

Artist Profile:

Valeria Watson-Doost

Zamani Refuge/Afro Vintage

Hours by Appointment
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Valeria Watson-Doost, aka Osunyemi, creates photography, paintings, and clothing based on ethnic and spiritual themes.

Artist Bio

Valeria/Osunyemi is a priestess of Osun trained in the United States and in Osogbo, Nigeria. She began documenting the indigenous West African religions of Ifa and Orisa devotion in 2000. Her costume art, paintings and photography reflect her devotion to nature and the bridging of cultural divides. She and her husband Rainer live on seven wooded acres in Leicester, North Carolina at Zamani Refuge African Culture Center.



Artist Statement

How trapped we are in this linear world until we return to nature. When the mountain lion comes to live in our holler, eating our chickens, nature speaks to me. As I sew, paint, and do photographs I am merely an eye to a larger reality. I hope you enjoy, shed a tear, and laugh, like I do.