

Che Applewhaitec.r.applewhaite@gmail.com

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago; Lives and works in London, UK and Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.

EDUCATION

2017 – 2021 B.A. (Hons), *Anthropology, and History & Literature*, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA, USA
Thomas T. Hoopes Senior Thesis Prize, David McCord Prize for the Arts

STUDY

2024 PRAXIS II, fluent, Santander, ESP: in-person
 2021 *The Claudia Jones Project*, convened by Farrah Rahaman, Philadelphia, PA, USA: virtual
The William and Louise Greaves Filmmaker Seminar, BlackStar Film Festival, Philadelphia, PA, USA: virtual
Seminar Fellow, 67th Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, Oberhausen, DE: virtual

AWARDS, NOMINATIONS, FELLOWSHIPS

2024 *Shadworth Hodgson Memorial Trust Award*, London, UK
 2024 *Somerset House Studios Jerwood Residency Award*, Somerset House, London, UK
 2023 *Abandon Normal Devices New Cinema Days Creative Development Lab*, selected artist, Manchester, UK
 2022 *Flaherty Professional Development Fellowship*, 67th Flaherty Film Seminar, Colgate University, NY, USA
 2021 *Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship*, Harvard College Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships
Best Emerging Artist Jury Award, Mimesis Documentary Festival at CU Boulder
Nominated for: Wiley-Blackwell Student Prize, Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival
 2020 *Berta Greenwald Ledecy Undergraduate Writers Fellowship*, Harvard Magazine
Harvard College-Mindich Independent Research & Community Engagement (RCE) Award

DISTRIBUTION

2021 – Canyon Cinema, USA
 2022 – 2025 The Criterion Channel, *A New England Document*, USA / Canada

FILM FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

2023 Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival, London, UK
 Aesthetica Short Film Festival, York, UK
 Center for Afrofuturist Studies Ordinary Survival Film Festival, Iowa City, IA, USA
 2022 Society for Visual Anthropology Film and Media Festival, Seattle, WA, USA
 Mimesis Documentary Festival at CU Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA
 2021 New York African Film Festival, New York City, NY, USA
 Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival, London, UK
 Screening Scholarship Media Festival, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
 Third Horizon Film Festival, Miami, FL, USA
 Prismatic Ground Experimental Documentary Festival, New York City, NY, USA
 Mimesis Documentary Festival at CU Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA
 New Renaissance Film Festival, London, UK
 2020 International Documentary Festival Sheffield, 'Sheffield Doc/Fest', UK

SOLO PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Che Applewhaite presents: interference*, spotlight program, DIFFUSION, Toronto, CA
 2023 *how extremely lazy of me*, lecture-performance, transmediale, Berlin, DE

GROUP PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Jerwood Survey III*, national touring exhibition, Collective, Edinburgh, Scotland
 2024 *tremors*, Millenium Film Workshop, Brooklyn, NY, USA
Jerwood Survey III, national touring exhibition, Site Gallery, Sheffield, England, UK
Jerwood Survey III, national touring exhibition, g39, Cardiff, Wales
Jerwood Survey III, national touring exhibition, Southwark Park Galleries, London, England, UK
 2023 *things we do in the dark*, curated by Farrah Rahaman, Express Newark, Rutgers University, NJ, USA
 2022 *Contact Film Series*, programmed by Renée Green, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, OH, USA
Among Black Atlantic Cinemas, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, USA
REEL: AXIS, NOT POLES, curated by Languid Hands, Cubitt Gallery, London, UK

