



# Muhsana

[www.muhsana.com](http://www.muhsana.com)

**Dakar, Senegal**

**Tel: 221.77.9789934, email: [muhsaali@gmail.com](mailto:muhsaali@gmail.com),**

## **Education**

**2004** Trained with Internationally known Mosaic Artist, Isaiah Zagar, Philadelphia, PA

**2000** Trained with Master Bronze Maker, Kouedou Zadie, in bronze Sculpture production, Cote d'Ivoire

**1993** M.A., in Art Education, The University of the Arts, Philadelphia

**1991** License degree, L' Université de Paris 8, France

**1990** Painting Major, PA Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia

**1987** B.F.A., in Visual Art, Parsons School of Design, New York

**1986** Year-abroad program, American College in Paris, Paris

**1984** Freshman year, Moore College Of Art, Philadelphia

## **Selected Awards and Honors**

**2020-** Selected as one of five Finalists for Bethel Burial Ground Memorial project, Philadelphia, PA

**2019** Honorary Citizen Award, given by Mairie (City Hall)de Joal-Fadiouth

**2018** Doen Foundation Project Grant for project "Jen Rekk"

**2014-2016** Doen Foundation Grant (2-year support funding for Association Portes et Passages du Retour)

**2007** American Institute of Architects Award (Portes et Passages du Retour Association in association with University of Michigan at Ann Arbor) For construction of Adobe structure in Mbodiene, Senegal

**2008** Art Moves Africa, Travelling grant from Senegal to Cote d'Ivoire for video production.

**2002** Cultural Ambassador Grant awarded by Cultural Programs Division, United States Department of State, Washington, D.C. for participation in "Ewole,"international group exhibition, Togoville, Togo

**2002** Official Selection for Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal

**2002 Pew Fellowship in the Arts**, Fellowship for artistic Merit, Philadelphia, PA  
**2001 Award for Artistic Merit**, Coalition of 100 Black Women, Philadelphia chapter  
**1997 Fulbright Fellowship**, travel to Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, South Africa, and to install exhibition in Ivory Coast  
**1993 Curatorial Internship**, National African American Museum Project, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

### **Solo Exhibitions**

**2014, (Oct.) Mart Magic**, University of Southern Maine, Art Gallery, Photo Exhibit, Portland, Maine  
**2005-, "Love Series"** Personal outdoor exhibition/performance, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Senegal,  
**1999 Doors and Passageways of Return**, two-year exhibition project and solo exhibition, le Chateau (l'Ancien Hôpital Centrale du Plateau), Abidjan, Ivory Coast  
**1995 "Oeuvres Sacrées, Oeuvres Profanes,"** solo exhibition, Galerie l'Espace, St. Étienne, France  
**1995 "Where the Spirit Lives,"** solo exhibition, Moshood's Gallery, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
**1993 "The Perspective Figure,"** solo exhibition, Gallery One, Life Hall Annex, Montclair State University, N.J.

### **Selected Exhibitions**

**2022 Cheyney University**, Work included in Permanent Museum Collection donated by October Gallery  
**2022 Yalla Yana, Galerie** grand opening and Biennale-Off expo; Recent works by Muhsana Ali and Amadou Kane Sy  
**2022 Galerie Nationale** - Exposition (Journée de la Femme) Dakar, Senegal  
**2019 Penn Museum, Africa Galleries:** 10-year Sculptural installation in collaboration with Amadou Kane Sy  
**2019 "Hommage au Femme"; Musée des Civilisations Noirs**, Dakar, Senegal,  
**2018 "Homecoming" Institute d'African Management**, Dakar, Senegal,  
**2017 "Garap Yiy Joy", Ker Thioassane**, Dakar, Senegal,  
**2016 du 23 au 29 Mai "Pekine-Dakar"; Dak'Art;** au Grand Theatre de Dakar, Dakar, Senegal;  
**2014 du 09 Mai au 08 Juin, "Alternative Mosaic/Poetic Archeology";** Dak'Art-Off Biennale 2014,  
**2013 "From Kawral To Sargal"** Printmaking Expo, Raw Material Co., Dakar, Senegal  
**2013 "Goree Regards Sur Cours"**, Goree Institute, Goree Island, Senegal  
**2012 "Beautiful People"** (two-person exhibit) Photo expo, Muhlenberg College Gallery  
**2009 "Autopsie de la Négritude"**, Musée Boribana, Dakar, Senegal  
**2009 "Visualizing the Discernment of Transnational Perspectives"** Collegium of African American Research (CAAR), University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany"  
**2009 "De la Diaspora au Développement"**, (Two-person exhibition), Galerie Nationale d'Art de Dakar, Dakar, Senegal  
**2007 "Dak'Art - USA", Dak'Art-off**, Guichard Gallery, Chicago, NY, Atlanta  
**2007 "TransCape"** Cape Town, South Africa  
**2007 "Women Artists"**, Naivasha, Kenya  
**2006 "Dak'Art-USA" Preview** exhibition, Yassine Arts Gallery, Dakar, Senegal  
**2005, « La Collecte (Gravure sur le Deux) »**, Presse et Papier, International Travelling exhibition (25 countries), Dakar, Senegal  
**2003 "Universel? Dialogues Avec Senghor"**, Photographic exhibit: "Windows to the Soul" exhibitions held in Dakar (2004); Dunkerque et Lille, France (2005); Lisbon, Portugal, (2004); London, U.K. (2005); Paris, France (2006).  
**2002 "Dak'Art," Dakar Biennale-International African Arts Festival**, official selection, diaspora section, Dakar, Senegal  
**2002 "Ewole,"** international group exhibition, Togoville, Togo; sponsored by Cultural Programs Division, United States Department of State, Washington, D.C.  
**2001 Doors and Passageways of Return, solo expo and project:** producer and director, video documentary based on two-year exhibition project in Abidjan, Ivory Coast; premiere at FESPACO, African Film Festival, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

