

COURTNEY ALEXANDER

Artist · Storyteller · Cultural Worker · Worldbuilder

Born 1986, Pahokee, FL · Living and working in Chicago, IL

ARTIST BIO

Courtney Alexander is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, publisher, and public speaker. Her practice explores memory, identity, and spirit through mythmaking and material work, emerging from an early excavation of her experience moving through the world as a fat Black queer femme. What began as a deeply personal inquiry has grown into a practice rooted in honoring the stories carried within people and places and creating space for what is possible beyond them.

Through her work, she challenges the narratives placed upon the body, moving beyond physical representation into expressions of self as both lived and timeless. This inquiry has expanded into performance, film, and site-based installation grounded in lineage, community, and the preservation of Black histories and geographies.

She is the creator of Dust II Onyx, a 78-piece mixed media tarot series depicting Blackness as humanity, cultural memory, and cosmology. Crowdfunded and independently published, the deck made history as the first widely distributed tarot deck by a Black artist and is held in collections including MIT Libraries Distinctive Collections, with features in publications by TASCHEN, ABRAMS, and Random House.

Her work has been featured in Teen Vogue, Huffington Post, PBS Arts Plus, and Hyperallergic. She has presented nationally through speaking engagements, workshops, and Dialogues on Free Existence, a self-organized 10-city tour. God Is, her film and performance work, has been presented at venues across the country.

Courtney Alexander was born in Pahokee, Florida. She holds a BFA in Studio Art from the University of South Florida and lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.

EXHIBITIONS

Solo & Collaborative

- 2026** "God Is/Sustenance," Bombay Beach Biennale, Bombay Beach, CA
- 2024** "God Is," Bombay Beach Biennale, Bombay Beach, CA
- 2020** "It's In the Cards," Lower Eastside Girls Club, ART ON PAPER FAIR, New York, NY
- 2020** Open Studio, 136 Avenue C, New York, NY
- 2018** "From Dust to Onyx," The Centre Gallery, Tampa, FL
- 2018** "Dust II Onyx," The Rialto Theatre, Tampa, FL
- 2015** "Product of Public School & Tar Venus," The Oliver Gallery, Tampa, FL
- 2015** "It's About Time," collaboration with Estefania Velez, The Centre Gallery, Tampa, FL
- 2014** "Overload," solo exhibition, The Centre Gallery, Tampa, FL

Group

- 2026** "Tarot! Renaissance Symbols, Modern Visions," Morgan Museum, New York, NY
- 2025** "The Art and History of the Tarot," Prototype Experimental Museum, Columbus, OH

- 2025** "TAROT: Origins & Afterlives," Warburg Institute, London, UK
 - 2024** "Garden of Even," Ontario, Canada
 - 2021** "Alchemy & Intention: Summer Solstice Performance Art Festival," Franconia Sculpture Park, Minneapolis, MN
 - 2020** "Everyday Magic," The National Arts Club, New York, NY
 - 2020** "Black HERstory," The Dorill Initiative, New York, NY
 - 2019** "Our Elements," 136 Avenue C, New York, NY
 - 2019** "Dreams Deferred," MIZE Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL
 - 2016** "A SiSTAR Movement," Tampa Heights Civic Center, Tampa, FL
 - 2016** "Down the Rabbit Hole," Bloom Art Center, St. Petersburg, FL
 - 2016** "Elegies, Punks, and Raging Queens," performance, The Space 2106, Tampa, FL
 - 2015** USF School of Art & Art History 39th Annual Juried Exhibition, The Oliver Gallery, Tampa, FL
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COLLECTIONS

- 2019** Dust II Onyx: A Melanated Tarot. MIT Libraries Distinctive Collections, Cambridge, MA.
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PUBLICATIONS

- 2024** *"Sacred Sites: Library of Esoterica," Jessica Hundley. TASCHEN.*
 - 2024** *"Art History of Tarot," Ryuji Kagami. Sogensha Co.*
 - 2021** *"Tarot and Divination Cards: A Visual Archive," Laetitia Barber. ABRAMS.*
 - 2020** *"Black Futures: A Visual Anthology," Jenna Wortham and Kimberly Drew. Random House.*
 - 2020** *"Tarot: Library of Esoterica," Jessica Hundley, Johannes Fiebig, Marcella Kroll. TASCHEN.*
 - 2017–18** *Dust II Onyx: A Melanated Tarot & Vade Mecum. Courtney Alexander. Black & Sage Publishing.*
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AWARDS, RESIDENCIES & DISTINCTIONS

- 2020** Artist & Teaching Residency, Lower East Side Girls Club (2 Months), New York, NY
 - 2016** Kickstarter Campaign, "Dust II Onyx: A Melanated Tarot" — Raised \$29,870
 - 2015** James Rosenquist Award, USF School of Art 39th Annual Juried Exhibition
 - 2013** 39th Annual HCC Juried Student Art Exhibition, HCC Fine Arts Central Gallery, Tampa, FL
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EDUCATION

- 2015** Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art — University of South Florida, College of the Arts, Tampa, FL
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PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

- 2024** "Dialogues on Free Existence," Bombay Beach Biennale, Bombay Beach, CA
- 2023** Tarot, Time, and Editing Your Life — The Ultimate Tarot Masterclass, Hay House Publishing
- 2023** Black Femme Film Festival, Chicago, IL
- 2021** "Alchemy & Intention: Summer Solstice Performance Art Festival," Franconia Sculpture Park, Minneapolis, MN
- 2020** Open Studio & Artist Talk, 136 Avenue C, New York, NY
- 2020** "Art and Literacy through Tarot" Workshop (5 weeks), Lower Eastside Girls Club, New York, NY
- 2019** "Tarot Today, Tarot Tomorrow," Panelist — Occult & Humanities Conference at NYU

- 2019** Dialogues on Free Existence Tour — 10-city national tour including Portland, LA, Oakland, Chicago, Houston, Indianapolis
- 2018** "Self Discovery is Ancestral Discovery" Workshop — Sisterhood Summit
- 2018** "Literary Hoodoo: At the Crossroads of Spirit and Storytelling," Panelist — Memphis Literary Arts Festival
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PRESS (SELECTED)

- 2020** Hyperallergic — "Insightful and Laugh-Out-Loud Funny Reports From NY Fairs"
- 2020** BITCH Magazine — "Bitch List," The Sanctuary Issue No. 85
- 2018** PBS WEDU Arts Plus — Episode 705 (television)
- 2017** Teen Vogue — "Tarot 101: Basic Guide to Tarot"
- 2016** Huffington Post — "The Most Important Tarot Deck on Kickstarter"
- 2016** The Numinous — "Dream Project: The Story of the Dust II Onyx Tarot"