

## Constance Collier-Mercado

[www.ConstanceSherese.com](http://www.ConstanceSherese.com)

Atlanta, GA • Bronx, NY • Chicago, IL

Womanish Activist. AfroDiasporic. Black Culture Worker.

Constance Collier-Mercado (@WriterChicLady) is an experimental Writer and Artist whose work examines nuance within dialectical, multilingual, and equivocal spaces. Consumed by ideas of global Blackness as polyamorous Church, she weaves this aesthetic into her practice via an irreverent blk feminine divine. Born in Chicago and raised in the Bronx, her writing takes on a broad range of styles but is especially influenced by the poetry of the Black Arts Movement, cycles of repetition and revision, and her belief in infinite AfroFutures.

Her words and art have been published in FIYAH Magazine, Linden Avenue Literary Journal, The Auburn Avenue, Kweli Journal, The Believer, Root Work Journal, Hennepin Review, and elsewhere. She has received Fellowships from Kimbilio [Fiction], The Watering Hole, The Hambidge Center, and in 2019 she was named the Jack Jones Literary Arts Octavia Butler Fellow in Fiction.

In 2021, Constance was short-listed for the inaugural Samuel R. Delany Fellowship from CatStone Books. She has also been invited to participate in workshops from The Juniper Institute, The Hurston/Wright Foundation, The VQR Poetry Conference, and The Home School Claremont. An excerpt from her grief play “Chelsea’s Dream: Embracing Yellow” premiered as a unanimous selection at the 2015 Atlanta Black Theatre Festival and she produced a one-woman spoken word homage to The Last Poets at the 2016 Festival.

Founder of the cultural arts clinic, *The CultSTATUS Arts Haven*, Constance has curated two AfroFutures Syllabus events: Hoo-Doula/Voo-Doula, held at the Auburn Avenue Research Library, and Black Sun/Black Son, coinciding with the 2017 North American Solar Eclipse. Hoo-Doula/Voo-Doula has since been added to the Schomburg Center’s #Syllabus Web Archive and is a grant-funded community book club.

An intern with the African Diaspora Art Museum of Atlanta (ADAMA), Constance lives and works in Southwest Atlanta.



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**Published Work:**

- 2021, December      *Self-Portrait as Red Heifer* - Published Poem, Pushcart Prize Nominated  
Hennepin Review | HennepinReview.com
- 2021, August        *Waterbearer: A Reading From the Book of...* - Published Paper  
Root Work Journal | RootWorkJournal.org
- 2020, October       *An Interview with Ingrid LaFleur & Rasheedah Phillips*  
The Believer | BelieverMag.com
- 2019, May            *Haiku for Georgia* - Published Poem  
The Auburn Avenue | TheAuburnAvenue.com
- 2019, March         *Medicine/Spell/Cipher of Sisters - for 1619* - Blog Post  
Black Women's Cipher | HonoreeJeffers.com
- 2018, November     *Bodies and beasts and bodies* - Published Poem  
Kweli Journal | KweliJournal.org
- 2018, November     *Kale Greens* - Published Poem  
Kweli Journal | KweliJournal.org
- 2018, November     *Carolina Gold Mississippi Blue (2)* - Published Poem  
The Auburn Avenue | TheAuburnAvenue.com
- 2018, November     *Hatch* - Mixed Media Painting, Charcoal & Watercolor  
The Auburn Avenue | TheAuburnAvenue.com
- 2018, November     *Duo* - Mixed Media Painting, Chicken Bone/Feathers & White-Gold Rice  
The Auburn Avenue | TheAuburnAvenue.com
- 2017, December     *Mocha Yogurt w/ PR* - Published Poem  
Linden Avenue Literary Journal | LindenAveLit.com

- 2017, December      *bad sign* - Published Poem  
Linden Avenue Literary Journal | LindenAveLit.com
- 2017, October      *Rootwork* - Published Poem  
FIYAH Magazine | FiyahLitMag.com
- 2014, October      *Internal* - Published Poem  
GSU Conflict Resolution Magazine | Atlanta, GA

**Fellowships/Residencies, etc.:**

- 2022, August      *Fiction* - Hambidge Center, 4-Week Residency  
The Hambidge Center | Rabun Gap, GA
- 2022, July      *Fiction* - Kimbilio [Fiction] Fellowship  
Southern Methodist University | Taos, NM
- 2022, June      *Poetry* - Juniper Summer Institute Workshop  
University of Massachusetts | Amherst, MA
- 2021, December      *Fiction* - Samuel R. Delany Fellowship, Short-listed  
CatStone Books | Atlanta, GA
- 2021, December      *Poetry* - The Watering Hole Fellowship  
Virtual Retreat (covid-19) | Columbia, SC
- 2019, October      *Fiction* - Jack Jones Literary Arts, Octavia Butler Fellow  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Retreat Center | Santa Fe, NM
- 2019, May      *Poetry* - Sing That Like Dovesong Workshop  
Winter Tangerine | Online Only
- 2019, April      *Prose* - Writing with Fear Workshop  
Apogee Journal | Online Only
- 2019, April      *Poetry* - The Singing Bullet Workshop, Scholarship Winner  
I. S. Jones | Online Only

