

BIOGRAPHY

MUSA's international and local explorations have allowed him the exciting opportunity to hone his voice in the art world as an Installation Artist and Sculptor. This artistic journey was bolstered during his undergraduate studies at Hampton University where he majored in Comprehensive Art and was introduced to one of the most impressive collections of African American art at the Hampton University Museum. While at Hampton he studied under internationally acclaimed sculptor, Ampofo Anti.

In the spring of 1994 Musa traveled to Rwanda and Uganda as a US Delegate through an invitation from the 7th Annual Pan African Congress. While in Uganda he visited with a Tutsi family that informed him of the genocide that was occurring simultaneously in Rwanda and Burundi. This trip inspired a life long interest in the artist's roll in social, economic, and environmental issues and changed his understanding of the power of the visual arts as a tool to bring social and political issues to the forefront.

In 1995, MUSA returned to Brooklyn, to attend graduate school at Pratt Institute and earned an MFA in sculpture. While at Pratt, worked at the Skylight Gallery of Bedford Stuyvesant's Restoration Corporation. This experience gave MUSA an opportunity to bridge his international experiences with his local community, which allowed him to formulate his style of "Abstract Commentary" while completing his graduate studies. In 2002, he returned to the continent of Africa and visited South Africa and Ghana. During this time he studied with master wood carvers and further researched the techniques and history of African sculpture.

MUSA has taught Art History at the City University of New York's Medgar Evers College, since 2002, which has given him the unique opportunity to share his global perspectives on art history with hundreds of students. In order to create a greater connection with the youth of Bedford Stuyvesant, MUSA established the Brooklyn Arts Incubator, Inc., a not-for-profit community based organization in 2003. In its seven year history, MUSA has been able to employ dozens of professional artists who organize community based art projects with hundreds of children throughout Bedford Stuyvesant public schools. In 2007, England's University of Oxford recognized his achievements, and invited him to present a paper on art and humanities competition with science and technology for funding in public schools

MUSA's international travels abroad and his curatorial experiences, juxtaposed with his experiences as an art history professor and Executive Director of a not-for-profit organization, have provided an endless source of inspiration for his artistic career, which has allowed him the opportunity to exhibit all over the United States in group and solo exhibitions. It has also given him the opportunity to participate in a number of public art commissions, which is the most exciting aspect of his artistic career. Most recently his performance art has been aired on the Vhl series, "Let's talk about Pep".

Musa currently lives and works in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn.