

Willie Cole

Born 1955, Somerville, NJ

Lives and works in Mine Hill, NJ

EDUCATION

1976 BFA, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY

1976-79 The Art Students League, New York, NY

SELECT AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2023 National Academician, National Academy of Design

Inaugural Curlee Raven Holton & Raven Fine Art Editions Distinguished Art Fellow, Kent State University, Kent, OH

2006 David C. Driskell Prize, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

2002 Augustus Saint-Gaudens Memorial Fellowship

2000 Artist-in-residence, John Michael Kohler Arts Center Arts/Industry Program, Sheboygan, WI

1996 Joan Mitchell Foundation Award

1995 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant

1991 Penny McCall Foundation Grant

SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Home Assembly*, John Mitchell Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI

2023 *The B-Sides: 1989-2022*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL

Willie Cole: 2023 Curlee Raven Holton & Raven Fine Art Editions Distinguished Art Fellow, Center for Visual Arts Gallery, Kent State University, Kent, OH

2019 *Willie Cole: Beauties*, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2017 *Willie Cole: Made in Newark*, College of Architecture and Design Gallery, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ

Making Everything Out of Anything: Prints, Drawings, and Sculptures by Willie Cole, Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, IN

2016 *Willie Cole: On Site*, David C. Driskell Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD; Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH; Arthur Ross Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

2015 *Willie Cole: Aquaphallic*, 808 Gallery, Boston University, MA

Willie Cole, Mazmanian Gallery, Framingham State University, MA

Flawlessly Feminine, Women Who Graced the Cover and Works by Willie Cole, Diggs Gallery, Winston-Salem State University, NC

Willie Cole: Transformations, Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts, University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL

2013 *Complex Conversations: Willie Cole Sculptures and Wall Works*, Albertine Monroe Brown Gallery, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, WA; Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC; College of Wooster Art Museum, Ebert Art Center, OH; Falconer Gallery, Grinnell College, IA; Houghton College, NY

E Pluribus Unum, Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ

Willie Cole: Illuminations and Transformations, Schneider Museum of Art, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

From Water to Light, Prospect Street Firestation Gallery, Newark, NJ

2012 *Deep Impressions: Willie Cole Works on Paper and Sculpture*, Rowan University Art Gallery, Glassboro, NJ

2010 *Deep Impressions: Willie Cole Works on Paper*, James Gallery, City University of New York, NY; Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, TN; Sarah Moody Gallery of Art, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

Willie Cole, College Art Gallery, College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ

