

Meet and Mingle: Peer-to-Peer Artist Networking Event
Teaching Artist Bios and Workshop Descriptions

What's in Your Hand?: Selfie Assemblages with Cell Phones (Photography)
Teaching Artist: Mansa Mussa

The phone/camera is the new *vox populi*, the voice of the people. It has become an indispensable tool used to create and disseminate information, art, and precious memories. The objective of the *What's in Your Hand?* workshop is to use the cell phone to create selfie assemblage art with objects that are important in your personal life and contemporary history. It's a mini narrative that speaks about your life and times. The objects are placed in your hand and moved around to create a compelling composition. They can be flat, three dimensional, or a combination of both. We'll also experiment with available, natural, and flash lighting.

This is an interactive remote workshop. Participants will be asked to email samples of their work during the workshop to the instructor, and he will share them with the class. **Materials list will be shared with those who register.**



Mansa K. Mussa is a visual artist, arts educator, curator, and arts consultant. A native of Newark, New Jersey, he has used the camera to document "the unfolding of human events" in the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, Central America, and Europe for the past forty-eight years. During his career in the arts, he has worked professionally as a collagist, photographer, dancer, graphic designer, writer, fabric artist, and iPadologist. He earned a BA in Media Arts/Television Production from New Jersey City University and studied visual art there with Professor Emeritus Ben Jones. Mussa has been an instructor of photography and visual arts for forty-five years. During that time, he developed a system for teaching art to children, teens, adults, sensational seniors, and disabled students. He currently teaches drawing, photography, collage, wearable art, print making, book arts, mask making, and iPadology for Arts Horizons, the Montclair Museum of Art, Arts for Kids Inc., the Visual Art Center of New Jersey, Global Arts To Go, and the Newark Museum of Art.

His photographs and collages have been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibits nationally and internationally and published in several books, including the landmark Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers, 1840 to the Present.

Connecting through Ekphrasis (Poetry)
Teaching Artist: Marcia LeBeau

In this 40-minutes virtual workshop, we will come together in community and generate poems inspired not just by visual art, but by other creative arts, and even ephemera found in our environment. In conversation with art and each other, we might discover a new language spilling onto the page. We'll leave time to share and be inspired by our peers.



Marcia LeBeau is a multidisciplinary artist. Her debut poetry collection, A CURIOUS HUNGER (Broadstone Books), was published in April 2024. Her poems, essays and reviews have appeared in O, The Oprah Magazine, New Ohio Review, Rattle, and elsewhere. She was a third-place co-winner of the 2023 Allen Ginsberg Award and received an honorable mention for the Rattle Poetry Prize. Her work has also received several Pushcart Prize nominations. She has an MFA in poetry from VCFA and is the founder of The Write Space, a co-working and literary hub for creative writers in The Valley Arts District of Orange, New Jersey.

MOVE LIKE THIS! African Dance for Beginners! (African Dance)
Teaching Artist: Audrey Davis-Dunning

Let's GO! It's time to shake off stress, turn up the joy, and move like you mean it. This high-vibe African Dance workshop is all about fun, freedom, and feeling fabulous TOGETHER! No experience? No worries. Audrey will break down every move step by step so you feel confident and unstoppable. So grab your water, bring your energy, and let's create some magic on the dance floor!



Audrey Davis-Dunning is a passionate African dance artist, educator, motivational speaker, and proud Mom-preneur with over 25 years of experience sharing the beauty and power of African dance. She specializes in West African dance and culture, designing dynamic programs that blend movement, music, and storytelling to inspire joy, confidence, and cultural pride. As a Teaching Artist with NJPAC and former Artistic Director of the Iwa Lewa Heritage Dance Ensemble, Audrey has led transformative residencies across New Jersey and performed on major stages, including the George Street Playhouse, PNC Arts Center, and Channel 9 News. Her performances and classes are infused with energy, authenticity, and deep cultural knowledge. Audrey's mission is to help students connect with African traditions while discovering their own artistic voice. She holds a Master's Degree in African American Studies from Cornell University and is the author of KUCHEZA! The Basics, Beauty & Power of African Dance.