**1997 "Daro, Daro,"** international group exhibition, Abidjan, Ivory Coast  
**1997 "Moving Spirits",** group exhibition, 17 W. 121 Gallery, New York  
**1996 "Muhsana Ali/Miriam Schaer,"** two-woman exhibition, John Jay Gallery, John Jay College, NY  
**1993 "Black Creativity,"** group exhibition, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Ill.  
**1992 "First in the Heart Is the Dream,"** group exhibition, Philadelphia Art Alliance  
**1992 "First Take,"** group exhibition, Levy Gallery for the Arts in Philadelphia, Moore College of Art  
**1991 "Art Internationale,"** group exhibition, l'Université de St. Denis, France  
**1989 "The Perspective Figure,"** solo expo, Freyberger Gallery, Penn State Univ., Berks campus, Reading, Pa.  
**1988 "Sights, Sounds, and Emotions,"** group exhibition, Avant-Garde Uniques Gallery, Philadelphia

### **Video Productions**

**2007 « Flowers »** 16min, Flower farms and exploitation of workers in Kenya ; Naivasha, Kenya  
**2003 "Windows to the Soul", 52min.** Exploring Identity as an African American Living in Africa; Dakar, Senegal  
**2001 Doors and Passageways of Return,** 30min. video documentary based on two-year exhibition project in Abidjan, Ivory Coast; premiere at FESPACO, African Film Festival, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

### **Selected Presentations/Lectures**

**2023 Univeriste Chiekh Anta Diop** -Lecture on the work of association, Portes et Passages du Retour, and its relationship to slavery and colonisation,  
**2019/11 University of Pennsylvania** Presence of a Fundamental Absence (Master Class), Penn Museum, Phila PA  
**2019/10 University of Pennsylvania,** Presence of a Fundamental Absence (Master Class) Dept.of Africana Studies  
**2019/02 Rutgers University,** Dept of Africana Studies, New Brunswick, NJ  
**2018/10 Terra Madre/Slow Food,** Torino, Italy, "Art Activism in the Context of Slow Fish"  
**2016/11 University of Southern Maine,** Community Building Through Art, Portland, ME  
**2014/10 USM presentation, Muhsana Ali "People and Places",** Portland, Maine  
**2014/10 Phillips Collection,** Art and Social Change", Washington, D.C.  
**2013/04 "African Union Historic Memorial** "African Atrocities Conference for the building of an Historic Memorial, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
**2013 "Journey Somewhere",** CIEE, Discussion on personal artistic journey, Dakar, Senegal  
**2012/10 "Beautiful People"** University Lecture, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA  
**2012/10 "Art and Community",** University Lecture, Social Work Dept, University of Texas, Austin, Texas  
**2011/10 "Purging Memories of the Atlantic and Transnational Challenges",** University of Texas at Austin, Art Dept., Austin, TX,  
**2011/09 "The Role of Art and Culture in Senegalese Society",** Muhlenberg College, Dept. of African Studies, Allentown, PA  
**2009/02 "Visualizing the Discernment of Transnational Perspectives"** Collegium of African American Research (CAAR), University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany"  
**2009/01 "Park Fiction Presents Muhsana Ali",** Park Fiction Headquarters, Hamburg, Germany  
**2007/02 "TransCape"** Cape Town, South Africa  
**2004/11 "Doors and Passageways of Return",** West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal.  
**2000/09 "African American Studies Conference on Slavery",** College of William and Mary, Virginia. USA,.

