

ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

No mundo aquático dos peixes e réptais, nós sonhamos /

In the aquatic world of fish and reptiles, we dream, acrylic on canvas, 2021

Aruanda, acrylic on canvas, 2023

Ani Ganzala

“solidarity”, audio, 2024

Taya Mâ Shere

Abstract

Ani Ganzala and Taya Mâ Shere first met in an artists' commune on the sacred shores of Bahia, Brazil, and have remained close friends ever since. Their creative work is rooted in ancestral dreaming, earth reverence, and spiritual activism. The curation of Ani's visual art with Taya's music in this journal was sparked by their recent retreat time together. Ani's two pieces featured here are: "Aruanda," which highlights the relationship between the Black Diaspora and botanical technologies for physical and spiritual healing; and "No mundo aquático dos peixes e réptais, nós sonhamos / In the aquatic world of fish and reptiles, we dream," which depicts physical and spiritual connection through black and queer love. Taya Mâ's music is deeply rooted in her ritual and spiritual practice. Her piece featured here, "solidarity," is a love song for liberation, an invocation of interdependence, and a call for collective care across realms.

Keywords: Ancestral dreaming, Earth reverence, Spiritual activism, Black diaspora, Queer love, Ritual music, Sacred chant

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Ani Ganzala

Ani Ganzala is an Afro-Indigenous visual artist, activist, and mother based in Bahia, Brazil. Ani's work revolves around the love and spirituality of black women and LGBTQIAPN, and the honoring of nature and the entire ecosystem in which we live. Ani works with watercolor, acrylic on canvas, embroidery, graffiti, and murals. Ani has taught at universities and guided community empowerment art processes around the world. Her work has been featured in the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* and in exhibitions across South and North America, Europe, and Africa. Find Ani's art at [@ganzalarts](#) on Instagram.

“No mundo aquático dos peixes e réptais, nós sonhamos / In the aquatic world of fish and reptiles, we dream” (2021, acrylic on canvas) depicts physical and spiritual connection through black and queer love.

“Aruanda” (2023, acrylic on canvas) highlights the relationship between the Black Diaspora and botanical technologies for physical and spiritual healing within Afro-religious communities.

Taya Mâ Shere

Taya Mâ Shere is a ritual artist embracing embodied, earth-honoring devotion as liberatory spiritual practice. She is a professor of organic multi-religious ritual at Starr King School for the Ministry, and co-weaves Makam Shekhina, a Jewish and Sufi Muslim spiritual community committed to counter-oppressive prayer. Taya Mâ hosts the acclaimed *Jewish Ancestral Healing* podcast and The Sarah & Hajar Series, *Sacred Practice and Possibility at the Intersections of Judaism and Islam*, and teaches online courses in Embodied Presence and more. Taya Mâ co-founded the Kohenet Hebrew Priestess movement and co-authored *The Hebrew Priestess: Ancient and New Visions of Jewish Women's Spiritual Leadership* (Hammer & Shere, Ben Yehuda Press, 2015). Taya Mâ's five albums of sacred chant have been heralded as cutting-edge mystic medicine music. Her offerings can be found at [taya.ma](#) and at [From The Deep](#), an emergent mystery school of earth, sea, and soma.

“solidarity”

“solidarity” is a love song for liberation, an invocation of interdependence, and a call for collective care across the realms. “solidarity” is the first release on my forthcoming album incantation, born from making ritual and offering prayersong in the movement for ceasefire in Gaza. It is available at <https://taya.ma/> and as a download on this article (see abstract page on IJPS website).

Shared Story

Ani Ganzala & Taya Mâ Shere have been dear friends for more than seventeen years, first meeting in an artists' commune on the sacred shores of Bahia, Brasil. In the time since, each of them has deepened in their creative work, which is rooted in ancestral dreaming, earth reverence, and spiritually steeped activism. Ani and Taya Mâ tend retreats for the sacred creative amidst healing waters in Brazil & on Turtle Island (the U.S.) ~ the collaboration featured here was sparked by their recent retreat time together.

Aruanda, acrylic on canvas, 2023

Ani Ganzala



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