- 2019, March                    *Prose - Feathered We Remember Workshop*  
Winter Tangerine | Online Only
- 2018, August                   *Fiction - Hurston/Wright Foundation Writer's Week*  
Howard University | Washington D.C.
- 2018, August                   *MultiGenre - Live to Write, Summer Session*  
The Speakeasy Project | Online Only
- 2018, August                   *Poetry - VQR Writer's Conference*  
University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA
- 2018, April                    *MultiGenre - Live to Write, Winter Session*  
The Speakeasy Project | Online Only
- 2017, January                *Interdisciplinary - The Home School, Poetry Conference*  
Pitzer College | Claremont, CA

**Group Exhibitions:**

- 2017, February               *AAFTA Library Exhibit - Five Paintings*  
Central Atlanta Library | Atlanta, GA
- 2016, December             *AAFTA Juried Exhibition - Duo*  
Hammonds House Museum | Atlanta, GA
- 2016, August                 *Members Only Exhibition - Haven*  
WonderRoot | Atlanta, GA
- 2014, October                *My Atlanta Exhibition - Two Photographs*  
Atlanta Celebrates Photography | Atlanta, GA
- 2014, July                     *Pin-Up Exhibition - Three Photographs*  
Abernathy Arts Center | Atlanta, GA

**Performance Art:**

- 2016, October      *The CultSTATUS Poets* - A Spoken Word Homage to The Last Poets  
Atlanta Black Theatre Festival | AtlantaBTF.org
- 2015, October      *Chelsea's Dream: Embracing Yellow* - A Grief Play, Excerpted  
Atlanta Black Theatre Festival | AtlantaBTF.org
- 2011, March        *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Women in SNCC* - Staged Readings  
GSU Performing & Visual Arts Council | Atlanta, GA
- 2006, March        *Dr. Faustus: Occult Remix* - Reader/Invoker  
Baruch College Performing Arts Center | New York, NY

**Ephemera:**

- 2022, March        *Moderator* - Hoo-Doula/Voo-Doula: An AfroFutures Book Club  
Monthly Event, Online & Gallery 992 | Atlanta, GA
- 2021, December    *Grant Recipient* - Project Development Award, Hoo-Doula/Voo-Doula  
Alternate Roots | Atlanta, GA
- 2020, October      *Events Intern* - African Diaspora Art Museum of Atlanta, ADAMA  
(10/2020 - Present) | Atlanta, GA
- 2019, June         *Guest Speaker* - Live to Write, Summer Session  
The Speakeasy Project | Online Only
- 2019, March        *Moderator* - Hoo-Doula/Voo-Doula: An AfroFutures Book Club  
Monthly Event at The Movement Lab | Atlanta, GA
- 2018, February     *Poetry Reader* - Linden Avenue Literary Journal  
(02/2018 - 09/2020) | Online Only
- 2017, September   *Speaker Manager* - AJC Decatur Book Festival  
Decatur Square | Decatur, GA

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| 2017, August    | <i>Producer/Curator</i> - Black Sun/Black Son: An AfroFutures Syllabus<br>Web Document & Twitter Chat   Issuu.com      |
| 2016, November  | <i>Producer/Curator</i> - Hoo-Doula/Voo-Doula: An AfroFutures Syllabus<br>Auburn Avenue Research Library   Atlanta, GA |
| 2016, September | <i>Speaker Manager</i> - AJC Decatur Book Festival<br>Decatur Square   Decatur, GA                                     |
| 2016, March     | <i>Art Instructor</i> - ChopArt<br>Homeless Shelter   Atlanta, GA  |
| 2015, September | <i>Speaker Manager</i> - AJC Decatur Book Festival<br>Decatur Square   Decatur, GA                                     |
| 2015, April     | <i>Photographer</i> - Atlanta Streets Alive<br>Historic West End District   Atlanta, GA                                |
| 2014, August    | <i>Painting Assistant</i> - Living Walls, The City Speaks<br>Mac Stewart Mural @ 156 Forsyth Street SW   Atlanta, GA   |
| 2011, March     | <i>Production Manager</i> - Tell The Tale Pictures<br>Blythe & Rio, Independent Film   Atlanta, GA                     |
| 2011, March     | <i>Arts Blogger</i> - Rabbits In My Mind<br>WordPress Site   Atlanta, GA   |
| 2011, February  | <i>Founder</i> - The CultSTATUS Arts Haven<br>Cultural Arts Organization   Atlanta, GA                                 |
| 2004, January   | <i>DJ Host/Radio Personality</i> - The Blue Note Jazz Show<br>WBMB Radio, 87.9FM   New York, NY                        |