- OMNIBUS “YOU.US.THEM”, curated by Sentient.Art.Film, Anthology Film Archives, New York City, NY, USA
This is Not Anarchy, This Is Chaos, transmediale, Berlin, DE
- 2021 *Unexpected Lessons: Decolonizing Knowledge and Memory*, conference by Talking Objects Lab,
 Akademie der Kunst, Berlin, DE
Regarding Museums Short Film Weekend, Cultural Workers Against Humboldt Forum, Berlin, DE
A Moment In Between: A Virtual Celebration of Octavia Butler, curated by Sentient.Art.Film, currents.fm,
 New York City, NY, USA: virtual
Dislocated.Blackness, curated by Nan Collymore, 2727 California Street, Berkeley, CA, USA: virtual
OMNIBUS: A New England Document, Sentient.Art.Film, USA: virtual

ACADEMIC SCREENINGS

- 2023 *Dissenting Knowledges*, Oxford – UdK Berlin Partnership Initiative in the Arts and Humanities, UdK Berlin, DE
Art of the Real, Prof. J.P. Sniadecki, Northwestern University, IL, USA
- 2022 *Black Cinemas*, Dr. Keisha Knight, Bennington College, VT, USA
- 2021 *Microcultural Incidents*, Prof. Michael Gitlin, Integrated Media Arts MFA, Hunter College, New York, USA
Readymades, Repatriation, Readymades, Prof. David Joselit, Art, Film and Visual Studies, Harvard University,
 Cambridge, MA, USA

SELECTED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Artist Talk: ‘HANDLE WITH CARE’ In Conversation: Che Applewhaite & Olukemi Lijadu, g39, Cardiff, Wales, UK
- 2022 Panel: *The Afterlives of Words: Unsettling Language, De-settling the Senses*, American
 Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: “Unsettling Landscapes”, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2021 Panel: *Center for Media at Risk Roundtable: Che Applewhaite, Ra Malika Imhotep, Farrah Rahaman*,
 Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Harvard College Premiere of "A New England Document", Philips Brooks Center for Public Service and Engaged
 Scholarship, in conversation with Ernst Karel and Dr. Veronika Kusumaryati, USA: virtual
 Group Artist Q&A: *Screening Scholarship Media Festival*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
 Group Artist Q&A: *Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival*, London, UK
- 2020 Industry Q&A: *Decolonizing Documentary*, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Sheffield, UK

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021 Guest Lecturer: *Black Arts Movements*, Prof. Stefano Harney, Academy of Media Arts Cologne, Cologne, DE
 Guest Lecturer: *Free the Land!*, Prof. Robin McDowell, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, USA
 Facilitator: *Narrative Collaboration Workshop*, Just Inquiry Initiative, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
- 2020 Guest Lecturer: *St Louis from Louis & Clark to Michael Brown*, Prof. Walter Johnson, Harvard University,
 Cambridge, MA, USA

CATALOGUE WRITING

- 2024 Priya Jay, *grief's interference*, in Jerwood Survey III Catalogue, Southwark Park Galleries, UK
 ISBN: 978-1-7396702-1-4

SELECTED PRESS & MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2024 Kambe Lovelace, [“Che Applewhaite Creates Spaces of Belonging.” Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, August 20, 2024.](#)
 Jonathan, Jones, [“Artists of the Future, Ghanaian Kings’ Robes and a Tiny Moth – the Week in Art.”](#)
 The Guardian, April 5, 2024, sec. Art and design.
- 2023 Mzezewa Tariro, “In Newark, an Exhibition of Films Calls for Kinship.” *The Cut*, April 20, 2023.
 Taniadoes, [“Che Applewhaite | The Most Interesting People On My Timeline | Episode 5](#), 2023.
 Inney Prakash, [“The best video essays of 2022.”](#) *Sight and Sound Magazine*, January 13, 2023. .
- 2022 Bianca Vivion, [“Writing Home | Generational Anxiety.”](#) PBS ALL ARTS, 2022.
 Jordan Cronk, “Documentary’s Newest Forms: A Conversation with Inney Prakash,” *The Criterion Collection*,
 April 25, 2022.
- 2020 Manisha Aggarwal-Schifellite, “Harvard Senior Uses Peabody Archives to Create Documentary,” *Harvard
 Gazette*, September 9, 2020

