

# Ramekon O'Arwisters

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## Education

- 1989 Yale University School of Art, Summer Painting Scholarship Program
- 1985 Duke in Israel, Study Abroad Program, Fellowship Program
- 1986 Duke University, Durham, NC, Masters of Divinity
- 1982 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, BA

## Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

- 2014 Eureka Fellowship, Fleishhacker Foundation, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 Creative Capacity Fund (CCF) Quick Grant Program
- 2011 San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Grant
- 2010 Nominated for the Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art Award (SECA)  
Nominated for Fleishhacker Foundation Award
- 2006 San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Grant
- 2005 San Francisco Foundation Grant
- 2002 Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue Award, New York, NY

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 *Sugar In Our Blood: The Spirit of Black and Queer Identity in the Art of Ramekon O'Arwisters*, (working title), African American Art & Culture Complex (AAACC), San Francisco, CA
- 2012 *Communing With the Unseen: African Spiritual in Contemporary Art*, The M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Past Forward: African Spirituality in Contemporary Black Art*, African American Art & Cultural Complex, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Decoding Identity: I Do It For My People*, Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), San Francisco, CA  
*Retractions*, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 *Missings*, Artists' Television Access (ATA) San Francisco, CA
- 2007 *American Cuisine*, Luggage Store Annex, San Francisco, CA
- 2001 *Transformations*, LGBT Center, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA  
*Inventors And History Makers*, Richmond Health Clinic, Richmond, CA
- 2000 Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture, Duke University, Durham, NC  
John Adams Campus Library, San Francisco City College, CA
- 1997 *Ethnic Voices: A National Invitational Exhibition*, Community College, NV
- 1996 *La Dolce Vita*, Oblivion Magazine, San Francisco, CA
- 1993 *Bay Area Artists*, Bomani Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1992 African American Historical & Cultural Society, San Francisco, CA
- 1990 Paul Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
Itoki Ginza, Tokyo, Japan  
Kato Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
Mary Lou Williams Center Gallery, Duke University, Durham, NC
- 1985 Flowers Gallery, Duke University, Durham, NC

## Group Exhibitions

- 2012 *ReMix: ReFraming Appropriation*, A Reunion of QCC Visual Artists, Curator: Jonathan D. Katz, SOMArts Main Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Past Forward: African Spirituality in Contemporary Black Art*, African American Art & Cultural Complex, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Decoding Identity: I Do It For My People*, Museum of the African Diaspora, (MoAD), San Francisco, CA  
*Retractions*, Root Division, San Francisco, CA  
*Threads*, Queer Arts Festival, SOMARTS, San Francisco, CA  
*Blurring the Line*, Sacramento State University, Sacramento, CA
- 2006 *Black Artists' Expression of Father*, San Francisco Main Public Library, San Francisco, CA  
*Flaming: Art from LGBT Communities*, The Women's Cancer Resource Center Oakland, CA  
*Hoping & Healing in Times of War*, Queer Arts Festival, SOMARTS, San Francisco, CA  
*The Art of Living Black*, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
- 2005 Duke University LGBT Center, Durham, NC  
*Frenzy II*, Luggage Store Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2003 *EG: [R]Evolution of Gender, Visual Arts Exhibition Examining Identity in the Queer Community*, SOMARTS Gallery, San Francisco, California  
*hey! Orange*, Oakland, California, curator: Robert Ortbal  
*Comic Relief*, Ardency Gallery, Oakland, CA  
*BloodShow*, Quotidian Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*On the Level: A Chain Reaction Show*, curator: Rupert Jenkins, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2002 *B/GLAM: The Black Gays/Gaze*, National Queer Arts Festival, SOMARTS, San Francisco, CA  
*! hey ! Orange*, Oakland, California, Curator: Robert Ortbal, Oakland, CA  
*AfroSolo*, Luggage Store Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 *Passing: Why Is It People Feel The Need To Pass For Something They Are Not?*, Curators Candi Farlince and Jan Rindfleisch, Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA  
*NEXT*, ESP Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Crucible Steel Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1995 *Found Objects As Art*, Juror, Peter Frank, Long Beach Art Center, Long Beach, CA  
*Consecrations: The Spiritual in Art in the Time of AIDS*, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA), Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
- 1993 *Bay Area Artists*, Bomani Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT  
University of Maryland, Asia Division, Yokohama, Japan  
Yokohama Country and Athletic Club, Yokohama, Japan  
Hankyu Gallery, Hankyu Department Store, Osaka, Japan

