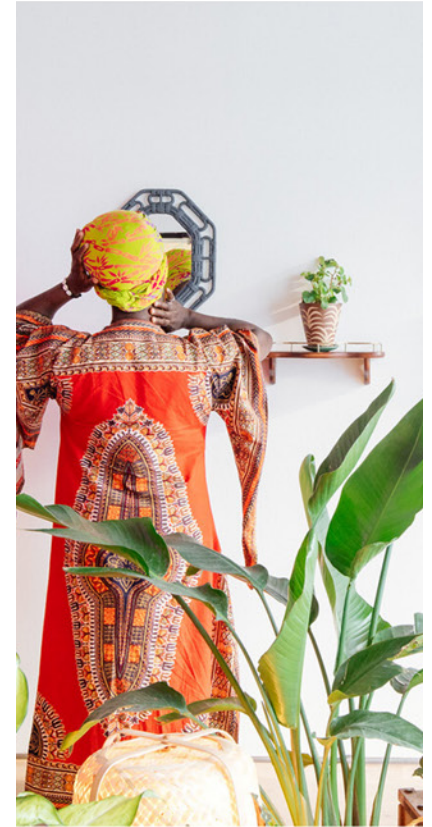


“Homecoming” Angela Drakeford, 2019



Drakeford brings together real and artificial plants, vintage furniture, textiles, books, and digital media to create a multisensory environment inspired by the domestic spaces she has created to nurture her own wellbeing. Against the backdrop of current media, where citizen videos witness how Black bodies are hyper-policed by law enforcement and civilians in public spaces, Drakeford understands her work to be an “act of resistance” and “a mental health practice.” Visitors were invited to read and relax in the gallery while reflecting on the privilege of rest. Drakeford says: “I want the exhibition to be a gift, a place for lingering and taking up space . . . I think of the exhibition as an invitation to be in your body.”

*“...what it takes
to combat the
daily
degradation of
a person's joy...”*

Meet the Artist!



Angela U. Drakeford is an interdisciplinary artist residing in Boston, Massachusetts where she is an Assistant Professor at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Drakeford received her MFA in Fibers and Material Studies from Tyler School of Art and her BFA in Sculpture from University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has participated in residencies and fellowships at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts and the Union for Contemporary Art, respectively. Her work has been shown in museums throughout the country, including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Museum of Nebraska Art, and Joslyn Art Museum. Drakeford’s work is held in public and private collections, including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Home Blessing

Angela Drakeford created her installation “Homecoming” as a sanctuary for oppressed people to recharge and feel at peace. This activity invites you to set an intention for your home to exist as a sanctuary for your family.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/homecoming>

Essential Questions

How do you want people to feel in your home?

What sorts of activities bring joy to your home?

What values do people in your home share?

What about your home makes you feel gratitude?

What responsibilities do you have to maintain a positive vibe in your home?



1. Gather the people you live with to work through this activity with you.
2. Reflect on the home as a safe space. What makes your home a sanctuary for your family? Brainstorm and discuss answers to the essential questions.
3. Compose a blessing based on your discussion, writing it down as you work together. You could start with “In this home we...” or “May this home be...” Your blessing could read like a list of promises, or a list of desires. Experiment with different lengths, and even rhyme if you like.
4. Clear a space to meditate and bless the space. Assemble in a way that feels the most comfortable - perhaps holding hands, kneeling, or any other posture. Consider lighting a candle or incense. Recite the blessing you’ve written together. Add a moment of silence at the end for everyone to reflect on the words of the blessing.
5. Write the blessing out nicely and display somewhere in the home. Refer to it as a family. Enjoy your safe space!

Note:

This blessing is intended as a non-denominational activity.

You may incorporate it into your existing spiritual beliefs if you wish, but if you desire a more secular approach simply bless your home rooted in the love and power of the family that lives within its walls.