



Yvonne Short  
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Yvonne Shortt wears many hats. Working in sculpture, building/construction, metalwork, she is a force to be reckoned with in her diverse Queens, New York neighborhood. A dedicated activist, Yvonne has great success in grassroots efforts on behalf of the community, as well as urban environmental issues, immigration, racial and gender equality, domestic and child abuse.

It is with great pleasure that The Fat Canary Journal shares the creations of this talented artist and activist - work which draws attention to some very timely and relevant issues in today's society.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

*My experiences as an African American woman directly influences my practice. I use wood, aluminum, clay, and cement to address race, (dis)ability, and equality. My approach is collaborative and community based drawing inspiration, expertise, and help from my community.*

## PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS:

### 2018: Self Commission: Cement. In Progress

*Creating 4 sculptures in clay then casting each sculpture 4 times in cement. In total there will be 16 sculptures installed outside of 16 elementary schools in Queens/Manhattan with the plaque reading *If someone is making you feel uncomfortable, tell someone. If nothing changes, tell someone else until it does. I did and it made a world of difference.**





2018: NYC Parks- Dunningham Triangle: Commission Queens Council on the Arts -Artsite program. Aluminum + wood. Sculpture (aluminum) 72"x22"x.25". Flowers 32 pieces wood. Ranges in size from 3"x3"x1/2" inches to 12"x10"x.1/2"

*What we Carry- An installation celebrating the diverse ways we emigrate to this country and the connecting forces.*

2018: NYC Parks- MacDonald Park:- Friends of MacDonald Park: *Heavenly Bodies*. 2 installations aluminum + wood

*An installation celebrating NYC parks and the volunteers who work so hard to keep them clean while also addressing disability and the way I see. Each installation is cut*

*into sections so the piece isn't revealed until you look at it from specific angles and the correct angle is different for each person.*



**2018: NYC Parks- Captain Tilly Park: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: Peppermint in pieces. aluminum (3 pieces) + wood (8 pieces)**

*Whimsical piece inspired by sitting with 30 schoolgirls in the park in Jamaica where I grew up and having a conversation about our park plus visual impairment. The piece is cut into 16 pieces and imitates the way I see with retinitis pigments.*

### Park delight. 4 signs on aluminum

*While talking with people in the park I learned of several issues surrounding cleanliness in the park. The illustrations installed around the park took a humorous approach to showcasing the park's beauty and ways to help keep it clean.*

### Park Fence. 40 wood pieces + 3 aluminum pieces created with the help of the community

*The piece was a collaborative art project to get people excited about our park.*



2017: Freedom. Fleet Street. Self. 150 feet x 10 feet. Mural. Paint + wood. 3  
Wood Window panels 5'x 6'x .2'

*The piece was a reflection on color being used to connate race. It was a piece in response to a woman saying the color black represented death and decay in her neighborhood. The goal became to juxtapose black and white and create freedom for the onlooker. It was also a piece to discuss our ideas about White and black as color and commentator.*

2018: Commission AHRC. What A Big Teapot. Aluminum 48"x 36" x27"

*Worked with adults with mental and physical complexities to create a piece that was fun and whimsical for their garden*

Selected projects spanning 2+ years

Tiny House Design & Build: Part 1-

4;

2016-present 16 ' x 8.5'x 13.4'

*I started this piece to investigate my own demons with construction tools.*

*It became an investigation into abuse, disability, and empowerment. The piece was built with 250 women. During the process women learned to use CAD, read design plans, framing & electric.*



## 2016-2017 Mobile Tiny House Build: 16 ' x 8.5'x 13.4'

*In 2016 I wanted to learn to build with my own hands. I investigated classes for building and the cost was prohibitive. Instead, I bought a miter saw and asked women to come learn with me. By the third session 100 women packed into my small studio space. Most of us had no experience with tools. We shared what we knew and raised money to have a community build. Over the next 6 months, we learned how to use tools and designed a Tiny House Design Studio. In the summer, we built it in my backyard.*



### 2017 Mobile Tiny House: Feminine Dwelling

First installation in the tiny house was a mobile tea space. While the mobile tea and Zen garden was up it was used as a place for me to greet 62 women from NYC to Brazil and discuss Dwelling. Based on the stories of the women a book was created weaving their tales together and was exhibited at the Queens Museum for one month along with the Tiny House Tea and Zen garden archival material. It was also decided to create the Simple Act campaign,

### 2018 Mobile tiny House: Furniture Design Studio

Over 16 sessions women met and learned CAD software, furniture design, and how to use construction tools. Then. We designed furniture to go in the Tiny House Studio and in a garden space I took over because it was neglected.

### 2019 Mobile Tiny House: Collaborative Sculpture Studio

In 2019 the studio will be used to collaboratively create clay sculptures to combat mental, physical, and sexual abuse. The pieces will be cast in cement and placed at 16 schools. Women who helped build the tiny house will be constructing these pieces with me. The series is called *A Simple Act*.

### Funding Culture Push, 250 women, 5 community stores

### Elmhurst Sculpture Garden: Paper Jungle, 2016- Present

This piece looked at the intersection of public use versus private ownership. The piece entailed the creation of 8 aluminum sculptures. Sculptures were created by myself and in collaboration with 8 people in the community. The community came to my house and learned illustration, fabrication, sanding, drilling, painting, and installation techniques. Then, together we installed the pieces. Pieces include 4

benches and 8 aluminum sculptures including Giraffe, Hippo, Leaf Cutter ant, turtle, snake, chameleon, mire cat, and panda.

### Mudslide Mural and Sculpture, 2016-2017

Mudslide is a mural 150' X13' on an underpass plus aluminum sculptures on 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive fences. The piece looks at how birds tend to stick together until something in this case a girl with an umbrella- comes along and changes things. funding: Our Savior + PTA 139

### Public Underpass Art Murals 2010 - present

Designed in collaboration with the community 15 murals. Murals stretch from LIC to the Rockaways. Most murals were done to bring attention to issues in the surrounding communities.

The murals have lead to advocacy and over \$500,000 in changes including a new garden, revitalization of a park, council member funding doe/ace for cleanups, and more.



### Curatorial:

#### **Queens Art Intervention (2014,2015,2016, 2017)**

QAI is a project where I investigate a topic in the community with the community.

I also invited 5-10 artist to investigate this topic. The investigation culminates in a series of performances, sculptures, or/and installations the first or second week in September

### **2017-2018 Queens**

Curated Queens Art Intervention at the Queens Museum's Community Partnership Gallery December 2017 -January 2018

#### **Selected Committee Panels:**

2014, 2015 Queens Council on the Arts.

2016 Culture Push.

2017 National Endowment for the Arts.



#### **Residencies**

2017-Su casa

2017-Social Innovation Residency;

2016 Culture Push Artist Residency;

2015 National Art Strategies : Artistic Residency

**Education NYU : Applied Mathematics minor Studio Art: Sculpture**