

Kwabena Slaughter, Ph.D.

Bio: Kwabena is a scholar, system manager, and artist; with strong skills in technical systems, organizational management, and archival research. He's led large staff teams through complex live events and through organizational restructuring. Among the multiple places his writings have been published are the Oxford University Press, *Critical Inquiry*, the African American Intellectual History Society, and the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*. His artwork has been exhibited and collected in the U.S. and abroad.

Education

Ph.D. American Studies, **George Washington University**, Washington, D.C. January 2026.

MFA. Studio Arts, **University of Illinois at Chicago**, Chicago, IL. 2001.

BA. Studio Arts, **Oberlin College**, Oberlin, OH. 1998.

Experience

01/2019-01/2026 **The Africa Center**, NY, NY.

Technical Consultant for Public Engagement - 2019-2026

-Advise on AV equipment purchase and staffing for facilities management and live event production.

-Technical support (online and in-person) for events, exhibitions, and system upgrades.

04/2012-07/2019 **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**, NY, NY.

Associate General Manager for Production and Venue Operations (2016-2019)

Associate General Manager for Production and Technical Operations (2015-2016)

Senior Manager, Production and Programs (2012-2015)

-Led merger of the live event production, venue operations, and av services teams.

-Producer, Technical Director, Production Designer for more than 250 events per year, including the Met Museum's two TEDxMet conferences.

-Producer of program about art and music made in prisons.

05/2008-04/2012 **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts**, NY, NY.

Assistant Manager Concert Halls, Production

-Venue production manager for Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, Avery Fisher Hall (now named David Geffen Hall), and outdoor locations.

-Managed venue for production of CBS's Walter Cronkite Memorial, James Beard Awards shows, and Vogue Magazine's Fashion's Night Out: The Show.

06/2007-04/2008 **Borough of Manhattan Community College**, NY, NY.

Special Events Coordinator

-Venue rental manager for thirty spaces on the college campus.

-Designed calendar/reservation system, using Microsoft Access, for more efficient management of venue scheduling.

01/2004-04/2011 **Smack Mellon Gallery**, Bklyn, NY.

Media Systems Manager

-Technical director, information technology technician, and av installer for not-for-profit contemporary art gallery.

-Planned grant funded purchasing for technology upgrade to gallery, video editing studios, and events equipment.

Kwabena Slaughter, Ph.D.

10/2003-08/2007 **Pratt Institute**, Bklyn, NY.

Special Events Coordinator

-Managed three auditorium venues on campus, and in charge of calendar for event scheduling in the venues and in other areas on campus.

-Managed a technical and operational staff of six students and three full time staff.

-Responsible for video recording of events in the venues.

01/2003-05/2003 **University of Colorado at Boulder**, Boulder, CO.

Adjunct Professor of Sculpture

-Taught sculpture, in a broad range of mediums, to students in their junior and senior year of enrollment.

09/2001-06/2002 **Colorado State University**, Fort Collins, CO.

Government Documents Library Technician

-Colorado State University's library is a federal depository library. I cataloged government documents.

8/1999-07/2001 **Newberry Library**, Chicago, IL.

Circulation Assistant

-Check-in researchers, help them fill out the request forms, then gather content from closed stacks and bring to the researchers.

Publications

2023 Slaughter, Kwabena. "A Peripheral Vision: Framing the Cultural Bias in the Center of Photography." *Critical Inquiry*. Winter 2024.

2022 Slaughter, Kwabena. (2024) "Twenty-two Divided by Seven, at the Tuskegee Institute" in Johnson, Damarius, Nicholas B. Breyfogle, and Steven Conn (Eds.), *Picturing Black History Photographs and Stories That Changed the World*. Edited by Daniela Edmeier. New York: Abrams, Inc.
<https://public.ebookcentral.proquest.com/choice/PublicFullRecord.aspx?p=31246396>.

2022 Slaughter, Kwabena. "Mystic Stories From The Sketchbooks of Henry Ossawa Tanner." *Black Perspectives, the African American Intellectual History Society*. Parts 1 and 2:
<https://www.aaihs.org/mystic-stories-from-the-sketchbooks-of-henry-ossawa-tanner-part-2/>

2022 Slaughter, Kwabena. "Booker T. Washington Reframed: Celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Tuskegee Institute in Four Photographs." *Picturing Black History*, a collaborative effort between Ohio State's Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective and Getty Images.
<https://www.picturingblackhistory.org/booker-t-washington-reframed>

2021 Slaughter, Kwabena. "She Put Her Foot In It: Visualizing the Assertion of Willpower". *Journal of Popular Music Studies*. Vol. 34 no.1. December 2021.

