

Lifeline

b. 1957, New York City

The 3rd child of African descent to be born in Sydenham Hospital, Harlem, N.Y.

I was raised in the Borough of Parks (The Bronx) in a creative and supportive D.I.Y. family culture, an integrated working class Mott Haven neighborhood, in new public housing.

Early inspiration came from Ms. Jenkins, a neighborhood art teacher, Black musician hippies, day camp craft teachers, Afro-Latin music culture, the streets, the parks, The Black Arts Movement and The Tree of Life Bookstore, Harlem, N.Y. Started sewing professionally at 12, taught by my mom, a seamstress and tailor.

1970's to Early 80's

Education:

H.S. of Fashion Industries and H.S. of Art & Design; Traphagan School of Fashion, Fashion Institute of Technology, Empire State College, Parsons School of Design.

I started designing, making and selling leather accessories and crochet accessories — jewelry, hats and neckties under the name “**The Traveler's Oasis**”. Retail stores: **Soho**: Macondo, Tales Of Hoffman/La Grand Hotel, **Upper West Side**: Lynn Dill's Off Broadway, Farfalla Shoe Salon. **Brooklyn**: Jimmy's Brooklyn, Chess King. **Harlem**: Dapper Dan's, LaVerne's. **Street Vending: Dry Dock**: in front of Bloomingdales, **East Village**: The Astor Place parking lot fence. **West Village**: 6th Ave at West 4th St.

And I held a few regular non-creative jobs. And I traveled.

Mid to Late 80's

1984

I became the Director, **Fashion Moda Museum**, Bronx, New York.

Curated Exhibitions

1984

“Graffiti Artists from the Early 70's” paintings.

“Masterworks” Melvin (NOC 167) Samuels, paintings; playground mural at 3rd Avenue & 167th Street.

“Pain and Pleasure” group show

Paolo Buggiani: “Minotaur On Roller Skates With Fire” installation; Sail Painting, gallery

Spank (Graffiti Artist): Workshop in fashion design of jackets and Jeans

“South Bronx Show” 5th Edition group exhibition

1986

“Images in Fiber and Cloth” group show; Jo Ann Wyke Barbara Ward, Diana N’diaye, Margot Stills, Joyce J. Scott, Michael D. Harris, Michael A. Cummings, Napoleon Jones-Henderson. (and me).

Participated Group Exhibitions:

1981 “Others” South Bronx Art Project, curated by Stephen Eins

1984 “Pain and Pleasure” group show

1984 “South Bronx Show” 5th Edition

1986 “Images in Fiber and Cloth” group show

Late 80’s to Late 1990’s

I moved to Harlem, set up a knit studio, and became a tenant advocate.

School Products, NYC

Sales to store manager. I learned to knit on the Brother 930 computerized electronic knitting machine (to sell machines) and to hand-knit, weave and spin yarn. This commenced a new journey leading to freelance knitwear development and fabrication.

Magus Design, NYC

Knit fabric development, for clients like Ralph Lauren, Ron Chereskin, Leslie Fay

Outlander division of Leslie Fay

Tech design/embellishment packages for overseas production

Macy’s

Knit Studio; fabric development for all Macy’s private label divisions.

I moved upstate to Red Hook, New York in Dutchess County to care for my Great Aunt Alice McDermott — a woman influential to my creativity and self-reliance. To stay sane, I took long walks, drew, restored a garden, knitted sweaters, and exhibited machine knitting at **The Dutchess County Fair (1992)**. The following year I moved back downstate to Harlem to start caring for my parents, one at a time. But one has to work too, so...

Interfaze, Inc.

Knit fabric development for a diverse clientele of both mass market and bridge lines.

Started **SaharaStyle, NYC**, designing, knitting, and selling men’s accessories. Commercial and retail clients included Saks Real People Catalog, James Livingston Knitwear Collection, Camouflage, Charivari, New Republic. And private clients with style.

The late 90's saw the *Contract with America*, the collapse of the world knitting market, the movement of jobs out of America, and the beginnings of the hand knitting boom. My work became caring for my parents, and I transferred into publishing.

Late 1990's to Early 2000's

Started working as a fact checker while privately designing and knitting men's accessories and sweaters for loyal customers.

Harper's Bazaar
House & Garden
InStyle
Vibe Magazine

2000

Temporarily left fact checking, *permanently* left Harlem, and moved back to the Bronx.

Institutional Statuary, Bronx, NY

I refined my airbrush and painting skills bringing fiberglass statues of Catholic saints to life, and in restoration of rare statues and reliquary.

Mid 2000's to The Present

2005

Sistahcraft

Recovering from hip surgery, I started the blog to give online hand-knitting instruction to my students. It grew to over 100,000+ hits, 200 subscribers worldwide, and a major craft exchange portal for women of color.

2006

Knitty City, NY

Sales and coaching at NYC's most fun yarn shop!

The New York Times

Book Development; that was it.

T:Style, The New York Times

Fact checking—fashion, style, design, travel, living

The insanity of fashion publishing impelled me to reconnect with fiber, spinning yarn, weaving and stimulating intellectual pursuits. And the blog seriously grew!

2009

I was laid off from the Times when much of the magazine went online.

later that summer via a recommend from Knitty City, I met the artist **Jennifer Tee**, who became my first client for large scale work.

The culmination of 20+ years of textile knowledge converged and changed my direction.

I am a "textile developer" accepting commercial and private commissions.

I design, develop and fabricate art in the form of blankets and coverlets.

Press and Publications

1986 “Those Marvelous Machines” Women’s Day Super Special 101 Craft Ideas; pgs. 22-23

2010 “Local Myths – Love Spells” © 2010 Jennifer Tee, Eastside Projects, Birmingham, UK

2013 “City Pleasures” New York Times, Evening Hours, Bill Cunningham (I’m spinning on a Charka book spindle in the center of the page)