



{storäe michele}

interdisciplinary artist. contemplative practitioner.

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skills.

Creative Writer | Storyteller | Art Therapist | Director | Visual & Performative Arts | Ritual Performance | Producer | Project Manager | [Art]ivist | Facilitator | Educator | Community Engagement | Speaker | Interfaith Dialogue | Bold Collaborator |

education.

Columbia University-Union Theological Seminary. New York City, 2014-2017.
[*Masters of Divinity.*]

Barrie School: Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies. Silver Spring, MD, 2012.
[*Elementary I.*]

Corcoran College of Art and Design. Washington, D.C. 2011.
[*Arts Integration.*]

George Washington University, Washington, DC; 2010-2011. [*Family Institute—Special Education.*]

Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, 2005-2008.
[*Masters of Professional Studies in Creative Arts Therapy and Creativity Development.*]

University of Maryland, College Park, MD; 2000-2004.
[*Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies: Art Reflections on the Human Condition*]

presentations & creative praxis.

Panelist, National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference: "40 Years After Combahee: Feminist Scholars and Activists Engage the Movement for Black Lives,"—*Baltimore, MD, 2017.*

↑ Spoke on panel entitled: "The Spirit of the Matter: Conjuring Other Worlds in Art and Activism," with Jane Caputi [Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Communication & Multimedia, Florida Atlantic University] and M. Shadee Malaklou [Critical Identity Studies, Beloit College], in the category of Arts & Culture.

Presenter, "Your Faith on Feminism: Intersectional Feminist Theology Responds to the Climate of Fear" Conference, hosted by the World Student Christian Federation in North America, at the University of Alberta—*Edmonton, Alberta, 2017.*

↑ Lead a workshop titled, "[the listening heart] an exploration of art as ritual through film," exploring art as ritualistic resistance through intergenerational folk-talk and the screening of an Afro-Native futuristic film about self-love and deep listening.

Writer, Director, Co-editor, Creative Director, & Stylist of [*the listening heart*], an original story and film, with cinematographer Chris CSpins Guzman, presented at Pratt Institute—*Brooklyn, NY, 2017.*

- ✦ *[the listening heart]*, is performed with an amazing cast of incredible women of color, bringing to life an original story grounded in Mayan and Yoruba cosmologies. Through embodied poetry, song and dance, the feminine divine is uplifted and investigates ways we communicate the meaning of love to our youth.
- ✦ Honored with the Robert E. Seaver award, acknowledging scholars who have demonstrated distinguished work in worship and the arts.

Theology, Aesthetics & Art, Section Chair & Moderator, Mid-Atlantic Region American Academy of Religion 2017—*New Jersey*.

- ✦ Moderated panel session titled, “Understanding Art as Resistance: Environmental, Political, and Post-Secular Movements.” Applicants were advised to discuss trajectories of the study of theology, aesthetics, and art in today’s public sphere, especially in social justice movements, environmental justice and religious conflict.

Artistic stylist | Costume designer, *New Sanctuary: a film & ritual*, directed by Andre' Daughtry-Judson Memorial Church, NY, NY, 2017.

- ✦ Reimagined angels, in a project that addresses the inhumane treatment of immigrants. As if the angels landed in the middle of New York City and created an aesthetic from found objects and trash—I provided a futuristic perspective of divine beings. This film reimagines a man named Ramesh’s walk to Immigration Services with two angels accompanying him—acknowledging his divinity as human, adorning him with amulets and dressing his arrest anklet. This procession took place in public, as a declaration of humanity.

Presenter, Ohio Interfaith Power & Light, Earth-keeping Summit 2016—*Columbus, Ohio, 2016*.

- ✦ Lead a workshop titled, “Art as Ritual: Intersections of Art, Environmental Justice and the Power of Resistance,” focusing on the works of creative practitioners of color who have created rituals as resistance to environmental injustice.

Moderator & Performer, 2016 International Black Arts Movement Conference, at Dillard University—*New Orleans, Louisiana*.

- ✦ Performed excerpts from “Still Here”, a choreopoem written by Elaina Smith which approaches the legacy of Blues Women, BAM, Sonia Sanchez, Ntozake Shange, and the continuing legacies of Blues Women among us today. This legacy is one of addressing political and social justice issues through the lived experience of Black Women.
- ✦ Moderated a panel titled, “Personal Narratives of Life in a Black Body.”

Actor, *Tamar: The Two-Gated City, A Staged Reading and Talk Back*, written by Emma Goldman-Sherman, directed by Keisha Kogan—*Performed at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, 2016*.

- ✦ Performed in an original play written, directed by women and performed with two women of color. This important piece explores the story of Tamar, the intersection of generational narratives and contemporary themes of rape culture, womanhood, and domestic violence.

Co-Director, *I Am Whole. An Original Ritual Performance*. Created by Elaina Smith and Michele Stanback—*Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, 2016*.

- ✦ Co-created a ritual which addresses stories—personal, generational and communal. This ritual is one of nurturance—taking personal inventory of what parts are honored and re-membered, and re-claiming through the use of poetry, dance, water and song.

Presenter, An original eco-poetic | eco-feminist film, Landscaping Change Conference, at Bath Spa University—*Bath Spa, London, 2016*.

- ✦ Produced an eco-feminist film which explores ways of deepening my research on storytelling, Mother Earth and pathways to [re]memberance—speaking from my location as a woman of color. This conference was sponsored by the British Academy and hosted by the Writing and the Environment Research Centre.