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Essay: Sky Hopinka “Sunflower Siege Engine” at Tanya Leighton, Berlin, 25 January 2023
- 2021 Personal Essay: “Documenting New England’s Unseen,” *Harvard Magazine*, September – October 2021
 Personal Essay: “Between Harvard and St. Louis,” *Harvard Magazine*, May – June 2021
- 2020 Review: “An Itinerant Becoming: *Mother I Am Suffocating, This Is My Last Film About You* by Lemohang Jeremiah
 Mosese, Documentary Fortnight, The Museum of Modern Art, NYC, February 2020,”
Millennium Film Journal, Fall 2020

- Interview: "Focus: Listening Against a Colonial Present, an Interview with Expedition Content's Ernst Karel and Veronika Kusumaryati," *Open City Documentary Festival*, September 15, 2020, online
- Art Criticism: "Downtown, A North Star: Part II/II," *The Harvard Advocate*, Spring 2020
- Art Criticism: "Downtown, A North Star: Part I/II," *The Harvard Advocate*, Winter 2020
- 2019 Journalism: "Harvard faces lawsuit alleging it unlawfully possesses and profits from first photos of slaves." Applewhaite, Che R., and Molly C. McCafferty. *Harvard Crimson*, March 21, 2019
- 2018 Speech: *The Reality of Terrorism*, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Tawakkol Karman, [University of Oxford](#).
- Art Journalism: "A Homecoming in Kendall Square" *Harvard Crimson*, September 19, 2018.

PROJECTS

2022 – TBD

Drone Life AKA "R.P.J."

Research | Writing | Installation | Primary & Secondary Photography | Film Direction | Production

Drone Life AKA "R.P.J." is an interactive video installation that questions how both director and audience want their intimate histories of displacement remembered.

Drone Life AKA "R.P.J." has received support from Somerset House (UK), transmediale (DE,) and Abandon Normal Devices (UK).

2022

We Are People

Research | Film Direction | Edit | Unit Photography | Co-Production | Co-Writing

We Are People memorializes the black lives lost to unlawful police murder in East Port of Spain and documents the ongoing effects on community members, lawyers, and activists who rose together in Summer 2020 to hold the Trinidad and Tobago state accountable to its citizens.

We Are People has received support from the United Nations' Antiracism Coalition and the Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship Memorial Fund (USA).

2020 – 2022

Scenes of Category Destruction

Research | Film Direction | Edit | Script | Production | Secondary Cinematography | Sound Mix | Voiceover

Scenes of Category Destruction approaches the recorded social life of ballroom as filmic evidence of ritualized modes of worldly being. It explores how participant image-makers manifest afro-fabulative practices with, for and against the camera.

Research: "Vision and Power" Seminar, "Scenes of (Black) Feminine Destruction"

Moving Image Art: *I AM THE WORLD*, 2022, 9"

Scenes of Category Destruction has received support from Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (DE) and the Department of Art, Film, and Visual Studies, Harvard University (USA).

2019 – 2021

A New England Document

Research | Writing | Film Direction | Edit | Script | Cinematography | Production | Secondary Photography | Sound Mix | Voiceover

A New England Document reconstructs the genocidal impulses of two Harvard ethnographers' photographic encounters in the Kalahari Desert, Namibia, from the perspective of an Indigenous boy named /Gaishay: what would he have said about the Marshalls if he studied them too?

