

Brian D. Schneider

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Lighting Designer, Artist

The underlying belief of my work is that light is essentially a spiritual material, and the act of creating with light is a spiritual journey. This steers me towards themes of social, racial and environmental justice. My work offers us (both the artist and the viewer) a chance to explore issues from the viewpoint of our higher selves.

Education

1997 BFA in Film, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Residencies

2017 *Dancing with Aurora Borealis* - Acadiana Center for the Arts, Lafayette, LA

A collaborative performance created and workshopped with poet Kelly Clayton. We created a dialog between pre-biblical God, Yahweh and his wife Asherah. Kelly played the role of Asherah on stage. I developed the character of Yahweh, who communicated with His wife strictly through light.

Exhibitions

2023 Commissioned Work - *Be Still* - Hilliard Museum of Art, Lafayette, LA

An LED Neon installation using the words of Psalm 46:10 as a meditation technique. The piece was up for 15 months, mounted in a section of the glass facade facing out into the museum's courtyard and the street beyond.

2022 Group Exhibition - *Remember Earth?* - Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans LA

9th Annual Gulf South Open Call Exhibition featuring works by 54 multimedia artists from the Gulf coast states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Texas. Remember Earth? explores important issues facing our world, including climate change, pollution, coastal land erosion, natural disasters, dwindling resources, mass extinction, home loss, environmental racism, and growing inequalities brought on by environmental change.

2019 Solo Exhibition - *And the Stars Aligned* - Acadiana Center for the Arts, Lafayette, LA

Constellation lamps set inside a darkened vault, was my interpretation of the night sky. The lamps were inspired by the effects of light pollution on our ability to see the stars. The iron that stars create when they begin to die, is literally in our blood. It connects us with the Earth's black dirt, with Supernovas, with myths and stories, and with each other. If we ignore our interconnected parts, neither self knowledge or understanding of our world, is possible.

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Other Work

2021 The Mugshot Collection

A series of nightlights inspired by mugshots from the New Orleans City Archives filled my time during the pandemic quarantine. First, I turned the photographs into classic silhouettes, and then overlaid them on top of vintage flour sack fabric stretched over a small wire ring.

My choice to use historic mugshots was to highlight incarceration in Louisiana, the highest rate per capita in the world. I wanted to show the beauty and dignity inherent in people, regardless of their circumstances. As humans we are not fossils frozen in amber. We change, we learn, and we grow.

Their imprint on the world is surely more than what remains on an arrest card.