Key Speaker, The Commission on the Status of Women 2016—*United Nations Church Center, The New Seminary Sacred Women's Circle, 2016*.

- ✦ Led a workshop on [Re]storing the Legacy of Women in Community as Leaders and Builders, as the Keepers and Transmitters of Faith, Culture and Tradition and as the Cornerstone of Society and Global Community.

Key Speaker, SpiriTalk: Artist as Human—*Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, 2016*.

- ✦ Led a discussion sharing my understanding of God in connection to the sacred dimensions of life and faith through the arts. Participants shared and cross-weaved their own stories; in claiming or reclaiming their voice, we re-integrated relationships in the formation of their spirit. This presentation was geared to aid thinking surrounding the intersection of art and theology and engagement in art-making.

Presenter, 10th Anniversary Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, at The University of Florida—*Gainesville, Florida, 2016*.

- ✦ Under the theme "Religion, Science, and the Future," I will be presented in the section titled, "Religion, Nature and Ritual," on "Dialogue from the Margins: Women of Color and Mother Earth" highlighting the importance of our stories | myths when [re]imagining our future | cosmology.

Presenter, 2015 VIII Annual World Youth Forum "Right to Dialogue", "Old and New Poverties: Europe and other worlds"—*Trieste, Italy, 2015*.

- ✦ Presented "[Re] Awakening for the Divine Mother Earth: women and life-affirming journeys." Bridging the eco-feminism arts and new poverties that exist in nature—nature as the new subaltern.

Presenter, 2015 LTP Student Christian Movement- (SCM) USA National Leadership Training Program—*New York University at the Spiritual Life Center in NY, NY, 2015*.

- ✦ Presented excerpts of my research on Indigenous communities, post-colonization, food and right relations, to a Youth group interested in creating interfaith dialogue.

Presenter, 2015 MAR-AAR conference, Building Bridges: Exploring Avenues of Connection in an Age of Religious Pluralism—*Loyola University Maryland in Columbia, MD, 2015*.

- ✦ Presented my research on Indigenous communities, post-colonization, food and right relations, "Sacred Spaces: Reestablishing a commitment to God, Land and People."

teaching experience.

Lower Elementary (1st-3rd grade) Lead Teacher, Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School—*Baltimore, MD 2012-2014*.

- ✦ Developed curriculum and lessons using the Montessori philosophy and materials. Scholars are

given differentiated instruction through one-on-one or small group settings.

- ✦ Culture plays a large factor in fostering a community of learners where peer-to-peer modeling are the norm.

Kindergarten Lead Teacher, Arts and Technology Academy Public Charter—*Washington, D.C., 2011-2012.*

- ✦ Collaborating with the Kindergarten team, rigorous lesson plans are developed and implemented. Using the arts as a tool, all subjects are taught allowing students practical and creative models.
- ✦ Themes were evident and practical for students' application through use of vocabulary, arts based projects and as evidenced in interest areas.

Lead Teacher & Early Childhood Task Force Leader, Friendship Public Charter School—*Washington, D.C., 2009-2011.*

- ✦ Selected by the Deputy Chief Academic Officer, we created a common language across the board for Early Childhood, bridges gaps in administration.
- ✦ Aligned curriculum to the common core in all content areas for the school's seven campus Early Childhood sector – presented Professional Development seminars.

Lead Teacher, School for Arts in Learning Public Charter (SAIL)—*Washington, D.C., 2005-2009.*

- ✦ Taught and engaged students in kindergarten and first grade; allowing them to develop crucial skills such as self-regulation, literacy, math, and social competence through curriculum, using art as the primary vehicle.

internships.

Community Organizer, SpiritHouse—*Durham, NC, 2016.*

- ✦ Researched Amiri Baraka, the creator and founder of Spirit House in New Jersey--relating the mission to the current mission of Spirit house in Durham, NC. Conducted interviews of local marginalized black artists to learn and explore how the city and art community can best support their needs. Also, supported SpiritHouse with community events.

Student Senate, Secretary—*Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, 2015-2016.*

- ✦ Distribute minutes to members of the respective bodies including the Student Senate, Seminary President, Deans, Office of Student Life.
- ✦ Convene and preside over Student Senate Meetings in the event of the absence of both the Co-Chairpersons.

Student Fellow, Center for Earth Ethics—*Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, 2015.*

- ✦ Maintained effective communication and organizational strategies, writing blog posts about particularly significant events, attending staff meetings, representing the CEE at community meetings and retreats, liaising with specific partner organizations relevant to my work and growth, assisting with website maintenance.
- ✦ Facilitated workshops for youth integrating earth ethics, just transitions and ritual as art.

Artist-in-Residence | Art Therapist, School for Arts in Learning Public Charter School—*Washington D.C., 2005-2008.*

- ✦ Using arts based projects and the Reggio Emilia approach, science and social studies were taught to all SAIL students, from Kindergarten to the sixth grade.
- ✦ Responsible for the installation of student's work in a manner which was inviting, provocative and respectful, showcasing the student's knowledge and talents.
- ✦ Met with students without an IEP or counseling program to provide all students with a venue for self-expression and the support through art therapy.

membership.

Member, National Women's Studies Association, 2016-

Member, Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, 2015-

Member, World Christian Student Federation, North American Region, Member, 2015-

Student Member, The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, 2015-

Member, American Academy of Religion, 2015-

references available upon request.