



33rd Annual Duncanson Artist-in-Residence Ya'Ke Smith

The Taft Museum of Art and the Robert S. Duncanson Society are delighted to welcome filmmaker Ya'Ke Smith as the 2019 Duncanson Artist-in-Residence.

Ya'Ke Smith's films have received worldwide acclaim, screening and winning awards at more than 90 film festivals. The Director's Guild of America, the Student Academy Awards, HBO, Showtime, and the city of Buffalo, New York have honored Smith.

His short *Katrina's Son* screened at more than 50 film festivals, winning 14 awards. Smith's debut feature, *WOLF*, which NPR called "an impressive piece by a young director," premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival before going on to screen and win awards at festivals across North America; *WOLF* is now available for download via several video-on-demand outlets.

THE DUNCANSON ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

It was established in 1986 by the Taft Museum of Art and The Robert S. Duncanson Society to honor the achievements of contemporary African American artists working in a variety of disciplines. The program honors the relationship between African American painter Robert S. Duncanson and his patron, Nicholas Longworth, who commissioned Duncanson to paint landscape murals in the foyer of his home, now the Taft Museum of Art.

Duncanson Artist-in-Residence Sponsor



Smith's short film, *dawn*, made its television premiere on HBO in February 2015 and screened on the network for two years, also streaming as part of Issa Rae's *Short Film Sunday* series on her YouTube channel. His web series, *The Beginning and Ending of Everything*, won several awards and is currently streaming on KweliTV.

Smith has been featured on NPR, CNN, HLN, Ebony Online, Indiewire, Shadow&Act, and in *Filmmaker* magazine. In addition to teaching, Smith currently writes and directs television content for AMS Pictures and the REELZ network.

"I am honored to be named the 2019 Duncanson Artist-in-Residence," said Ya'Ke Smith. "Robert S. Duncanson's very existence changed the perception of African American artists and revolutionized the art world. He redefined what art was and could be, while also opening the eyes of the world to the knowledge that art created by an African American could exist in the mainstream. My hope with every film that I produce is to challenge the hearts and minds of viewers, while changing their perspective on those that they don't understand. Following in the footsteps of an artist that blazed this trail is indeed an honor."

"We are delighted that Ya'Ke Smith has been named the 2019 Duncanson Artist-in-Residence," said Phyllis McCallum, a member of the Taft Museum of Art Board and the Duncanson Society. "He is an important voice in independent cinema and is known for his unflinching and veracious style of storytelling."

Ya'Ke Smith earned a BA in communication arts from the University of the Incarnate Word, where he later became the youngest recipient of the Alumni of Distinction for Professional Achievement award. He received his MFA from the University of Texas at Austin's film program, where he is currently an associate professor of film. He was previously the Morgan Woodward Distinguished Professor of Film at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Artist accommodation provided by
Morgan and Eddie Rigaud

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PUBLIC EVENTS

From October 4 through 18, Smith will lead public programs, teach workshops, and visit schools across Greater Cincinnati.

OVER-THE-RHINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, October 4, 3 p.m.

Art Academy of Cincinnati
Film Screening and Talk Back

Saturday, October 5

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
1:30 p.m. Film Panel Discussion
2:45 p.m. Film Screening and Talk Back

Experience film, meet the artist, and learn about the industry with two special events during the Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival.

For more information, visit
www.otrfilmfest.org.

OPENING RECEPTION

Sunday, October 6, 6–8 p.m.

Taft Museum of Art

Join us as we welcome Ya'Ke Smith to Cincinnati. Meet the artist, see a sample of his work, and be inspired.

FREE. Refreshments, cash bar, and complimentary valet parking.

Reservations recommended: taftmuseum.org.

Registration opens September 1.