2021 Carson, Rodeeia; Slaughter, Kwabena; Wald, Gayle. "'Soul!' (famous!) TV program with Ellis Haizlip." In *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies*. Ed. Gene Jarrett. New York: Oxford University Press.

Kwabena Slaughter, Ph.D.

2003 Slaughter, Kwabena P. "The Nonviolent Imagination: Trickster Gandhi Revisited." *Philosophy and Social Action* vol.29 no.3 fall 2003.

Conferences

- 2024 The Futures of Photography: The Developing Room's Ninth Graduate Student Colloquium, held in collaboration with the Essen Center for Photography. "A Peripheral Vision: How Mechanical Functionality Can Reshape Historiography."
- 2023 Temple University, James A. Barnes Graduate History Conference. "Booker T. Washington In Profile: His Participation in Palmistry and Phrenology Readings, 1903-1905."
- 2022 Yale University American Art Graduate Symposium. "How Photography Can Hinder Historiography: As Seen in the Photo-documentation of the Work of Booker T. Washington."
- 2022 DePaul Graduate Philosophy Conference: Perspectives on Carcerality, Surveillance, Policing, and Abolition. "Which Way Does Light Flow?: Panopticon, Surveillance, and Spectacle."
- 2021 University of California, Los Angeles. TAPS Conference. "She Put Her Foot In It". (online).
- 2021 PopCon, *Dance Dance Music Revolution*. "She Put Her Foot In It". (online).
-

Grants

- 2023 Fellowship Grant. DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Washington, D.C.
- 2023 Performance, Event, Festival Grant. DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Washington, D.C.
- 2022 Fellowship Grant. DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Washington, D.C.
- 2018 Casement Fund, NY, NY.
- 2008 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Photography, NY, NY.
- 2006 New York State Council on the Arts, New Media and Technology Grant Recipient, NY, NY.

Exhibitions

- 2011 Islip Art Museum, 'Photo Finish,' Islip, NY.
- 2010 New Britain Museum of American Art, 'New/Now Space,' New Britain, CT.
- 2008 Smack Mellon Gallery, 'Oh Very Yes,' Bklyn, NY.
- 2008 Center for Photography at Woodstock, 'Made in Woodstock,' Woodstock, NY.
- 2005 Studio Museum in Harlem, 'Frequency,' NY, NY.
- 2004 New Museum of Contemporary Art, 'Adaptive Behavior,' NY, NY.
- 2004 Grand Projects, 'Misunderstanding,' New Haven, CT.
- 2002 Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, 'Biennial,' Denver, CO.
- 2002 Apex Gallery, 'Unjustified,' NY, NY.
- 2001 MN Gallery and Studio, 'milk and honey,' Chicago, IL.

Performances

- 2023 Theatre Week DC. "Tribal Luminescence." Arena Stage. Washington, D.C.

Kwabena Slaughter, Ph.D.

- 2022 Theatre Week DC. "Tap To The Top: Electric Tap Dance Performance and Public Activation." Arena Stage. Washington, D.C.
- 2022 DC Art All Night. "Tap To The Top: Electric Tap Dance Performance and Public Activation." Walter Reed Park. Washington, D.C.
- 2018 Scriptwriter for Maxwell Melvins' TEDxCUNY presentation about music made in prisons.
- 1996 Next Wave Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music. Actor in "Black Fathers and Sons: A US Perspective." Brooklyn, NY.

Art Residencies

- 2007 ArtOmi International Artist Residency Artist in Residence Omi, NY.
- 2006 Center for Photography at Woodstock. Woodstock, NY.
- 2005 Bronx Museum of the Arts 'Artists in the Marketplace' Bronx, NY.

Art Collections

Private Collections: Peggy Cooper-Cafritz, Lisa Cortes, Mark P. Addison.

Institutional Collections: New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain, CT., Denver Art Museum, University of Colorado at Boulder's Department of African American Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago's African American Cultural Center.

Continuing Education/Other

- 2017 Executive Leadership Professional Development Program presented by the Met Museum in partnership with the Columbia University School of Business.
- 2016 Presenting Data and Information course taught by Edward Tufte.
- 1998 Studied with the African Renaissance Mission in Accra, Ghana.

Technical Skills

Microsoft Office, Adobe Suite, technical theater/live event production, MaxMSP and electronics, computer networking, 3D printing, Zoom and other video conference and live-streaming platforms.

Awards

- 2021 Telly Award. Bronze Winner. Engineer in Best Non-Scripted Web Series #ByGrace Live Chat Series.
- 2021 Telly Award. Bronze Winner. Engineer in Best Food & Beverage Series #ByGrace Live Chat Series.