- 2007 *Living Room*, Finesilver Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2006 *Anxious Objects: Willie Cole's Favorite Brands*, Montclair Art Museum, NJ; Sheldon Memorial Art Museum, Lincoln, NE; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY; Birmingham Museum of Art, AL; Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA; Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University, CA
- 2004 *AFTERBURN, Willie Cole: selected works 1997–2004*, University of Wyoming Art Museum, Laramie, WY; California African-American Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS; Worcester Art Museum, MA; University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, KY; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Sources & Metamorphoses, Tampa Museum of Art, FL
- 2002 *The Elegba Principle*, Richard A. and Rissa W. Grossman Gallery, Lafayette College, Easton, PA
- 2001 *Game Show: Installations and Sculptures by Willie Cole*, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY
- 2000 *New Work: Willie Cole*, At the Crossroads, Miami Art Museum, FL
- 1999 *Iron Works*, Avram Gallery, Southampton College, Long Island University, Southampton, NY
- 1998 *Perspectives 1: Willie Cole*, Birmingham Museum of Art, AL
New Concepts in Printmaking 2: Willie Cole, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1997 Galerie Almine Rech, Paris, France
- 1995 *Our Daily Bread*, Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Iconic Structures 1990–1995, Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA; Center for Research in Contemporary Art, University of Texas at Arlington, TX
5 to 10: Willie Cole in Collaboration with the Fabric Workshop, Fabric Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
The Elegba Principle, Capp Street Project, San Francisco, CA
- 1994 *Labor of Love*, presented by The Contemporary at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, MD
- 1993 *Residue*, Peter Miller Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1992 *Currents 51: Willie Cole*, Saint Louis Art Museum, MO
See No Evil, Newark Museum, NJ
- 1991 *From Our House to Your House*, Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC
- 1990 *Special Projects*, Institute for Contemporary Arts, P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY
- 1989 *Artists-in-Residence*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *All These Growing Things*, Tang Teaching Museum, Sarasota Springs, NY
Matter of Fact: Material as a Political Act, Kavi Gupta | Washington Blvd. Fl. 2, Chicago, IL
Readymade Remix: New Approaches to Familiar Objects, San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX
- 2024 *Strategic Interplay: African Art and Imagery in Black and White*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, KS
Lyrical Reconstructions, Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville, TN
Century: 100 Years Of Black Art at MAM, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
Perceptual Engineering, Express Newark, Newark, NJ
- 2023 *Monument*, Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC
Please Come In..., Art, Design & Architecture Museum at UC Santa Barbara.
Tennessee Triennial: RE-PAIR, Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN
- 2022 *A Gateway To Possible Worlds: Art & Science Fiction*, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France
- 2021 *Before Yesterday We Could Fly: An Afrofuturist Period Room*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
- 2020 *Here and Now*, Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster, NJ
Explorations of Self: Black Portraiture from the Cochran Collection, Charlotte and Philip Hanes Art Gallery, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC
Personal Space: Self-Portraits on Paper, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 2019 *To Reclaim*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL
Elements of Vogue. Un caso de estudio de performance radical, Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico
In Place of Now, Opalka Gallery, Sage Colleges, Albany, NY
- 2017 *Elements of Vogue: A Case Study in Radical Performance*, Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid, Spain
The American Dream: pop to the present, British Museum, London, UK
- 2016 *Disguise: Masks and Global African Art*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY

- 2015 *Wild Noise: Artwork from The Bronx Museum of the Arts*, El Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba
Venturing Out Of The Heart Of Darkness, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, NC
Represent: 200 Years of African American Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA
- 2014 *Mass: Production to Appeal*, Taplin Gallery, Arts Council of Princeton, NJ
The 1st International Biennial of Contemporary Art, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
Out of the Ordinary, Bascom Center for the Visual Arts, Highlands, NC
Draped Down, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 2013–14 *Auf Schritt und Tritt / At Every Turn*, Museum Villa Rot, Burgrieden, Germany
- 2013 *Lasting Legacy: The Journey of YOU*, Arts Horizons LeRoy Neiman Art Center, New York, NY
- 2012 *Against the Grain*, Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC; Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY; Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, FL
E Pluribus Unum, Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ
- 2011 Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY
Reconfiguring an African Icon: Odes to the Mask by Modern and Contemporary Artists from Three Continents, Museum of Metropolitan Art, New York, NY
- 2010 *Pattern ID*, Akron Art Museum, OH; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
Until Now: Collecting the New (1960–2010), Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MN
- 2009 *I HAVE A DREAM: International Tribute Exhibition to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, organized by Sitges City Council, Sitges, Spain; Gabarron Foundation – Carriage House Center for the Arts, New York, NY; Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI; Martin Luther King National Historic Site, Atlanta, GA; Rosa Parks Museum, Birmingham, AL; Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN; NBC Towers, Chicago, IL; Sitges, Spain; Museu Maricel, Marbella, Spain; Sala de Exposiciones de San Pedro Alcantara, Madrid, Spain; Espacio Conde Duque, Valladolid, Spain; Fundación Cristobal Gabarrón, Zaragoza, Spain; La Lonja, Andorra, Spain; Sala d'Exposicions del Govern d'Andorra, Avilés, Spain; Centro Municipal de Artes y Exposiciones de Avilés, Sevilla, Spain; Fundación Tres Culturas, Granada, Spain; Palacio los Condes de la Gabia Murcia, Granada, Spain; Casa Pintada Mula, Gran Canarias, Spain; Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Lanzarote, Spain; Fundación César Manrique, Spain
Digging Deeper: Willie Cole and Hank Willis Thomas, Amistad Center for Art & Culture, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT
Re-Addressing Identities: Clothing as Sculpture, Katonah Museum of Art, New York, NY
- 2008 *Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary*, Museum of Arts & Design, New York, NY
Nature/Culture: Artists Respond to Their Environment, Society for Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh, PA; Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ; Ohio Craft Museum, Columbus, OH; Mansfield Art Center, OH; Lakeview Museum of Arts and Science, Peoria, IL
- 2006 *Paper Trail: African American Art on Paper*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
Intersections: Shifting Identity in Contemporary Art, J.M. Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI
- 2005 *The Superfly Effect*, Jersey City Museum, NJ
- 2004 *Domestic Odyssey*, San Jose Museum of Art, CA
- 2003 *Undomesticated Interiors: Photographing Undomesticated Interiors*, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA
Celebrating Sculpture: Modern and Contemporary Works from Dallas Collections, Dallas Museum of Art, TX
- 2002 *Imagine, You Are Standing Here in Front Of Me.*, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Shadows and Silhouettes: The Dangerous Faces of Willie Cole and Juan Logan, Memphis College of Art, TN
The Culture of Violence, University Gallery, Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
- 2001 *Everything and Anything*, Wave Hill, Bronx, NY
Burn: Artists Play With Fire, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL; Columbia Museum of Art, SC
- 2000 5th Biennale de Lyon, France
Strength and Diversity: A Celebration of African American Artists, Carpenter Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Beyond the Frame: Willie Cole and Renée Stout, Knoxville Museum of Art, TN
- 1998 *Paper +*, Dieu Donné Papermill, New York, NY

