

Isabelle Britto

Isabelle Clara Afra Britto

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☎ (854) 236-8746

📍 Charleston, SC

Experience

International African American Museum / Associate Curator

July 2023-Present, Charleston, SC

- Collaborated on the infrastructure for permanent and traveling exhibitions: creating traveling contracts, acquisition justification forms, contracting agreements, and developing organization profiles for future collaborations.
- Worked interdepartmentally with marketing, facilities, education and visitor services departments, as well as many external vendors, to ensure exhibitions were audience-ready.
- Developed extensive exhibition plans and collaborated on budget management for special exhibitions in our almost 3000 sq. ft. gallery.
- Curated content, including writing, updating, and sharing texts for permanent and special exhibitions.
- Engaged with community and external actors to ensure inclusive representation.

Van Abbe Museum / Researcher

May 2023-July 2023 (Contract position), Eindhoven, the Netherlands

- Researcher for exhibition on colonial origins of tobacco at van Abbe factory in the 19th century.

The Black Archives/ Researcher/ Office Manager/Museum Educator

October 2020-July 2023, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

- Worked in exhibition teams researching and developing concepts for exhibitions, on topics such as “W.E.B. Du Bois and his 1900 Paris Exhibition”, “Visual Representations of Blackness in the Netherlands and the Protest Movements Against Them” and, “The Road from Abolition to Repair”.
- Contributed research to the international art exhibition Documenta 15.
- Created a manual for guided tours and managed tour guides.
- Co-managed installations for several exhibitions.
- Delivered numerous speaking engagements in the Netherlands and abroad, including tours, panels, talks, workshops, and university lectures.

National Archives of the Netherlands/ Researcher

April 2022-February 2023 (Contract Position), The Hague, the Netherlands

- Worked as a researcher for an art project about the colonial history of Curaçao at the National Archives. As a researcher, I supported artists creating art based on the archives.

Tomtit Film and VPRO (Dutch Public Broadcaster)/ Researcher

May 2021-November 2022 (Contract Position), Amsterdam, the Netherlands

- Conducted historical research for a documentary on Black resistance in the Netherlands, Suriname, and Curaçao.
- Scouted and interviewed potential characters and handled other production-related responsibilities.

Tropenmuseum/ Researcher/Assistant Exhibition Maker

February 2022-June 2022 (Contract Position), Amsterdam, the Netherlands

- Curated an audio guide and stationary audio content for the "Our Colonial Heritage" exhibition. This exhibition concerns the colonial heritage of the Netherlands as well as the colonial legacy of the ethnographic museum itself.

CBK Zuidoost/ Guest Curator

April 2021-September 2021, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

- Developed, curated, created and managed the budget for "Anansi, Stories of the African Diaspora" exhibition.

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture/ Curatorial Intern

February 2019-July 2019, Washington, D.C.

- Performed object-related research for the donation and acquisition of objects, connected with donors and sellers of objects, and created Justification and Loan forms.
- Helped organize a bilingual Spanish/English storytelling event together with the Inter-American Foundation titled "Nosotros Gente: Afro-Descendants Telling Our Stories, Empowering Our People."
- Worked in a joint team of employees from the NMAAHC and the University of Maryland on the concept development for a symposium on current African immigration into the United States titled "Making African America: A Symposium on Immigration and the Changing Dynamics of Blackness."

Van Gogh Museum/ Visitor Services Associate

May 2015-October 2020, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Education

Leiden University/Master in North American Studies

September 2018-August 2019, Leiden, the Netherlands

Thesis: "Along the Color Line: Class, Passing, and the Construct Colorism in Du Bois' *Crisis Magazine*, 1910-1934".

University of Amsterdam/ Bachelor in History

September 2015-August 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Thesis: "Federal Versus State: An Analysis of the Early Reconstruction Black Codes."

Yonsei University/ Global Exchange

August 2017-December 2017, Seoul, South Korea

Skills and Additional Information

Software

Zotero
Google Drive
OneDrive / SharePoint
Microsoft Word
Microsoft Excel
Dropbox
Canva
The Museum System (TMS)
Argus Collections Management System

Languages

Dutch: fluent- native
English: fluent-native
French: conversational
German: conversational
Spanish: elementary
Korean: beginner
Russian: beginner

- Volunteer for Museums Association of the Caribbean 2021 and 2024 Conferences.
- Member of the Association of African American Museums (AAAM).
- Member of advisory group for Famiri/Familie exhibition from the City Archive Amsterdam and the National Archive of Suriname.
- Review panelist for the Smithsonian Latino Studies Museum Program 2023.

Publications

- Abreu, Jessica De, Isabelle Britto, and Mitchell Esajas. "Let Us Not Erase Black Activism When Remembering the Dutch Colonial Past." *In The Future of the Dutch Colonial Past*, Amsterdam University Press, 2024.
- Britto, Isabelle. "Josephine Baker: A Black Superstar Visits the Netherlands" (in Dutch), *Theater Jaarboek 2022-2023* by the Need for Legacy 144, no. 6 (2023): 46-49.
- Britto, Isabelle, Mitchell Esajas, Alexine Gabriela, and Wouter Pocornie. *Research Report on Anti-Black Racism in Amsterdam* (in Dutch) (The Black Archives, 2021), commissioned by the City of Amsterdam.