

MIKELLE SMITH OMARI-TUNKARA, MFA, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vitae

Address: School of Art, Art History Division, Tucson Arizona 85721.
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Position: **Professor** - Theory, Methods, Art History of African, African Diaspora, and African American Art and Culture; The *Traditional Arts of Non-European Societies*.
The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721;
Faculty Fellow- Manzanita-Mohave Residence Hall

Chronology Of Education:

1974 -1984 University of California, Los Angeles
Department of Art, Design & Art History
Degree: Ph.D. In Art History, 9/84; 3.98GPA (4.0 Point Scale)
Dissertation Topic: *Cultural Confluence in Candomble Nago: A Socio-Historical Study of Art and Aesthetics in An Afro-Brazilian Religion.*
Dissertation Advisor: Arnold Gary Rubin
Major Fields: African and African American Art
Specializations: African Diaspora, Yoruba Art and Ritual.

Degree: M.A in Art History, March 1979
Master's Thesis Topic: *A Historiography of Yoruba Art in Brazil and the United States.*
Director: Arnold Gary Rubin
Readers: Cecelia Klein, Albert Boime
Major: African, Diaspora Art; **Minors:** Islamic, African American, Native North American Art.

1972-1974 Washington State University, Pullman
Department of Art
Degree: M.F.A., June 1974
Majors: Painting, Printmaking;
Directors: Jo Hockenhull, Richard Sterling
Minors: Afro-American, African Art History

1968 -1970 California State University, Hayward
Department of Art
Degree: B.F.A. June 1970, in Painting, Printmaking

Chronology Of Employment
Teaching Positions:

2000-present **Professor of Art History**, School of Art, Art History Division.
Affiliate, Womens's Studies.

2000 -1991 **Associate Professor** of Art History, Hired Tenured.
Department of Art, University of Arizona, Tucson

1997 **Visiting Professor**, African American Art History, University of Capetown, South Africa. *Summer.*

1990-91 **Senior Research Associate** in African Art, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Oyo State, Nigeria
 1990 **Tenured 1990**, California State University, Long Beach
 1986-90 **Associate Professor**, Joint Appointment in Art History and Black Studies, California State University, Long Beach
 1984-85 **Assistant Professor of Art History**, University of Massachusetts, Harbor Campus, Boston, Massachusetts. Traditional and Contemporary African, Afro-American Art History. Art History Department
 1984 **Lecturer in Art History**, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
 1983 **Lecturer**, California State University, Long Beach
 1978-80 **Teaching Associate in Art History**, University of California at Los Angeles. Art, 55, 54, 52, 51: Modern; Medieval; Renaissance; The Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas.
 1974-77 **Research Associate** in Art History, University of California at Los Angeles. Islamic Art History with Prof. Katarina Otto-Dorn
 1973-74 **Instructor** in Studio Art, Washington State University, Pullman, (drawing, painting, printmaking). Developed the first Afro-American and African art history courses. Developed slide library and registry of inter/national/ local African, Afro-American artists.

Administrative Positions:

1/2000 -1/2002 **Art History Graduate Student Advisor**, The Art History Program, The University of Arizona.
 1995- 1996 **Director**, African-American Studies Program, University of Arizona.
 1994-95 **Interim Director**, African American Studies Program, December 12, 1994-June 30, 1995, African American Studies Program.
 1988-89 **Interim Chair**, Department of Black Studies, California State University, Long Beach

Languages: Competent: Yoruba; Fluent: Portuguese
 Reading: French, Portuguese, Yoruba

Areas of Interest: African Art History and Culture
 African-American Art History, Society, and Politics
 African Diaspora Art and Culture - Brazil, Trinidad, U.S.A.
 African and African Diaspora Cinema
 Theory and Methods of African Art History
 Theory and Methods of Euro-American Art History
 Arts and Societies of Africa, Pre-Columbia, Oceania, and Native North America.
 Contemporary African Arts and the Arts of Islam

PUBLICATIONS/SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE ACTIVITY

SCHOLARLY BOOKS, MONOGRAPHS - Accepted or Published:

2005, October. *Manipulating the Sacred: Yoruba Art, Ritual and Resistance in Brazil*. Wayne State University Press. Detroit, Michigan. ISBN: 0-8143-2852-0
<http://wsupress.wayne.edu/iafricana/afanthropology/omarims/omarib.html>
 1984. *From the Inside to the Outside: The Art and Ritual of Bahian Candomble*, Monograph Series No. 24, Museum of Cultural History, University of

California, Los Angeles.

Forthcoming. *Dialogues With Visual Culture: Art and Society in Africa, the First Nation Americas, and the Pacific Basin.*

In Progress. *Blacks and Whites In São Paulo: African Art and Identity in the Metropole.*
A book prospectus under review.

