

Rally Day ²⁰²¹



“There are years that ask questions, and years that answer them.” *Zora Neale Hurston*

Through her work, **Kimberly Drew ’12** has asked many questions like, “What Should a Museum Look Like in 2020?” and “What does it mean to be Black and alive right now?”

Jessica Nicoll ’83, Director and Chief Curator of the Smith College Museum of Art, remembers Kimberly as a pioneer of the museum concentration program. “Kimberly fully embraced the museum concentration program and used it as space to explore Black identity in the world of art. She brought immense curiosity to her work.” Kimberly is described as a live-wire who saw the power of social media, recognized that it was underutilized in the field of art, and set out to harness this untapped resource. “Kimberly was never afraid to ask previously unasked questions. “Why don’t we see Black people in museums? Where are the Black artists?” Driven by her passion, quick to poke fun at herself, smart, and loyal, Kimberly has created a path for herself and others.”

Shama Rahman ’13 says, “Kimberly recognized that for many people art was not accessible. Not only did she ask the poignant questions, she listened to the answers, and she took action. She saw social media as a free and available space that would break the barriers of the institutions that housed art. Above all, Kimberly seeks to include and amplify the stories of people and groups which have historically been either marginalized or excluded. She is empowering, innovative, and forward-thinking.”

Kimberly is affirming her existence and those of many other Black artists. Her work is all about opposing their invisibility. Like her goals, she is also worthy of being remembered; for all of the work that she does for the Black community and society as a whole.

This Rally Day, we are honored to celebrate Kimberly Drew. She is a force to be reckoned with. She saw a gap in representation and was determined to do something about it.

We select Medal winners for “making a lasting and meaningful impact on the world, by changing the way we think, how we work, and how we live.”

Kimberly Drew is a shining example of such a person. We are honored to bestow this medal to her, and we are so excited to continue to witness her brilliance.

As Zora Neale Hurston said, these are the years that are helping her answer her questions. She’s an undeniable part of it.

Kimberly, thank you for the work you’ve done and continue to do.

Tribute by Medal Committee researchers Lisa Ilka Abrams ’90 and Dior Vargas ’09