

KEITA ANNIE WHITTEN

Interdisciplinary Artist | Soul Mapping | Water-Life-Flow

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Artist Profile

Keita Annie Whitten is a Maine-based interdisciplinary artist whose mixed-media paintings, assemblages, sculptural Sea Goddesses, writing, music, and performance explore water, memory, ancestry, Spirit, and lived experience. A founding participant in Brooklyn's Immersionist movement, she now works through an intuitive process she calls Soul Mapping. Her current initiative, Keita's Pathways, extends her artistic and community-building practice into a restorative sanctuary for elder women creatives.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024** Water-Life-Flow, Denmark Center for the Arts, Denmark, Maine.
- 2024** Café Nomad, Norway, Maine. [Year to confirm against venue records.]

Selected Juried & Group Exhibitions

- 2026** Heart Works: Art That Moves Us, juried group exhibition, curated by Art Agent Maine.
- 2026** FREEDOM, juried group exhibition, SMI's Leach Gallery, Montclair, New Jersey, February 6–8.
- 2025–26** Art Inspired by Nature, juried online exhibition, Manhattan Arts International and The Healing Power of ART & ARTISTS, November 2025–January 2026.
- 2025** SNOW I, competitively juried small-works exhibition, Freeport, Maine, November 6–30.
- 2025** Microplastic Series, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.
- 2025** BIG Show, Western Maine Art Group and Main Street Gallery, Norway, Maine.
- 2025** Good Health Is Habit, group exhibition. [Venue to confirm.]
- 2025** Frame Shop Exhibition, ongoing window presentation. [Venue name to confirm.]
- 2024** BIG Show, Western Maine Art Group and Main Street Gallery, Norway, Maine.
- 2022** Re-Editioning Black + Native Histories: Re/Union, collaborative project, Indigo Arts and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, Maine.

Publications & Writing

- 2026** The Water Guardians, essay and visual art, Wabanaki REACH: Voices of Decolonization; an ode to the Penobscot River, Penobscot Bay, and Wabanaki grandmother water protectors.
- 2000–01** Community Voices, contributing columnist, Portland Press Herald, Portland, Maine.

Performance, Dance, Film & Music

- 2021** Freedom in Captivity: Art on Abolition — “What Does Abolition (Liberation) Feel Like?”, Somatic Liberation Dance performance with BIPOC Bodies, Space Gallery and Indigo Arts, Portland, Maine.
- 2005–14** Producer and host, Mama Afrika Show, WMPG Community Radio, Portland, Maine.
- 1997–98** Vocalist, Stream and Rocking Vibration reggae projects, Maine.
- 1996–97** Singer, Acoustic Coffee Shop, Portland, Maine.
- 1996–98** Kwanzaa community performance arts and education, Portland, Maine.
- 1993** Longing, dance-theater performance choreographed by Melanie Hahn, New York City.
- 1993** Organism, Old Dutch Mustard Factory, Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

- 1991** Culture Shock, performance troupe choreographed by Melanie Hahn, CBGB Gallery, New York City.
- 1991** Organism: In the Red City, ambulatory theatrical experience, Williamsburg, Brooklyn.
- 1991** Teddy's Bar & Grill performance organizer; additional collaborative performances in Williamsburg.
- 1985** Danceteria All-Star Show, Danceteria, New York City.
- 1985** Desperately Seeking Susan, Screen Actors Guild performer.
- 1980s–90s** Avant-garde cabaret and Immersionist performance projects in Manhattan and Williamsburg, including Gallagher's Ship's Mast, Brain Stain, Fly Trap/Cats Head, and spring gathering performances.

Bodies of Work & Creative Frameworks

Soul Mapping

An intuitive method in which materials, memory, ancestry, Spirit, and embodied knowing guide the work before meaning is fully revealed.

Water-Life-Flow

An interdisciplinary exploration of Maine waters, Yoruba water principles, ancestry, migration, feminine power, grief, nourishment, transformation, and return.

Casco Bay–Downeast Collection

Large-scale mixed-media and assemblage works incorporating Maine sea glass, shells, found objects, weathered wood, rope, and layered surfaces.

Sea Goddesses

Hand-built sculptural works engaging oceanic feminine presence, protection, memory, and ancestral passage.

Sacred Gems

Small, radiant artworks made as portable reminders of resilience, comfort, beauty, and the light within.

Microplastic Series

Work addressing material residue, environmental memory, water, and human responsibility.

Current Initiative

Founder, Keita's Pathways | *Bowdoin, Maine* | *In development*

Restorative arts sanctuary and mission-aligned guesthouse in a historic 1767 stagecoach house, created for elder multicultural, Aboriginal, Indigenous, and mixed-race women artists to create, rest, teach, belong, and be honored in life.

Education & Selected Training

- 2005** Master of Social Work, University of Southern Maine, Portland, Maine.
- 2002** Bachelor of Social Work, University of Southern Maine; magna cum laude; first African American president of Phi Alpha Honor Society; Parents as Scholars graduate.
- 2016** Somatic Experiencing Practitioner certification.
- 2008** Kripalu Yoga Teacher certification, Kripalu Center, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.
- Year TBC** Mixed-media summer intensive, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, Maine.
- 1980s** Early Childhood Education studies/certificate, Borough of Manhattan Community College, New York City.

Selected Professional & Community Leadership

- Current** Founder, Keita's Pathways.
- 18 months** Racial Equity Officer, Maine College of Art & Design.
- 2014–early 2020s** Founder and private practitioner, Redefining Therapy and Ready, Set, Thrive.

2010–15 School-, outpatient-, and home-based clinician serving youth and families in Portland and rural Maine.

2006–11 Founder/facilitator, Cultivating Multicultural Alliances.

2005–08 Co-Interim Director, Multicultural Student Affairs, University of Southern Maine.

2003–05 Assistant Research Analyst, Muskie School/Cutler Institute.

2001–03 Child Protective Social Worker, Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

1999–00 ALANA Student Center Coordinator, University of Southern Maine.

1997–99 AmeriCorps VISTA Special Projects Community Coordinator, Maine Coalition for Food Security.

1990–93 Founder/Director, Expressions Family Day Care, Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Teaching, Facilitation & Somatic Practice

- Adjunct instructor, Southern Maine Community College, 2007–2010, and Kaplan University, 2006–2009.
- Dialogues in Diversity facilitator and presenter; anti-racist organizational development, mediation, and conflict-resolution work.
- Gentle, restorative, geriatric, cancer-support, and trauma-informed yoga instruction.
- Founder, Somatic Liberation Dance Waves for BIPOC communal healing.
- Founder, Harriet Tubman Movement Coalition.

Selected Research Presentations, Honors & Recognition

- Dialogues in Diversity: Multicultural Students Sharing Their Realities in Portland, Maine — presented at USM Thinking Matters (2005), Pedagogies of Diversity/Diversities of Pedagogy (2006), and the Black New England Conference (2006).
- University tuition waiver for outstanding academic achievement as an entering graduate student.
- President's Excellence in Education recognition and student leadership awards for scholarship, campus civility, diversity, and inclusion.
- Outstanding Community Achievement recognition through the Women's Leadership Project, Maine Women's Lobby, and Maine Equal Justice Project.
- Recognition for Parents as Scholars organizing and AmeriCorps VISTA national service.