CHAPTERS IN SCHOLARLY BOOKS:

1994. Aesthetics and Ritual of Candomble Nago, pages 135-139 in
African Religions: Experience and Expression, Editor, Dr. Thomas Blakely,
James Curry Ltd, London.; Heineman Portsmouth, N.H.

1988. Solutions: Afro-Brazilian Women, their Power, and their Art, in *Sacred Dimensions of Women's Experience*. Editor, Elizabeth Dodson Gray. Wellesley, Mass: Roundtable Press.

1987. Yoruba Art and Religion in the United States, *Yoruba Culture in the Diaspora*, Editor, 'Wande Abimbola, University of Ife Press, Ife, Nigeria.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES/ESSAYS:

2003. "Oyo Tunji: An African community in the United States." *Encyclopedia of African Folklore*. Editor, Phillip Peek. Garland Press.

1996. An Indigenous Anatomy of Power and Art: A New Look at Yoruba Women in Society and Religion. *Dialectical Anthropology*, Volume 21, pages 89-98.

1991. Completing the Circle: Notes on African Art, Society and Religion in Oyo Tunji, South Carolina, *African Arts Journal*, Vol., No. 3, July, 66-75, 96.

1990a. Creativity in Adversity: Afro-Bahian Women, Power, and Art, pp. 35-41, in *The International Review of African American Arts*, V. 9, N. 1.

1990b. *Critique, African Art Studies: The State of the Discipline*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

1989a. The Role of the Gods in Afro-Brazilian Ancestral Ritual: *African Arts Journal*, UCLA. November 1989, Vol. XXIII, No. 1.

1989b. *Biographical Essay in Honor of Dr. Samella Sanders Lewis*, Women's Caucus for Art, 1989 College Art Association.

1980. Woman-Power in Yoruba and Benin Societies, in *Mother, Worker, Ruler, Witch: Cross Cultural Images of Women*. Editor, Cecelia Klein, Museum of Cultural History, University of California, Los Angeles.

1979. West African Influence on a Portuguese-Brazilian Cult, pp. 59 - 71, *Minority Voices*, Vol. 3, No. 2.

EXHIBITION CATALOGS:

1994. Editor, *Frames in Transition: Concepts and Contexts of African Art in Tucson Collections*, Tucson: University of Arizona Department of Art; Phoenix: Arizona Humanities Council.
1993. *African Texts/American Sub-Texts: Adesequn Muneer H. Bahauddeen*, Department of Art, Pasadena City College.
1991. *YEDAMARIA: Aspects of An Afro-Brazilian Artist*. Exhibition Brochure, California State University, Northridge, Ca.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

2000. Yemoja Hermeneutics and Aesthetics, Florida International University, Department of Religious Studies, Miami Florida.
1999. Lifesaving Designs for the New Millennium: Yoruba Artistic and Cultural Inheritances in the Americas ;The Sixth World Congress Of Orisa Tradition And Culture, Port Of Spain, Trinidad/Tobago.

INVITED SOLO LECTURES:

- 2004 *African Influences in African American Arts* Tucson.
- 2002 *Digesting the West: Contemporary African Art Encounters*. Oct. 13, UA Art Museum.
- 2001 *Art, Culture, and the Human Struggle* , March 22, University Art Museum. Sponsor: MLK Celebration Committee.
- 2001 *Arizona Perspectives on African and African-American Art*, March 24, African American Historical and Geneological Society Anniversary Meeting.
2000. *As Artes Rituais nos Estados Unidos*, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. December 12.
- 1998 Gallery Talk, *The Art of Robert Colescott; African American Cultural Permutations*, the University Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona, December 9.
1998. *African Textiles: The Art of Power and Display*. October 1, The St. Louis Museum of Art, St. Louis, Missouri.
1997. *Africa - A Sense of Wonder: Alternative Perspectives*. Phoenix Art Museum.
1996. *Africa: a Continental View*, Tucson, Main Library.
- 1996 .*The Traditional Arts of Africa*, Sun City Museum.

Scholarly Presentations:

Invited Symposia:

- 1999 Yemoja Hermeneutics and Aesthetics, December 9 - 12, Florida International University, Miami Florida. Presenter.
- 1999 Art and Ethics among the Yoruba, Conference on Yoruba

- 1998 Spirituality and Ethics in the Odu Ifa, The University of California, Los Angeles, February 4 - 7, 1999. **Panel chair** and presenter.
The Art of Central Africa, a national symposium, in conjunction with the exhibit Masterpieces from Central Africa, The Royal Museum, Tervuren, Belgium. Held at The St. Louis Art Museum, October 2 - 3, 1998.
Panel Organizer: Session III -- Changing/Travelling Icons: Central African Art in Popular Cultures.
Presenter: Artistry and Memory: Central African Inflections in Brazilian Inquice (Nkisi)
- 1997 The Critical Reading Synopsis as a n Instrument for Critical Thinking in African Art, Wakonse workshop on Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies for Teachers. Presenter.

