

She Taught Me to Stand on Her Shoulders

~Curated by Dr. Myrah Brown Green

**Adama Delphine Fawundu . Venessa Greene . Jacqueline Johnson
Tayllor Johnson . Myra Kooy . Deborah Singletary . Cheryl Thomas
Cathie Wright-Lewis**

Have you ever had an insight. That intuitive feeling that you get when you know something is about to happen. Like receiving a gift in the form of a life's lesson, a spiritual awakening, an historic experience, or maybe being reprimanded. All it took was that one finger calling me towards Her and I found myself being gently taught how to stand on Her shoulders; that act of moving forward by listening to and understanding the lessons of those who came before, leaving jewels of wisdom for all who are open to hearing.

She Taught Me to Stand on Her Shoulders when my consciousness needed to level up, when my Higher Self needed tempering and my ego needed to be contained or sometimes even stroked.

She.....Mothers

She.....Daughters

She.....Sisters

She.....Friends

She.....Elders of All Shes gently helped me to the top. I was able to balance myself when letting go. Sometimes I gained the courage to stand on one foot. I don't quite remember when this experience first happened . I might have been old enough to know better, a spark in the universe's third eye, no bigger than a winged scarab or as old as the ocean's flow. Along the way though, She gave me eight tools to navigate this life's journey.

The first three are scribes. **Jacqueline Johnson, Tayllor Johnson** and **Cathie Wright-Lewis**. Their writings are instruction to guide us as we move through the uncharted paths of life. Because they have the sagacity to translate and influence the "writings on the wall", they have the ability to shift the trajectory of a society that needs critical attention, , re-direction and spiritual healing. The sound of the

gourd rattle, like those that **Cheryl Thomas** strings with beads, reminds me to clear the way. “We’re ready to serve ancestors, orisha, saints and guardian angels! There’s Divine Work to be done”. The colors of the beads emanate energy of the day, energy for the mind and body, and energy filled with character. **Adama Delphine Fawundu**’s photography and film presentation keeps us connected to the ancestors before the ancestors. Her ancestors are my ancestors and my ancestors are ours. The She of Mende, Bubi, Krim and the Bamileke people bear rites that have touched most parts of the world. **Vanessa Greene**’s life size photographic montages remind us to call the name of She and Her descendants who survived that 1st journey West as captives. Nightingale Plantation was only a temporary resting place for the souls that Greene captures. Their spirits continue to live and touch the souls of those that they came to serve. We are because of their faith, love and tenacity. **Myra Kooy**’s painted doors show me that there are a number of paths that lead to the end of the beginning. Kooy elevates each figure with a crown of light rays. Each depiction of contemporary archangels become a visual liaison between the past and those yet to come. While **Deborah Singletary**’s guardians depict the familiar they are also the wheels that carry us on this infinite creative journey.

She Taught Me to Stand on Her Shoulders is a testament to our aesthetic and cultural values that we engage with and lend humanity. As we embrace our global village, these eight intercessors offer the visual richness of our traditional culture.