Research: *Harvard College Senior Thesis* - "A New England Document: Proto-Cinematic Practice Against Genocidal Acceptability", *summa cum laude*

Works: *A New England Document*, 2020, 16"

Writing: *Harvard Magazine*

Workshop: *Found Images*

A New England Document received support from Harvard University's Department of Art, Film, and Visual Studies, Department of Anthropology, Sensory Ethnography Lab, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

2019 – 2021

IN LOVING MEMORY

Research | Writing | Film Direction | Cinematography | Co-Production | Edit | Primary & Secondary Photography | Sound Recording | Sound Design

IN LOVING MEMORY narrates the experiential archives of a Black mother whose father and son breathe once more through the young athletes she coaches at Normandy High School in St. Louis, Missouri

Works: *Experimental: 4* – let me breathe

Research: *16* – IN LOVING MEMORY

Writing: *Harvard Magazine*

Workshop: *Place-Based Narrative Collaboration*

IN LOVING MEMORY received support from Pinwheel Productions, Harvard University's Mindich Program for Engaged Scholarship and The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History

CURATORIAL

- 2024 ***Che Applewhaite presents: interference, spotlight program, DIFFUSION, Toronto, CA***
“This program evidences essay filmmaking as a home for world-building relationships to personal and collective realities. Interference concentrates on works that rescript and expand documentary art’s communicative conventions that expand documentary art’s grammars by rescripting and gesturing beyond the vestiges of its enclosures: words, linear time, reason, the human, genocide, and unnecessary suffering to name a few. The formal strategies in these works become material conversations between layered structures of feeling across time. I am enlivened by these citations, where linearity is lost and lineages are honoured to remix and revalue sites of being.”
- 2019 – 20 ***Curator, #InTheCity Visual Arts Fellowship, The Commonwealth Project, The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Cambridge, MA, USA + The Griot Museum, St. Louis, MO, USA***
A photography-focused collaborative fellowship commissioning six St. Louis, Missouri-based black artists to respond to the question: “*What is St. Louis to you?*”, later exhibiting their work in 2021 at The Griot Museum.
- 2018 – 19 ***Screening Committee Member, 26th New York African Film Festival; New York City, NY, USA***

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 - 2024 ***Application Reviewer, Enterprise Documentary Fund, International Documentary Association, Los Angeles, CA, USA***
Evaluated submissions to international non-profit fund that makes awards of maximum \$100,000 USD to feature-length documentary filmmakers.
- 2020 – 21 ***Artist Assistant to Christopher Harris R.I. '21, Harvard-Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study***
- 2018 – 19 ***Artist Assistant to Ja'Tovia Gary R.I. '19, Harvard-Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study***
- 2020 – 21 ***Co-Founder, Just Inquiry Initiative***
Harvard-Mindich Program for Engaged Scholarship (MPES); Cambridge, MA, USA
The Just Inquiry Initiative is a funding initiative that supports undergraduate and graduate student projects with grants of maximum \$10,000 USD that, through long-term inquiry-based action and reflection, align learning with confronting social issues.
- 2019 ***Program in Community Engaged Research Intern, The Commonwealth Project***
The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History; Cambridge, MA, USA + St. Louis, MO, USA
Participated in justice initiatives against segregation and environmental racism through on-site archival, oral history, and scientific research with community members and various project partners active in law, arts, and music spheres in the greater St. Louis region.
- 2018 ***Summer Intern, Yes Akademia (YAKA); Paris, FR + Soussane, SN***
Wrote applications for grants of ~10,000 euros for Paris-based social enterprise. Stewarded Senegalese and French young adults on a 5-week intercultural exchange program in a rural Senegalese village.
- 2018 ***Research Intern, Office of Gordon and Sarah Brown; London, UK***

SOCIETIES

- 2019 – 21 Harvard College Undergraduate Research Fellow, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF)
- 2020 – 21 The Signet Society of Arts & Letters, Cambridge, MA, USA
- 2019 – 21 The Harvard Advocate, Cambridge, MA, USA

SKILLS

Languages: English – Fluent Proficiency, French – Fluent Proficiency, German – Beginner Proficiency

Technical: Video & Film: Avid Media Composer, Adobe Creative Cloud, Final Cut Pro, | Coding Languages: HTML, CSS, C, Python | Platforms: Slack, Asana, WordPress, Squarespace, Format | Social Media Marketing: Twitter, Facebook, Mailchimp