Workshops/Seminars Given:

- 2005 Finding Your Leadership Model, DST, Tempe.
1997 Theorizing the Diaspora, Department of Art and Architecture, University of Maryland, College Park. Invited.

Selected Refereed Conferences/Juried Papers Presented:

- 2001 **Panel Chair** and Organizer, PANEL TITLE: Routes/Roots: Art, Identity, and Agency in Africa and the Diaspora. April 28. Reviewed and accepted for the 12th International Triennial Symposium on African Art April 25 - 29, St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands.
- 2001 Panel Presenter Reviewed and accepted for presentation on Arts in the Yoruba Diaspora panel, Chair Dr. B. Lawal, for the 12th International Triennial Symposium on African Art, April 25 - 29, 2001. St. Thomas, the
- 1999 Lifesaving Designs for the New Millennium: Yoruba Artistic and Cultural Inheritances in the Americas to be presented at The Sixth World Congress Of Orisa Tradition And Culture, August 14 - 22, 1999 Port Of Spain, Trinidad/Tobago. Submitted.
- 1998 Pasts in the Present: Negotiating "Tradition" in the Art Practice of Two Southern African Women Artists, April 7, Paper presented at the 11th Triennial Symposium on Traditional African and African Diasporan Art, New Orleans, Panel : "Contemporary African Art Practice At The Turn Of The Millennium Panel Chairs: John Peffer, Sylvester Ogbechie.

Citations Of My Scholarly Work:

- 2002 Sullivan, Edward. *Brazil; Body & Soul*. Guggenheim Museum, N.Y.
2000 Harding, Rachel. *A Refuge in Thunder: Candomble and Alternative Spaces of Blackness*. U of Indiana Press.
- 1999 Matory, J. Lorand "The English Professors of Brazil: On the Diasporic Roots of the Yoruba Nation", pp. 72 - 103 in Comparative Studies in
- 1997 Drewal, Henry John and John Mason. *Beads Body and Soul: Art and*
- 1997 Voeks, Robert A. *Sacred leaves of Candomble*. U of Texas Press.
- 1996 Brown, David. "Towards an Ethnoaesthetics of Santeria Ritual Arts:

the Practice of Altar-Making and Gift Exchange”, pp 77 - 146 in Santeria Aesthetics in Contemporary Latin American Art, Washington D.C. and London: Smithsonian Institution Press.

1996 Lawal, Babatunde. The Gelede Spectacle: Art, Gender, and Social Harmony in an African Culture. Seattle: U of Wash Press.

Honors And Awards:

2004 Black Women’s Task Force, Tucson: Unsung Heroine.
2003 College of Fine Arts, Theater Arts Brick Pathway: Service Honoree
2002 College of Fine Arts Roy and Stardust Johnson Mentoring Award.
2000 Nomination, Outstanding Graduate Teacher and Mentor, Graduate College, The University of Arizona
1999 -1995 Faculty Fellow , undergraduate mentor Dean of Students Office.
1998 Award and Publication in Who’s Who Among American Teachers Nominated by Antonio Carr currently enrolled in UA Medical School.
1998 Fellowship, University Teaching Center Diversity Training Workshop.
1997 Wakonse Teaching Fellow: Camp Tontozona, June (Retreat/ conference for selected fellows from the three Arizona campuses)
1997 Outstanding Black Woman of the Year Plaque presented by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at their annual Black Women’s Appreciation Banquet, December 6, 1997.
1996 Nomination and Award, Women’s Resource Center Professor of the Month
1996 Outstanding Advisor Bronze Plaque, African American Student Alliance

Service

Outreach

Local/State/University:

2005 Reviewer, Dr. Gwen Bishop Social Action Award.
2004-2002 President, Tucson Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. International Service NGO
1999 –1995 Founder and Director, African American Partners for Success mentoring program pairing University of Arizona and Tucson Unified district elementary students
1997-1994 Arizona Humanities Scholar, Arizona Humanities Council, Phoenix
1997 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Active Member. Chair, International Committee; Co- Chair, Arts Committee
1996 Outreach Lecture: Sabino High School, November 6, “Africa: Tradition And Modern Views”
1996-1994 Office of Civil Rights Monitoring Committee TUSD School District

National/International

2002 Manuscript Evaluator, Bedford Press, N.Y.
2000 African Art Consultant, Grinnell College, Art History Department.
2000 Manuscript Evaluator, Art Beyond the West: The Arts of Africa, India, Asia, the Americas and the Pacific, Calmann & King Ltd. 71 Great Russell Street LONDON WC1B 3BN.
2000-1996 Member, Editorial Board, Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art
1999 Grant Reviewer, American Council of Learned Societies.

