

# Nikeshia Breeze

B. 1979, Lives and works in Taos, NM

[www.nikeshabreeze.com](http://www.nikeshabreeze.com) :: [nikeshia@nikeshabreeze.com](mailto:nikeshia@nikeshabreeze.com) :: +1 575-613-2193

Nikeshia Breeze is an international artist working across a diverse range of media—including oil painting, clay and bronze sculpture, installation, performance art, and film. Grounded in a global African diasporic and Afro-Futurist perspective, Breeze’s layered, immersive works draw on African diasporic research, reclamation, and memorial, forging otherworldly spaces rich with storytelling and historical education. Breeze’s practice employs multiple materials and methodologies that call upon ancestral memory and archival resurrection to revive stories long erased from the global narrative, engaging directly with themes of grief, sanctuary, power and presence, visibility, and erasure.

Breeze’s innovative approach has garnered national acclaim. In 2021, their expansive 5,000-square-foot solo exhibition “Four Sites Of Return” was featured in American Art Collector, Hyperallergic, Metalsmith Magazine, and The New York Times. A collaborative work, “Stages of Tectonic Blackness,” earned the National Performance Network Creative Fund and Development Fund Grant. Earlier, at the 2018 International ARTPRIZE exhibition, Nikeshia received the juried 3D Grand Prize Award and the Contemporary Black Arts Award for the sculptural installation, 108 Death Masks: A Communal Prayer for Peace and Justice—a work that in 2024 was recreated in bronze and included in the permanent collection of the Equal Justice Initiative’s Freedom Monument Sculpture Park in Montgomery, Alabama, honoring the six million lives lost in enslavement in the United States.

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Nikeshia Breeze now lives and works in the high desert of Taos, New Mexico, on the unceded land of the Taos Pueblo People. Nikeshia is an African American descendant of the Mende People of Sierra Leone and Assyrian American immigrants from Iran. Nikeshia’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at institutions such as MoCADA Museum, The Albuquerque Museum, University Art Museum, Portland Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, and the NkinKyim Museum of Ghana, as well as at fine art galleries and art fairs around the globe.

## PUBLIC ARTWORKS

2024      *108 Death Masks: A Communal Prayer for Peace and Justice* at Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, Equal Justice Initiative (Permanent Installation)      Montgomery, AL

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024      *Black Archive*, Richard Levy Gallery      Albuquerque, NM

2022      *Four Sites of Return: Ritual, Remembrance, Reparation, Reclamation*, New Mexico State University Art Museum      Las Cruces, NM

2021      *Four Sites of Return: Ritual, Remembrance, Reparation, Reclamation*, Form & Concept Gallery      Sante Fe, NM

2020      *Ritual and Remembrance*, University of New Mexico-Taos Atrium Gallery      Taos, NM

2018      *Within this Skin*, The Harwood Museum of Art      Taos, NM

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024      *Blackness Is... The Refusal to be Reduced*, [re]Frame: Haub Family Collection of Western American Art Project, Tacoma Arts Museum      Tacoma, WA

2024      *New Worlds: New Mexico Women to Watch 2024*, 516 Arts Contemporary Museum      Albuquerque, NM

2024      *From the Ground Up: Nurturing Diversity in Hostile Environments*, Armory Center for the Arts      Pasadena, CA

2024      *Black Shedding(s)*, Longwood Art Gallery      Bronx, NY

2023      *Black Artists of Oregon*, Portland Art Museum      Portland, OR

2023      *Nikeshia Breeze and Jacob Lawrence*, Blue Lotus Art Collective Gallery      Tucson, AZ

2022      *The Indigo Project*, SOMArts Cultural Center      San Francisco, CA

2021      *Indelible Blue*, Albuquerque Museum of Art      Albuquerque, NM

2020      *Charcoal*, Richard Levy Gallery      Albuquerque, NM

2020      *Contemporary 20/20*, The Harwood Museum of Art      Taos, NM

2020      *An Overwhelming Response*, A.I.R. Gallery      Brooklyn, NY

## AWARDS & GRANTS

2025	Yale CARE Residency	New Haven, CT
2022	Makers Muse Award, Kindle Project	U.S.
2022	Documentation & Storyteller's Grant, The National Performance Network (NPN)	U.S.
2021	Development Fund Grant, The National Performance Network (NPN)	U.S.
2020	Artist Relief Grant, NY Arts Fund	New York, NY
2020	We Recognize You Grant, Three Sisters Collective	Sante Fe, NM
2020	Vermont Studio Residency Fellowship Award, Vermont Studio Center	Johnson, VT
2018	3D Jury Winner for <i>108 Death Masks: A Communal Prayer for Peace and Justice</i> , Artprize	Grand Rapids, MI
2018	Contemporary Black Arts Award, Artprize	Grand Rapids, MI

## CURATORIAL WORK

2024	<i>Blackness Is... The Refusal to be Reduced</i> , [re]Frame: Haub Family Collection of Western American Art Project, Tacoma Arts Museum	Tacoma, WA
------	--	------------

## COLLECTIONS

EJI Legacy Museum Permanent Collection	Montgomery, AL
Harwood Museum of Art	Taos, NM
Sara M. and Michelle Vance Waddell Collection	Cincinnati, OH
David Naylor Interiors	Sante Fe, NM
Sacred Arts	Albuquerque, NM

## EDUCATION

2020	BFA in Socially Engaged Art, Goddard College	Plainfield, VT
2017 - 2019	AFA, University of New Mexico-Taos	Taos, NM