

# NNEKA KAI

nnekakai.com

B. 1992, Atlanta, GA

## EDUCATION:

- 2019 M.F.A., Fiber & Material Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Chicago, IL
- 2017 B.F.A., Textiles, Georgia State University; Atlanta, GA

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

- Fall 2023** **Adjunct Professor**  
Pratt: Munson College of Art and Design  
Utica, NY
- Spring 2023** **Part-time Instructor**  
Georgia State University  
Welch's Art & Design Sculpture Department  
Atlanta, GA
- 2022** **Winter Resident Assitant**  
Winter Residency Program  
Textiles  
Penland School of Craft Pine Spruce, NC
- 2021- Current** **Independent Guest Curator**  
Textile Department  
Art Institute of Chicago; Chicago, IL
- 2022** **Winter Resident Assitant**  
Winter Residency Program  
Textiles  
Penland School of Craft Pine Spruce, NC
- 2021/22** **Substitute Teacher**  
Atlanta Heights Charter School  
Atlanta, GA
- 2019** **Graduate Teacher's Assistant**  
Micro/Micro Research Seminar  
Fiber & Material Studies  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Chicago, IL
- 2018** **Graduate Teacher's Assistant**  
Sewing for Beginners  
Homan Square  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Chicago, IL
- 2017/18** **Graduate Research Assistant**  
Textiles Resource Center  
Fiber & Material Studies  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Chicago, IL
- 2017** **Teacher's Assistant**  
Sculptural Fibers  
Textiles  
Penland School of Craft; Spruce Pine, NC

## AWARDS:

- 2023 Artadia Grant Awardee Atlanta, GA  
2021 Swan Coach Gallery Edge Award Finalist Atlanta, GA  
2020 Jean Alexander Artist Grant Recipient Atlanta, GA  
Atlanta Contemporary Nexus Award Recipient Atlanta, GA  
2019 SAIC Graduate Fellowship Finalist Chicago, IL  
2017 Marion Bower Davis Scholarship Recipient Atlanta, GA  
2016 Windgate Fellowship Nominee Atlanta, GA  
GSURC Nominee Atlanta, GA

## RESIDENCIES:

- 2023- 2024 Sculpture Space Long-term Resident Utica, NY

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Nneka Kai: Material Sounding: The Dimensionality of A Thread  
Material Gallery Chicago, IL

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Scrapbook, Elsewhere Gallery Atlanta, GA  
Blue Heron Nature Preserve: Nesting Exhibition Roswell, GA  
Holding Pattern Exhibition KMAC & TSA Greenville  
2022 In the Fray: Feminist Fiber from Margin to Center Louisville, KY  
Highland Park Art Center "Fiber Fashion Feminism" Highland Park, IL  
Eyedrum Gallery "Stars and Feelings" Atlanta, GA  
Swan Coach House "Edge Award Exhibition" Atlanta, GA  
"Pathologies of the Margin" Book Release Reading Chicago, IL  
2021 Newport Museum "Hair Stories" Exhibition Newport, RI  
Guardian Gallery Drop a Pin Show Atlanta, Ga  
2020 Guerilla Transmission: Who Owns the Ether Virtual  
2019 Re: Working Labor: Chicago, IL

### PERFORMANCE

- 2021 Tender Ails Atlanta, GA  
2020 ODE performances: Atlanta, GA  
2019 Groundlevel Platform Gallery: Textured Translations: Chicago, IL  
2018 New Blood X11: Chicago, IL  
The Happening: Pine Spruce, NC

## TALKS:

- 2023 Holding Pattern Exhibition Artist Talk Louisville, KY  
Kent State Visiting Artist Lecture, Kent, OH  
2021 Hair Stories Exhibition Artist Talk with Nneka Kai and Anne Wilson  
<https://vimeo.com/616083694/3cea89b1cc>, Zoom  
Spelman University *Black Female Body in Visual Arts*, Lecture  
2020 TSA 2019 Symposium: Hidden Stories, Human Lives, Zoom  
2019 Oggi Gallery Artist Readings. Chicago, IL  
2018 SAIC Graduate Fiber & Material Studies Department. Chicago, IL

**SAIC Graduate Fiber & Material Studies Talk/Performance.** Chicago, IL  
**Re: Workshop Symposium.** Chicago, IL

## **SELECTED PRESS & PUBLICATIONS:**

- 2023** Saporta Report Blue Heron Nature Preserve  
<https://saportareport.com/blue-heron-nature-preserve-presents-annual-outdoor-art-exhibit-on-its-30-acres/columnists/hannah/>
- ‘Hair as Praxis.’ Kai continues the conversation by sharing art with Kent State  
<https://kentwired.com/90481/latest-updates/hair-as-praxis-kai-continues-conversation-by-sharing-art-with-kent-state/>
- 2022** Fiber, Fashion, and Feminism  
<https://chicagoreader.com/arts-culture/subverting-the-dominant-paradigm-one-stitch-at-a-time/>
- 2021** WGBH “Hair Stories” Exhibition Talk with curator Francine Weiss  
<https://video.wgbh.org/video/frida-kahlo-pose-hair-stories-and-more-p2nibm/>
- 2020** Burnaway Magazine Interview with Susan Mackey  
Living Monuments: Nneka Kai on Her Performance Series Odes  
<https://burnaway.org/magazine/living-monuments-nneka-kai-on-her-performance-series-odes/>
- 2019** Kai, Nneka. “Reflections” Catachesis Reader. print  
Mackey, Susan; “IN A (BLACK) WAY // THREE CHICAGO ARTISTS PUSH THE LIMITS OF BLACKNESS”, The Seen, web.  
<http://thesejournal.org/art-seen-chicago/in-a-black-way/>
- 2018** Voyage Chicago: Local Story Interview, web.  
<http://voyagechicago.com/interview/meet-nneka-kai-nneka-kai-downtown/>