

James Little

Born 1952, Memphis, TN
Lives and works in New York, NY

EDUCATION

- 1976 MFA, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
1974 BFA, Memphis Academy of Art, Memphis, TN

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Affirmed/Actions, Petzel, New York, NY
2023 Conversations, Petzel, New York, NY
2022 *Black Stars & White Paintings*, Kavi Gupta | Elizabeth St. Fl. 1, Chicago, IL
James Little: Homecoming, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, TN
2020 *James Little: Dots and Slants*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, CA
2018 *Slants and White Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY
2016 *Informed by Rhythm: Recent Work by James Little*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, CA
2015 *Color/Barriers: Recent Work*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY (essay by James Harithas)
2013 *Never Say Never*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY (essay by Karen Wilkin)
2011 *Ex Pluribus Unum: New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY (essay by Mario Naves)
2009 *De-Classified, Recent Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY (essay by James Harithas)
2007 *James Little: Untold Stories*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, TX
2005 *Reaching for the Sky*, G. R. N'Namdi Gallery, New York, NY (catalogue; essays by Robert Costas, James Harithas, and Al Loving)
2003 *Beyond Geometry: New Paintings*, L.I.C.K. Ltd. Fine Art, Long Island City, NY (essay by Robert C. Morgan)
1995 *Recent Abstract Paintings*, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York, NY
1992 *James Little: Selected Works from the Past Decade*, Lubin House Gallery, Syracuse University, New York, NY
James Little: Ovals and Arbitration Paintings, Sid Deutsch Gallery, New York, NY
1990 *Tondos and Ovals*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY (essay by April Kingsley)
1989 *James Little: Recent Paintings*, Christian Science Church, Boston, MA
1988 *James Little & Al Loving: New Work*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY
New York to Memphis, Alice Bingham Gallery, Memphis, TN
New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY
1987 *New Paintings*, Liz Harris Gallery, Boston, MA
1985 *James Little: Format Paintings*, Harris Brown Gallery, Boston, MA
1982 *Recent Oil Paintings*, Alternative Museum, New York, NY (essay by April Kingsley)
1976 *Paintings by James Little*, curated by Ronald Kuchta, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Memphis College of Art, 1936-2020: An Enduring Legacy*, Memphis Brooks Museum, Memphis
2024 *Edges of Ailey*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York,
Instructor Salon, The Art Students League, of New York, New York
A Survey Exhibition: Louis Stern Fine Arts Through the Decades, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, CA
2023 *An Apartment of Ghosts*, Petzel, New York, NY
2022 *In These Truths*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
Quiet as It's Kept, Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY
2021 *Abstraction & Social Critique*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL
The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA; traveling to Crystal Bridges, Bentonville, AR, in March 2022
2020 *Louise Nevelson and James Little*, Rosenbaum Contemporary, Boca Raton, FL
2018 *Color/Line/Form*, Rosenbaum Contemporary, Boca Raton, FL
2019 *New York – Centric*, curated by James Little, Art Students League of New York, NY
2017 *Celebrating 30 Years, Gallery Artists: Drawings and Photographs*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY

