DESNE P. WHARTON

MEDIA DESIGNER

whartondesne@gmail.com
Portfolio: www.desnepwharton.com

Multimedia designer and researcher with over ten years of experience spanning live performance and installation art. Eager in expanding the study of Black visual culture, by examining the lived experiences of Black designers and live design practices to contribute new perspectives to theatre studies and Black studies.

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Curator, Memory Lane Skate | THEARC Theater | 2026

- Activated the archive of the National African American Roller Skating Association by curating an interactive skating rink exhibition utilizing music, media, and lighting, and live performance.

Exhibit Production Intern | Smithsonian National Museum of American History | 2025

- Integral member in the research, fabrication, production, and installation of the Mi Corazón y Vida exhibition.

Media Design Teaching Assistant | UT Austin | 2024 – Present

- Developed and delivered targeted lessons focused on visual and aural storytelling through time-based media.

THEATER + DANCE - MEDIA & SOUND DESIGN

PRODUCTION	DIRECTOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
Ain't No Mo	Mikala Gibson	Oscar Brockett Theater	Austin, Texas	2026
Me Duniya	Sinclair Emoghene	Oscar Brockett Theater	Austin, Texas	2025
Cyphers	Gesel Mason	Oscar Brockett Theater	Austin, Texas	2024
Fanny Packs	Aysha Upchurch	Cohen New Works Fest	Austin, Texas	2024
fuckin' loud	Sinclair Emoghene	Oscar Brockett Theater	Los Angeles, CA	2023
Colored Museum	Dr. Lamar Bagley	Center for Performing Arts	Largo, Maryland	2023

INSTALLATION - MEDIA DESIGN & CURATION

PRODUCTION	CURATOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
Memory Lane Skate	Desne P. Wharton	THEARC Theater	Washington, DC	2026
ShoePRINTS	Violet Clemons	F.L Winship Building	Austin, Texas	2025
Big Back	Desne P. Wharton	F.L Winship Building	Austin, Texas	2024
Echoes of Legacy	Desne P. Wharton	F.L Winship Building	Austin, Texas	2024
Re-Imagining Black ____	Genel Ambrose	Waco Theater Center	Los Angeles, CA	2023

EDUCATION

M.F.A Integrated Media for Live Performance
The University of Texas at Austin, May 2027

B.F.A Theatre Design & Technology
Minor, Film Studies
The Pennsylvania State University, May 2019

SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite, Vectorworks, Isadora, Qlab, TouchDesigner, QTake, Microsoft Suite

AFFILIATIONS

IATSE Local 695 - Video Engineers & Projectionists

AWARDS

Nominee, Outstanding Media Design, B. Iden Payne Awards
Creative Achievement Award, College of Arts & Architecture
Oliver Smith Award for Excellence in Design & Production

SERVICE

Treasurer, Live Design & Production Grad Students
Camera Operator, Made in Her Image
Art Team Lead, Leimert Park Juneteenth Festival

REFERENCES

Katherine Freer, Media Designer
University of Texas at Austin
katherinefreerdesign@gmail.com

Kimberly Douglas, Managing Director
Wolly Mammoth Theater Company
kimberly@woollymammoth.net

Amira Rasayon, Exhibit Designer
Smithsonian Museum of American History
rasayona@si.edu