

Iris Dawn Parker is visual artist who has lived in Johannesburg for the past decade and has exhibited her photographs in South Africa and Internationally. In 2018 she was awarded the “Arts Alive” partnership, City of Johannesburg. With her most current (2017) exhibitions, a photography installation titled **“Violated Lives: 1Blood 2Blood Red White Blue Blood”**, South Africa. In the US 2017, she exhibited a series **“Mouride Muslims living in South Africa”** at Purdue University. In 2016 she had a major exhibition titled, **“Quotidian Life: the importance of small things”** in the capitol city at the Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa.

Iris is a Fulbright Memorial Fellow Scholar, (Japan) and has experience in various leadership roles. Recently she has worked as the American Accent Coach for numerous productions such as; **“Nina Simone: Four Women, A Play with Music (2019), “1 night in Miami” (2018), “The Meeting”(2017) and “A Raisin in the Sun” (2016)** directed by James Ngcobo. And the Production, **“Fool for Love” (2018)** directed by Janice Honeyman at the Market Theatre. During 2012-2013 she managed the photo-journalism and documentary photography program and created a platform that allowed the first official graduation ceremony to take place at the Market Photo Workshop (<https://youtu.be/udKTb3cMsZQ>).

Since the late 90’s Iris has been actively involved in educating and advising youth by using the arts as a vehicle. She has conducted photography and life skills workshops in communities all over South Africa and the United States. Her work and creativity is fueled by a passion to help build future generations of talented artists in the African Diaspora who can preserve their history through visual storytelling.

“I believe myself to be a citizen of unafraid spirit when it comes to education through the arts and alternative learning approaches. I have seen and participated with valuable results.” IDP