

MELIKE VIVASTINE KONUR

Embodied Cultural Visionary | Un-disciplinary Artist | Arts Manager

Introduction

As a Black multicultural movement-based artist and mother, my lived experiences deeply influenced my work as a social activist, driven by the shared needs of my community. Based between NYC and DC, I develop and lead projects that use performing arts to build community, promote healing, and achieve justice. My most recent publicly shared works, MUVA and Jenerasyon, focus on foundation and narrative building to address the barriers Black mothers face in achieving a thriving livelihood in the arts. These projects actively support and create opportunities by fostering a space where we share our stories, explore solutions through movement, are witnessed in the solitude of mothering, and heal together. With a strong educational background and extensive professional experience, I am but one in a small and mighty movement dedicated to honoring our narratives and to that end, advancing our careers as visionaries, worldbuilders and caregivers through my projects. My work fosters a sense of belonging as we echo our truths and validate our stories, essential in combating racism, ableism, and ageism, thereby creating inclusive spaces that value the existence of Black mothering artists.

Education

May 2023 - M.A. Arts Management and Entrepreneurship | The New School
Matriculated with 3.99 GPA, Summa cum laude.

July 2023 - Certificate | University of Maryland/DeVos Institute of Arts Management

September 2023 - Certificate | The Joyce Theater Foundation Teaching Artist

June 2008 - B.A. Jazz Dance | Point Park University Conservatory

Recent Generative Work

Opening October 2024 "Women I've Been" Interdisciplinary Gallery Exhibition | Atlantic Center for the Arts x Sibyl's Shrine

November 2023 Jenerasyon: Mapping the Choreography of Early Motherhood a Visual Poem ([4 min 51 seconds in length](#)) in Collaboration with Maria J. Hackett

March 2023 - June 2023 MUVA | Foundational and narrative building to address the barriers Black mothers face in achieving a thriving livelihood in the arts by fostering community representational justice for Black artist mothers. This initiative includes:

- MUVA Says... Podcast: Season 1, 6 / 30 minute episodes engaged in conversation with [Dr. Sabiyha Prince](#), [Miss Poison Ivory](#), Mariella Price, [Sema Konur](#), [Ellie Steingarber](#), & [Queen Ravenden](#).
- MUVA Showcase: 1 hour length ticketed production that provided childcare at Duane Park, NYC featuring Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Cheri Moon and Queen of Burlesque, Miss Poison Ivory.

Professional Performing Experience

Spring 2022 - Current: Duane Park NYC Burlesque Supperclub, NY NY
August 2023 - January 2024: Company XIV: Lead, SugarQueen | Nutcracker Rouge
2018 Television - The Deuce Paradise Garage Dancer HBO
2017 - Television High Town Bus Passenger Starz
2017 - Television POSE Audience Member FX
2017 Television - Benimle Soyle- Sing with Me Primetime TV Personality Kanal D/Season 1
2017 Saturday Night Fever "Candy" the club Singer, Ensemble Riverside Theater, Virginia
2016 Recording Artist featured on "Crocodile" album by MVLLLA Camille 3000 Records, UK
2014 Mercedes Benz - Director, Choreographer, Singer | ZED Entertainment
2013 Absolut Vodka - Director, Choreographer, Singer | Metin Gursoy Medya
2013 Elizabeth II Queen's Jubilee Classical Soloist, Pierro Piccioni Italiana Orchestra del Cinema
2013 The Foundation Alberto Sordi Classical Soloist, Jason Piccioni Italiana Orchestra del Cinema
2008 Thou Shalt Not Voodoo Mama, Chorus Dancer/Singer Tome Cousin
2006 Pearl Queen Understudy, Chorus Debbie Allen
2006 Brainerd Heritage Fund Benefit Chorus Dancer/Singer Debbie Allen
2004 Dreams Chorus Dancer/Singer Debbie Allen

Teaching Experience

May 2023 - Harmonics of Resilience Virtual Workshop | Sibyl's Shrine

- Organized and led workshop combining primal sounding, yogic chants, and mindful body breath work to heal and integrate the voice into the body, culminating in a group-generated improvisational work in voice and movement.

April 1999 - May 2012: Loudoun School of Ballet

- Dance teacher for ages 2-adult in classical ballet, modern, and jazz techniques and visiting guest workshop teacher for The Loudoun Jazz & Co.

Professional Experience

October 2023- Current Individual Giving and Cultivation Manager | Dance/NYC

- Lead strategic initiatives to activate resources from 200 donors and funders to support cultural shifts for and justice within the dance community.
- Manage donor relations and board stewardship, successfully securing contributions ranging from skilled services to \$10,000.
- Develop and implement fundraising campaigns, spearhead donor newsletter
- Lead production of annual fundraising event, curating the vision, performances and artist management, sharing timelines and delegating tasks to our production team to ensure we meet our success metrics.

January 2014 - Present DEVA Arts Consulting - Founder & Principal

- Established a consulting firm focused on production, grant writing, and providing strategic guidance and support to independent artists.
- Offering services in fundraising, project management, and community engagement, with a focus on decolonized and inclusive practices

January 2023 A.I.M By Kyle Abraham Executive Intern

Artistic Awards and Recognition

June 2024 | August 2025 Sibyl's Shrine & Pittsburgh Cultural Trust hosted by Carnegie Museum

June 2023 | Dec 2024 Brooklyn Arts Exchange Artist in Residence

May 2023 | The New School Impact Entrepreneurship Award

2021 & 2022 | The New School Exceptional Talent Scholarship

Spring 2023 | Celia Fund Grant Recipient in Gyrotonic Training

Professional Development

October 2023- June 2024 | artEquity BIPOC Leadership Cohort

2023-2024 | Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Emerging Leaders

January 2023 - April 2023 | Pentacle Arts Performing Arts Intern

January 2023 - Feb 2023 | Planet LA Records – Brand Partnerships Intern