- 1999 Southwest Region Coordinator, International Conference of Orisa Tradition, Art and Culture.
 1997 Founding Member, Secretary Elect, Arts of the African Diaspora Association, President Juanita Holland, University of Md. College Pk.
 1997–90 North American Vice-President, International Conference of Orisa Tradition, Art and Culture.
 1996 –92 Grant Reviewer, Post-Doctoral Fellowships, Ford Foundation

Citizenship

Intramural

Departmental Committees:

- 2005 Member, Undergraduate Affairs Committee
 2003-2004 Chair, School of Art By-Laws Committee
 2003 Co-Chair, Peer Review Committee
 2002 Chair, Native North American Art History Search Committee
 2000 Chair, Spanish Medievalist Art History Search Committee
 2000 Chair, Cultural Diversity Committee
 1999 Member, Visiting Artist Committee
 1999 Member, Student Recruitment and Retention Committee
 1998-97 Member, Undergraduate Committee
 1996 Member, Promotion and Tenure
 1995-94 Member, Art Department Advisory Council
 1994 Coordinator, Team Taught Art in Non-Western Societies, ARH 112
 1993-94 Chair, Scholarship Committee
 1993-91 Member, Ph.D. Program Committee
 1993-92 Member, Departmental Peer Review Committee
 1992-91 Chair, Committee for Cultural Diversity in the Arts

Other

- 1996 Comparative Cultures and Literatures Faculty.
 Team-Taught CCLS 503 Graduate Seminar with Jerry Hogle

College Committees:

- 2002-2003 Member, Diversity Committee
 2001-02 Member, Diversity Committee
 1996 Member, College of Humanities Curriculum Committee
 1996-95 Member, Student Affairs Committee, Standing committee of the Faculty Senate.

University Committees:

- 2005 – 1999 African American Advisory Council
 2004 Graduate Travel Review Committee
 1998 - 1995 Member, Diversity Action Council
 1998-97 Member, Academic Review Committee, Faculty Senate
 1997 Chair, Vice President's Small Grants Evaluation Committee
 1997 Chair, Nominations Committee, Diversity Action Council
 1997 -1996 Member, Academic Review Committee, Faculty Senate
 1996 -1995 Member, Steering Committee, Campus Climate Team

Extramural Service to the Profession

Symposia/Conferences/Lectures Organized:

- 1998 Changing/Traveling Icons: Central African Art in Popular Cultures, Panel Chair and Organizer, Session III, Saturday, October 3, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m., Invited Symposium: The Art of Central Africa, The St. Louis Museum of Art, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 1996 Cornel West, Race Matters, Lecture, January 25. Organizer.
- 1996 Rowland Abiodun: What Comes After Six is more than Seven: Contrasts in African and Euro-American Art. Organizer.

Grants:

State:

- 1997 Arizona Humanities Council Program Grant, 100% my contribution

University:

- 2002 Provost's award of \$90,000. to bring First Nation Art Historian. 100% my contribution.
- 2001 Foreign Travel Grant to present a paper at an international conference in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; 100% my contribution.
- 2000 The University of Arizona Provost's Publication Subvention grant for Manipulating the Sacred: Yoruba Art, Ritual and Resistance in Bahia, Brazil. 100% my contribution.
- 1999 Foreign Travel Grant to present a paper at the international Congress of Orisa Tradition, Port of Spain, Trinidad; 100% my contribution.
- 1998 Dean of Students. Faculty/Student Interaction Grant, 100% my contribution.
1998 Diversity Action Council Co-Sponsorship Grant with the African American Student Alliance and the African American Cultural Resource Center, 80% my contribution.
- 1997 Dean of Students/At&T Grant., 100% my contribution.
- 1997 Diversity Action Council Co-Sponsorship, 100% my contribution.
- 1997 College of Fine Arts Incentive Grant, 100% my contribution.
- 1996 Vice President of Research Small Grant "Critique and Creativity: Women Artists in Contemporary Africa.", 100% contribution.
- 1996 Faculty Development Computer Connectivity Award 100% my contribution.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Arts Council of the African Studies Association
African-American Geneological Society
Arts in the African Diaspora
College Art Association
World Congress of Orisa Tradition and Culture
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