- 1997 Biennial Exhibition for Public Art, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, NY
Performance Anxiety, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; SITE Santa Fe (1998)
- 1996 *Subversive Domesticity*, Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, KS
Thinking Print: Books to Billboards 1980–95, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Video Sans Titre, Galerie Froment & Putman, Paris, France
- 1995 *Archaeological Urban Dada*, Whitney Museum of American Art at Champion, CT
Prison Sentences: The Prison as Site/The Prison as Subject, Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, PA
- 1994 *Promising Suspects*, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT
Guys Who Sew, University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
Old Glory: The American Flag in Contemporary Art, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, OH
- 1993 *Fall From Fashion*, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT
Sculptures & Multiples, Brooke Alexander, New York, NY
- 1992 *Dream Singers, Story Tellers: An African American Presence*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ; Tokushima Modern Art Museum, Japan; Otani Memorial Art Museum, Nishinomiya, Japan; Fukui Fine Arts Museum, Fukui City, Japan
- 1991 *Drawings*, Brooke Alexander, New York, NY
- 1990 *Social Studies, 4 + 4 Young Americans*, Allen Memorial Gallery, Oberlin College, OH
International Sculptors '90, Indoor/Outdoor, Washington, DC
Suggestive Objects, Art in General, New York, NY
- 1989 *Selections from the Artists File*, Artists Space, New York, NY
- 1988 Art Junction International, Palais des Exposition, Nice, France
Ten Thousand Mandalas, Franklin Furnace, New York, NY
- 1986 *Dog Days of August*, Littlejohn-Smith Gallery, New York, NY

SELECT PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
 Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
 The British Museum, London, UK
 The National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
 Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
 High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
 Studio Museum in Harlem, NY
 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
 Birmingham Museum of Art, AL
 The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
 Cleveland Museum of Art, OH
 Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
 Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
 Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota Duluth, MN
 Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY
 Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln, NE
 Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY
 FRAC Lorraine, Metz, France
 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
 Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
 Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ
 American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY
 New York Public Library, New York, NY
 Allen Memorial Art Gallery, Oberlin, OH
 Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for the Visual Arts at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, New York, NY
San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
Art, Design & Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL
Worcester Art Museum, MA
Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY