



MELANIE ARCHER

Woodbrook, Port of Spain, Trinidad // melaniearcher.com

EDUCATION

MFA 2003 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA
Book studies + design emphasis

B.Arch. 2000 Hampton University, Virginia, USA
magna cum laude, The National Dean's List



Books



Design



Writing



Curatorial



Research

BOOKS, DESIGN, MANAGEMENT, CURATION

Selected
experience

Freelance Designer + Writer
2007–present

Art Book Designer
Andrea Chung: Between Too Late & Too Early (2024); *Manifestations of Faith* (2023); *Masman* (2023); *Growing Up Woodbrook* (2022); *POS: An Architectural Record* (2021); *Cazabon: New Perspectives* (2019); *Forged from the Love: Colin Laird* (2018); *Contemporary Caribbean Architecture* (2015); *Record, Art, Memory* (2012); *Manikin: Anthony C. Lewis* (2009)

Creative Director, Designer
Cocoyay (launched 2024)
Verbal and visual product branding, packaging design

Partner, Co-editor
2011–present
Robert & Christopher Publishers, Trinidad
A to Z of Caribbean Art (2019); *In a World of Their Own* (2018); *See Me Here: Contemporary Self-Portraits from the Caribbean* (2014);

Pictures from Paradise: Contemporary Caribbean Photography (2012).
Editing, management, coordination, budgeting

Director/Engagement Lead
Unqueue Distributors Ltd, 2020–2024
Tech startup leadership

Part-Time Lecturer
UWI St. Augustine 2019–2022
Visual Arts and Communication Studies

Founding Member
Design Objective, 2017
Co-founded T&T non-profit design organisation

Curator, Writer, Designer
Y Art Gallery
“After” exhibition – Nov 2019; “Line” exhibition May–June 2017

Design Manager
By Making
2016–2018
Management of a progressive product design company

Editor
Difficult Conversations
Editor for British Council series based on Graham Fagen's 2017 Caribbean visit

Art Director
trinidad+tobago film festival 2010–2015
Brand management, design, coordination, budgeting

Co-curator, New Media
trinidad+tobago film festival 2012–2015. **Curator** 2020–2022. Curation of festival's experimental film programme + artists' talks

Co-Curator
Pictures from Paradise: Contemporary Caribbean Photography, feature exhibition, CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, May 2014

Curator + Designer
Public Spaces: The Architecture of Colin Laird June 2012–April 2013
National Museum and Art Gallery, Trinidad

Curator + Writer
Alex Smailes: 10
Survey exhibition, Nov 2012, Medulla Art Gallery, Trinidad

Managing Editor
Che Lovelace Paintings: 2004–2008 (Robert & Christopher Publishers, 2009)

Graphic Design Consultant
acla:works architecture + interiors, Trinidad, 2008–2013
Visual management for a leading Caribbean firm

Database + Special Projects Coordinator
Caribbean Contemporary Arts (CCA7), Trinidad, 2007–2008
Project management / Curatorial research

Managing Editor
Distributed Art Publishers, NY 2004–2005
Print coordination, budgeting, scheduling

Associate Editor, Co-Designer, Senior Writer
The Business of Holidays (NY: Monacelli Press, 2004)

SELECTED WRITING

Texts available
on request

UX writing, Unqueue apps (2020–2023)

Thirteen artist entries, *A to Z of Caribbean Art* (R&C Publishers, 2019)

“A Second Lens,” (catalogue essay for Nadia Huggins' solo show at NOW Gallery, UK, October 2019, pp. 16–18)

“Difficult Conversations”
Graham Fagen in Trinidad/
British Council, April 2017

“Closer,” (Gerard H. Gaskin's
Legendary) *The Caribbean*

Review of Books, Nov 2015

“After the Leap,” (Nadia Huggins' photography)
Caribbean Beat, Issue 134, Jul/Aug 2015, pp. 56–64

The Phaidon Archive of Graphic Design (London: Phaidon Press, Sept 2012), entries p. E015, H026, I003, J011, M021

“Gem of a Sculptor,”
(Jasmine Thomas-Girvan)
MACO Caribbean Living, Vol 11, Issue 2, pp. 50–59

“A Patterned Language,”
(Dermot Punnett)
ARC Magazine, Issue 7, May 2013, pp. 08–15

“Notes on (a) Painting,”
Che Lovelace: Paintings 2004–2008 (R&C Publishers, 2009), p. xi

“The Earthship Has Landed,”
Caribbean Beat, Sept/Oct 2008, p. 22

“Life Studies,” (Rachel Rochford)
The Caribbean Review of Books, No. 16, May 2008, pp. 44–47

“Soul Stories,” (Roberta Stoddart) *The Caribbean Review of Books*, No. 15, Feb 2008, pp. 20–23

“Embah's Song,” *MACO Caribbean Living*, Vol. 9, Issue 1, 2007, p. 72–80

“Treasure Island,” (Party posters in Trinidad)
PRINT magazine (New York), Jan/Feb 2007, pp. 64–67

AWARDS

Five Gold ADDYs: Book Design, 2022, 2023, 2024; **Integrated Brand Campaign**, 2025; **Best of Print**, 2025
Three Silver ADDYs: Book Design, 2023, 2024; **Packaging Design**, 2025

STRENGTHS

Attention to detail • Communication • Collaboration

FREE TIME

