politics of Images in Contemporary Art. Department of Art History, Concordia University. Lecture. November 24, 2023.

"Cultural Curation: Black Placemaking & Activist Public Art." ARCH 4016 - Cultural Sustainability. McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University. Lecture. November 22, 2023.

"Placemaking and Space Being Taken: Black Aesthetics of Existence in So-Called Canada." ARTH 371: Studies in Canadian Architecture. Department of Art History, Concordia University. Lecture. June 5, 2023.

"Black Lives Matter Sudbury: 2020-Present." Diversity Council Summit. Anti-Racism Focus Group, Ministry of Northern Development, May 2, 2023.

"Futurities With(Out) the Institution: The Emergence of Black Art & Activism in N'Swakamok." Social Justice Graduate Fellows Lunchtime Seminar. Social Justice Centre, Concordia University. April 6, 2023.

"Postcolonial Black Artivism: The Intersection of Decolonial Art & Activism." ARTH 379: Postcolonial Theory in Art History. Department of Art History, Concordia University. Lecture. November 24, 2022.

"Black Artivism: The Intersection of Decolonial Art & Activism." ARCH 4016 - Cultural Sustainability. McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University. Lecture. November 22, 2022.

"Emerging Black Artivism: Dismantling Colonial Narratives." ARTH 384 - Theories of Representation: Art and Activism Online and in the Streets. Department of Art History, Concordia University. Lecture. November 14, 2022.

"Designing While Black." McEwen School of Architecture Winter Cultural Events. Laurentian University, McEwen School of Architecture. Keynote Presentation. February 17, 2022.

"Black Lives Matter Sudbury: 2020-Present." ISWK 2315 - The Helping Relationship in Indigenous Social Work. Department of Indigenous Social Work, Laurentian University. Lecture. February 2022.

"Art, Activism & Black Lives Matter." ARCH 4016 - Cultural Sustainability. McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University. Lecture. November 25, 2021.

“Art, Activism & Black Lives Matter.” ARTH 389 - Ethnocultural Art Histories: Race, Citizenship, and Art in Canada. Department of Art History, Concordia University. Lecture. October 19, 2021.

“Now, Then, When: Art, Architecture, and Race Relations.” ARCH 4515 - Studio 8: Integrated Design II. McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University. Lecture. March 11, 2021.

“Black Spaces: Racialized Environments.” WGSX 2046 - Gender, Race, and Racism. Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Laurentian University. Lecture. October 2020.

“Black Lives Matter Sudbury: The Movement in the North.” SWRK 4727 - Strategies for Social Change. Department of Social Work, Laurentian University. Lecture. October 2020.

“Black Lives Matter Sudbury: The Movement in the North.” SOCI 4086 - Class, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity. Department of Sociology, Laurentian University. Lecture. October 2020.

“Black Aesthetic in Architecture.” ARCH 5006 - Architectural Theory Seminar. McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University. Lecture. September 2020.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

“Radical Contemporary Visual Culture.” Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC). Afrofuturism, Black Geographies, and Storytelling in Black Artistic Scholarship. Panel Discussion. October 20, 2023.

“Decolonizing, Dismantling, and Demystifying Design.” The Canadian Architecture Forums on Education. The Canadian Council of University Schools of Architecture. Panel Discussion. May 27, 2022.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

“Trust Black Women.” Black Futures: A Northern Caucus, Black Lives Matter Sudbury. Keynote Moderation in conversation with El Jones. March 4, 2023.

“Art & Activism: Artivism of Social Change.” Amplifying Voices on Turtle Island: An Intersectional Caucus, Black Lives Matter Sudbury. Panel Moderation. February 26, 2022.

“Here to Stay: The Birth of Black Lives Matter Sudbury.” Here to Stay Baby: A Northern Intersectional Conference, Black Lives Matter Sudbury. Panel Discussion. February 28, 2021.

“Racism-Free by 2023: Anti-Racism Activism in the North.” Here to Stay Baby: A Northern Intersectional Conference, Black Lives Matter Sudbury. Panel Moderation. February 27, 2021.

“Black Lives Matter: Un Movement dans le nord.” Centre de Santé Communautaire du Grand Sudbury. Collaborative Community Presentation. January 2021.

“1619-2020: The 400-Year Evolution of Western Black History.” Black History Month Programming. McEwen School of Architecture, Laurentian University. Presentation. February 2020.

WORKSHOPS

“L’art et l’activisme.” Les courants, Ada X. July 12, 2023.

“All About Artivism.” Get Radical. Concordia Student Union, Concordia University. November 2022.

“BIPOC Healing Artivism.” Provincial Youth Ambassador Program, Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line. January 2022.