## Collections

- Duke University, Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture, Durham, NC  
Itoki Ginza, Tokyo, Japan  
Haley Charitable Foundation, Point Richmond, CA  
Richard and Patricia Macias, Collection, Chico, CA

## Press

- 2010 Hiya Swanhuysen, *Very Old and Very New*, SF Weekly, San Francisco, CA, April 28.
- 2007 Kimberly Chun, *Visual Raids: We place our bets on the best gallery and museum shows this fall*, San Francisco Bay Guardian Online, San Francisco, CA, Aug. 21.
- 2002 Kelly Vance, *Billboard*, East Bay Express, Oakland, CA, p. 13.  
Lindsey Westbrook, '@\*\*#!&! Comic Relief', The San Francisco Bay Guardian, San Francisco, CA, September 4, p. 14.
- 2001 The Bay Times, San Francisco, CA., vol.22. No. 8, February 8.  
Francis Mill, *Tints, Shades & Hues*, NY Arts Magazine, New York, April 1, p.71.
- 2000 Glen Helfand, *On the Level*, San Francisco Bay Guardian, San Francisco, CA, July 5–11, p. 32.  
Rachel Howard, *Drawing Out Black Sexuality*, San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco, CA, December 15, p. C2.
- 1995 Deirdre Cerkanowicz, *Taylor's Valentine*, The Channel, Richmond, CA, January/February, 1995, p. 15.  
St. Louis Post Dispatch, St. Louis, MO, Thursday, April 13.
- 1994 Deirdre Cerkanowicz, *Alternative Ideas*, The Channel, Richmond, CA, September/October, p. 19.
- 1990 David Baffa, *Young Artist Undergoes A Transition*, The Japan Times, Tokyo, Japan, Sunday, September 30, p. 11.
- 1989 D. Haynes Bayless, *American Finds New Lifestyle In Japan Helpful To Painting*, The New Haven Register, New Haven, CT, Aug.13, p. D1–D2.  
Wayne Thompson, *A Hit In Japan: Kernersville Artist's Works Excite Japanese Art Lovers*, Winston-Salem Journal, Winston-Salem, NC, August 31, p. 27–29.

## Residencies

- 2012 The M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 2003 Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA
- 2002 Public Glass ASAP, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 WORKS, San Jose, CA
- 1991 Vermont Studio Center, Fellowship Programs, Johnson, VT

## Lectures/Public Speaking Engagements

- 2010 Artists' Talk, *Past Forward: African Spirituality in Contemporary Black Art*, African American Art and Culture Complex, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 Artists' Talk, *Decoding Identity: I Do It For My People*, The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), San Francisco, CA
- 2004 Graduation Celebration Guest Speaker, Duke University, LGBT Center, Durham, NC  
Panelist, *Intersection of Three Worlds: Gay, Black, and Christian*, San Francisco Public Library, Koret Auditorium, San Francisco, CA
- 2001 *Reclaiming Memories*, San Francisco Public Library, Koret Auditorium, San Francisco, CA  
Richmond Health Center, Richmond, CA
- 2000 Duke University, Mary Lou Williams Center, Durham, NC  
John Adams Campus Library, San Francisco City College, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, 12th Annual Creating Change Conference, Panel Session: *Art & Activism--What is it?*, Oakland, CA  
Crucible Steel Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1994 San Francisco Academy of Art, San Francisco, CA  
California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA  
Sonoma State University, Sonoma, CA

## Curatorial Experience

- 2012 Curatorial Committee, Root Division: A Community Arts and Educational Organization, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 Panelist, Organization Project Grants, San Francisco Arts Commission
- 2009 Panelist, Organization Project Grants, San Francisco Arts Commission
- 2008 Panelist, Individual Artist Commissions, San Francisco Arts Commission
- 2007 Panelist, Individual Artist Commissions, San Francisco Arts Commission
- 2003 Juror, Murphy And Cadogan Fellowship Awards, The San Francisco Foundation, San Francisco, CA
- Juror, *Revealing Influences: Conversations with Bay Area Artists*, Curator: Rachel Osajima, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA
- 1994 North by Northeast II, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
- Alternating Currents: An Exploration in Technology and Spirituality, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA