

Ras Cutlass Mashramani

Sci-Fi + Horror Writer and Afrofuturist Practitioner

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Bio

Ras Cutlass is a Philly-based sci-fi writer and co-founder of Metropolarity, a local sci-fi collective. Ras's work concerns the experiences of people who are subject to institutionalization and state-sanctioned confinement. In another life Ras is social worker and co-founder of Deep Space Mind 215, an afrofuturist mental health co-operative, focusing on community-driven mental health practice.

Education

Masters of Social Service, Bryn Mawr College, 2015-2017

Bachelors of Arts, Psychology, minor in Spanish, Chestnut Hill College, 2011-2013

Associates of Arts, Behavioral Science, minor in Spanish, Community College Of Philadelphia, 2009-2011

Select Professional Experience

Founder + Co-op Member, [Deep Space Mind 215](#), 2021-Present

Psychotherapist, Walnut Psychotherapy Center, 2022-Present

Community Social Worker/Direct Service Worker, Philadelphia, 2007-2021

Select Publications as writer

Prose + Fiction

"[Melinda and the Grub](#)," *Death in the Mouth Horror Anthology*, 2022

"[Selected Notes on My Daughter's Culture](#)," *Bad User Agreement* ed. By Metropolarity, 2018

"[Silent Hill](#)," *The Best Small Fictions 2017*, Braddock Avenue Books, 2017

"[PLS](#)" and "[I am the Loveliest](#)," for *Style of Attack Report* by Metropolarity, 2016

"[A Young Thug Confronts His Own Future](#)," *Style of Attack Report* by Metropolarity, 2016

"[Grl.Suicide.Holiday](#)," *Style of Attack Report* by Metropolarity, 2016

"[Silent Hill](#)," *>Pank Magazine*, digital, 2016

Non-Fiction

[Cultivating Wellness in Black Neighborhoods: Establishing Philadelphia's Deep Space Mind 215 Cooperative](#), with Mel Brown, Lived Places Publishing, forthcoming 2024

["Intergenerational Partnerships are Critical to Curb Youth Violence"](#) *The Appeal*, Sep 7, 2022

["To Fight Gun Violence, Kids Need Places to Play "](#) *The Appeal*, Jul 13, 2022

"Can We Imagine a World Without Institutionalized Kids?" *The Appeal*, May 11, 2022

[COVID-19's Impact on Race and Housing Security Across Philadelphia: Philadelphia Renters' Report](#), Community Legal Services, Feb 21, 2021

["Ancestral Tech and the Future of the Black Body"](#) *Broken Pencil Magazine*, Sept 2020

["Deep Space Mind: Designing and Documenting Mental Wellness in Community,"](#) *Blade of Grass Magazine*, Dec 13, 2019

"Rites of Passage: Youth Employment for Mental Wellness," *Stoneleigh Foundation*, Feb 11, 2019

"What's the best way to get young people engaged in leadership? We asked them." *Generocity*, Feb 1, 2019

"Remembering the Future in North Philadelphia: Engaging community futurisms to restore hope and healing in the face of collective trauma", [Space-Time Collapse II: Community Futurisms](#), House of Future Sciences, Jan 1, 2019

"Young people should be partners in the fight to end youth homelessness in Philly" *Generocity* · Jan 4, 2018

"Who Goes to Jail...to Visit? Gender and Race Differences in Prison Visitation"
Rutgers University CURCA 2015, Apr 1, 2015

"Dissociative Pathways to Aggression in Inner-City Youth," 31st Annual International Society for the Study of Trauma Dissociation Conference, Oct 1, 2014

As editor

With [Metropolarity](#)

[Style of Attack Report](#), 2016

[Bad User Agreement](#), 2018

[Journal of Critical Liberation Technologies](#), 2013-2018

[APIARY 8: Soft Targets](#), for APIARY Magazine, 2016

Performance, Readings, Multimedia, and Installation

Dreaming Deep Roots: Creative Writing and Animation for Resistance to Displacement, animated film and text, with Word for World Animation, Deep Space Mind 215, and Philly housing/land organizers, PhillyCAM, Philadelphia, forthcoming Spring 2024

Write No History Closing Ceremony, reading with Metropolarity and Black Quantum Futurism, Hatfield House, Philadelphia, Apr 2021

["A Prayer for Catatonia."](#) digital installation, *This Longing Vessel: Rest and Expand*, ed. By Naudline Pierre, Studio Museum, New York, 2021

When the Chant Comes Book Tour, reading with Kay Ulunday Barrett and Osimiri Sprowal, Asian Arts Initiative, 2018

["Bring Them Home,"](#) film with the Movement Fellows, Media Movement Project, 2017

[Surplus Persons](#), digital installation with Marcelline Mandeng, Femi Matti and Cheikh Ath, Time Camp 001 with Black Quantum Futurism, Oct 2017

Fantasian Book Launch, reading with Larissa Pham and Oki Segumi, Philadelphia 2017,

["Soothsaying with Metropolarity,"](#) TV broadcast special, PhillyCAM, Apr 2017

[Remember the Future](#), reading with artist-neighbors at the Village of Arts and Humanities, for closing of the Material Memory Exhibition, Feb 2017