### **Selected Commissions and Projects**

**2022\_October Gallery** commission to produce Maya Angelou portrait for Emmy award winning actress, Sheryl Lee Ralph

**2021 Fondawtion Association**, community mosaic; Thionk Essyl.(Casamance) Senegal,

**2019 Penn Museum, Africa Galleries:** 10-year Sculptural installation in collaboration with Amadou Kane Syl 4 month production and installation project, Phila. PA

**2019 University of Pennsylvania**, Artist in Residence, Africana Studies Program

**2018-2019 Portes et Passages du Retour : "Jen Rekk";** ongoing community art project. Produced (2)and sponsored(3) major public artworks in the town of Joal-Fadiouth, Senegal to address the issue of illegal over-fishing on the coast of West Africa.

**2014 (Oct) 13-meter Mural on outside wall of Phillips Collection**, Washington, D.C., Produced in collaboration with Senegalese Artists: Fode Camara, Viye, Diba and Piniang

**2014 (Feb) 125-meter long Mural on wall of American Embassy in Dakar, Senegal**, produced in collaboration with 9 Senegalese Artists.

**2013 (Dec) "Free Tree", public sculpture in Dakar manège**, Dakar, Senegal

**2013 Spiritual Offering Mosaic**, public wall facing Mermoz Mosque, Dakar, Senegal

**2012 (Sept- Nov 2012) Mart Community Project**, Public Sculpture, Mart, Texas, Chambless Field

**2012 (May), Ker Thioassane**, Mosaic Mural, Dakar, Senegal

**2011(May-August) Mart Community Project**, Mart, Texas; Project for the revivification of small rural town in Texas through art; Supervised Art classes for summer school program at Mart ISD High School. Co-Produced 2 alternative mosaic murals and 2 mosaic murals independently. **2010 (February-May 2011)** Implemented Art Education Program and produced a visual arts curriculum guide for the Senegalese/American Bilingual School.

**2010 (July-August) Mart Community Project**, Mart, Texas; Project for the revivification of small rural town in Texas through art; produced a street mosaic mural with full community participation using found and donated objects and under-glass paintings produced by participants.

**2000 Mazeya**, sculpture commissioned by African Ambassadors' Spouses Association for gala to benefit paediatric AIDS in Africa. Presented to President Bill Clinton, Danny Glover, Mario Cooper, Precious Thomas, and Alfadi.

**1997-99 "Doors and Passageways of Return", "Le Château"** (Ancien Hopital Central du Plateau (dwelling place of a group of over 60 homeless youth), Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Personal two-year exhibition project funded by Fulbright Fellowship with 6-month extension of grant. Exhibition based on research of traditional and contemporary African art involving travel to over 7 different countries in Africa. Project executed and presented in association with the youth.

**1992 "Philadelphia", Paintings used in set design** of Oscar-winning motion picture **Philadelphia**, directed by Jonathan Demme, Apple Pie Productions

### **Residencies/Workshops**

**2021 Organization Foundawtion;** artist in residence project to create mosaic with community in Thionk Essyl, Senegal

**2016 Artist in Residence, University of Southern Maine, Portland; Three-month residency produced 20m x 20m mosaic in collaboration with students (art and Social work departments) and the community of East Bayside.**

**2011 National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" Workshop/Retreat**, organized by the **Mart Community Project, Texas**. Served as faculty member for 3-day overnight retreat including 30 Mart Residents and 10 faculty members in the field of art/architecture, community development and environmental planning, coming together to develop ideas on how to improve the rural Texas town of 2000 residents, known as Mart. Served as artist-in-residence in mart each year between 2010-2012.

**2007 Women Artists Workshop**, 2-week International African women artists' workshop; Naivasha, Kenya

**2003 "Universel? Dialogues Avec Senghor"**, 3-week International Artists' Residency in Joal, Senegal.

**2002 "Ewole,"** 2-week international workshop, Togoville, Togo.

**1997 "Daro, Daro,"** 2-week international group residency, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

**1995 Galerie L'Espace**, three-month residency culminating with solo exhibition, St. Étienne, France

### **Selected Collections**

Mme. Wade, Former First Lady of Senegal; Johnathan Demme, filmmaker;

Artistik, Togoville, Togo; former U.S. president Bill Clinton ; actor Danny Glover and King Mohammed VI of Morocco; various private collectors in Senegal, France, USA; Actress, Sheryl Lee Ralph; Museum collection of Cheyney University.

**Organizations/Affiliations**

**2004 - present, “Portes et Passages du Retour” Association**, Senegal. Co-founder and Secretary General. Addressing issues of art and development in Senegal and initiating a project to build a Holistic Art Center on 10 acres of land in Mbodiene, Senegal.

**Languages**

English, French (fluent written and spoken), Wolof (spoken)