[Free For All: Black Quantum Futurism](#), Reading with Metropolarity, 2016

[U Hav 4 Messages](#), text and audio with Metropolarity for installation *Tomorrow Never Happens*, Samek Gallery at Bucknell University, New York, 2016

"A Young Thug Confronts His Own Future," reading via radio broadcast, Octavia City on GTown Radio, 2015

[U Hav 4 Messages](#), text and audio with Metropolarity and Sondra Perry for installation, Recess Arts, New York, 2015

The Laser Life Queer Sci-fi Reading Series, with Metropolarity at The A-Space, Philadelphia, 2012-2017

The Afrofuturist Affair, readings and performance, Philadelphia, 2011-2015

Lectures, Workshops, and other Presentations

Dreaming Deep Roots: Creative Writing and Animation for Resistance to Displacement with Philly Land Organizers and Word for World Animation, Philly Cam, Philadelphia, 2023-2024

[Writing Mental Illness and Institutionalization in Speculative Fiction](#), workshop, for Summer Writing Retreat Roots Wounds Words, virtual, 2022

Black Muscle Memory: Black Womxns Labor, workshop with Mel Brown of Deep Space Mind 215, Pratt Black Futures and Utopias, virtual, 2021

[*Black Muscle Memory: Black Womxns Labor*](#), Black Womxn Time Camp 004, virtual, Sept 2020

[*So the Body May Think, Feel Move: Healing, Justice, and Performative Embodiment*](#), Panel, with Bryan Doerries, Melanie McCrean, Isaiah Pickens, and Shaun Leonardo, The New Museum, New York, Sept 2019

Remember the Future: Portal Making for Black Womxn Futures, workshop, Black Womxn Time Camp 003, 2019

[*Alternative Mental Health Practices: Deep Space Mind / Moving Image Playback Theatre*](#), workshop with members of Citiview Connections Clubhouse, Blade of Grass 2019 Assembly: Artists Challenge Normativity, Museum of Moving Art, New York, 2019

[*Conjuring Utopia: A World Without Rikers*](#), collective writing workshop with Melanie Crean and Peacemakers of Red Hook Justice Center, *For Fates: Visions of a Post-Rikers NYC*, New York, 2019

Youth Healers Stand Up! Youth Visioning Session, workshop/public event with Youth Healers Stand Up! and Philadelphia Youth, BQF Collective's Community Futurisms: Time & Memory in North Philly 002 - Black Space Agency, Ice Box Project Space, 2018

[*Remember the Future*](#), collective writing and psychoeducation workshop with artist-neighbors at Village of Arts and Humanities and violence intervention staff at Healing Hurt People, 2017

[*Soft Targets: Sci-fi Memoir for Survival*](#), community writing workshop for Philly Genius Festival with the Free Library of Philadelphia, Metropolarity, and Apiary Magazine, 2016

New Museum Seminars: (Temporary) Collections of Ideas around SPECULATION, with Metropolarity, New Museum, New York, 2015

[*Ritual Causality 001*](#), panel with Black Quantum Futurism Collective, AUX Performance Space at Vox Populi Gallery, Philadelphia 2015

Interviews and Press

[*Do It Yourself: Two Artists Building Mutual Aid Systems*](#) by Kathryn McKinney for Blade of Grass Magazine, April 24, 2020

[*The New Museum Announces its Summer session of Programming*](#), New Museum, 2019

Metropolarity, by Jenna Brager for Mask Magazine: The Material Issue, 2017

[*“Review of Style of Attack Report”*](#), by Suzy Subways, The Philadelphia Partisan, 2017

[*“Review of Best Small Fictions 2017”*](#), by Christy Crutchfield, The Small Press Book Review, 2017

“Book Review: Best Small Fictions 2017,” Entropy Magazine, 2017

“Seven Organizers and Artists Who Work On Re-Entry Issues,” Leeway Foundation Blog, 2017

[“Assassinating Infinity: An Interview with Metropolarity”](#) by Marcella Faustini for Open Space San Francisco Moma, 2016

“We Need Afrofuturism More Than Ever,” *Dazed Digital*, 2015

[Interview with a Zinester: Metropolarity](#) by The Feminist Zine Fest, NYC, 2015

[Zine Philosophy](#), with Metropolarity, *Broken Pencil Magazine*, 2014

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

Australian Shadows Award, for *Death in the Mouth Horror Anthology*, The Australasian Horror Writers' Association, 2022

[Stoneleigh Reimagining Public Systems Fellowship](#), for *Deep Space Mind 215 Mental Health Collective*, Stoneleigh Foundation, 2021-Present

[Blade of Grass Fellowship for Socially Engaged Art](#), for *Deep Space Mind 215*, 2019

[Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellowship](#) for *Youth Healers Stand Up*, 2017-2019

[Leeway Art and Change Grant](#) for *Improving Dialogue around Institutionalization with Digital Narratives* with Amanda Sinick at the Child and Family Wellness Institute at Bryn Mawr College, 2017

[Lamba Literary Award Finalist](#), for *Style of Attack Report* with Metropolarity, 2017

[Wigleaf Best Very Short Fictions List](#), for short story “Silent Hill”, Wigleaf, 2017