- 2016 *Circa 1970*, curated by Lauren Haynes, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Beyond Borders: Bill Hutson & Friends, University Museums, Mechanical Hall Gallery, University of Delaware
- 2015 *Decoding the Abstract Unlimited Potential*, curated by James Austin Murray, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
Outside the Lines: Color Across the Collections, curated by Tricia Laughlin Bloom, organized by the Newark Museum, NJ
Works on Paper: Selections from the Gallery, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, CA
- 2014 *Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Hard Edges, Soft Curves*, organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX (catalogue)
- 2012 *Today's Visual Language: Southern Abstraction, A Fresh Look*, curated by Donan Klooz, Mobile Museum of Art, AL (digital catalogue)
What Only Paint Can Do, curated by Karen Wilkin, Triangle Arts Association, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 *ABSTRACTION (Abstraction to the Power of Infinity)*, curated by Janet Kurnatowski, organized by the American Abstract Artists, The Ice Box, Crane Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 *Abstract Relations*, collaboration of the University of Maryland David C. Driskell Center and the University of Delaware Museums, curated by Dr. Julie L. McGee and Dr. Adrienne L. Childs, Mechanical Hall Gallery, Mineralogical Museum, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
It's A Wonderful 10th, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2008 *Shape Shifters: New York Painters*, The A.D. Gallery, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke, NC (catalogue)
- 2007 *Three One-Man Exhibitions: James Little, Aimé Mpane, George Smith*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, TX (brochure)
- 2006 *The 181st Annual Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*, National Academy of Design, New York, NY (catalogue)
Neo-Plastic Redux, Elizabeth Harris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Different Ways of Seeing: The Expanding World of Abstraction*, Noyes Museum of Contemporary Art, Oceanville, NJ
Optical Stimulations: American Abstract Artists, Yellow Bird Gallery, Newburgh, NY
50 Plus, Netherlands Tunnel Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Raising the Bar: James Little and Thornton Willis, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2004 *Seeds and Roots: Selections from the Permanent Collection*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
A Century of African American Art: The Paul R. Jones Collection, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
Abstract Identity, Pelham Art Center, New York, NY
- 2003 *Theories: Abstract New York*, Roger Ramsay Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2002 *No Greater Love, Abstraction*, Jack Tilton/Anna Kustera Gallery, New York, NY
Ajita – Unconquerable, The Station, Houston, TX (catalogue)
500 Works on Paper, Gary Snyder Fine Art, New York, NY
Amplified Abstraction, Chapel, Plantage, Doklaan 8-12, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2001 *Painted in New York City: Viewpoints of Recent Developments in Abstract Painting*, Hofstra Museum, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY (catalogue)
Dialog and Discourse, Dolan Center Gallery, Friends Academy, Locust Valley, NY
- 2000 *Significant Pursuits: Paint and Geometry*, Smack Mellon Studios, Brooklyn, NY
Straight Painting, The Painting Center, New York, NY
- 1999 *Straight No Chaser*, The Puffin Room, The Puffin Foundation, New York, NY
The Art of Absolute Desire, 450 Broadway, New York, NY
The Power of Drawing, Westbeth Gallery, New York, NY
- 1998 *New Directions '98: 14th Annual National Juried Fine Arts Exhibition*, Dutchess County Art Association, Barrett Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY
New York Eight, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY
Works On, With and Made Out of Paper, Sideshow 195, Brooklyn, NY
The African-American Fine Arts Collection of the New Jersey State Museum, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ
Postcards from Black America, curated by Rob Perrée, De Beyerd Center for Contemporary Art, Breda, Netherlands, and the Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, Netherlands (catalogue)
de leugenaars/the liars (I) Helder en Verzadigd Clear and Saturated, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Color, Matter, Energy, Galerie Maria Chailloux, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, Netherlands

- 1994 *Malcolm X: Man, Ideal, Icon*, Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA; Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco, CA; Valentine Museum, Richmond, VA; Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA.
- 1993 *Malcolm X: Man, Ideal, Icon*, Detroit Institute of Art; Detroit, MI
- 1992 *Malcolm X: The Man, The Meaning*, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT; Jamaica Arts Center, New York, NY; Aljira Arts Center, Newark, New Jersey; Walker Art Center; Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1980 *Afro-American Abstraction*, MoMA PS1, New York, NY
- 1979 *Another Generation: Contemporary Abstractionists*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

COLLECTIONS

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
 Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NJ
 Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
 New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ
 Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
 Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
 Tennessee State Museum, Nashville, TN
 Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR
 State University of New York at Albany, Albany, NY
 Memphis Academy of Art, Memphis, TN
 Maatschappij Arti Et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, Netherlands
 Menil Collection, Houston, TX
 Library of Congress, Washington, DC
 AT&T, NY and FL
 Gucci Corporation, Boston, MA
 Mutual of New York Assurance Company, New York, NY
 Occidental Petroleum Company, Aberdeen, Scotland
 Phillips/Schwab Inc., New York, NY
 Sherbourne, Powers and Needham, Inc., Boston, MA
 Stephen Mallory Associates, New York, NY
 Veryss Corporation, Boston, MA
 The Twentieth Century Fund, New York, NY
 U.N.C. Ventures, Boston, MA
 Moody Arts Center, Rice University, Houston, TX

SELECTED PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 "MTA and Whitney Museum of American Art Celebrate Art in the Subway." The City Life Org, May 31.
 Stirling, Diane. "American Artist James Little G'76 Gifts Painting to Syracuse University Art Museum." Syracuse University News, March 8.
 "'A Survey Exhibition: Louis Stern Fine Arts Through the Decades' celebrates 30th year of Louis Stern Galleries." artdaily.com, February 19.
- 2023 Sheets, Hilarie M. "Installations by Theaster Gates and James Little reinvigorate riverfront park in Memphis." The Art Newspaper, September 25.
 "A public park to revitalize the Mississippi river bank in Memphis." Domus, September 5.
 Hill, John. "Tom Lee Park Opens." world-architects.com, September 4.
 "A Panorama of Design." The New York Times, August 31.
 Dreith, Ben. "Studio Gang and SCAPE add timber canopy to 'inclusive' park on Memphis waterfront." Dezeen, August 31.
 Genzlinger, Neil. "April Kingsley, Curator Who Championed Unsung Artists, Dies at 82." The New York Times, June 29.
 Rigou, Vasia. "Contextualizing Black Exceptionalism: James Little's Black Stars & White Paintings at Kavi Gupta." New City Art, February 9.
 Wilkin, Karen. "At the Galleries." The Hudson Review, vol. LXXVI, No. 2, Summer.
- 2022 Thaddeus-Johns, Josie. "5 Trends that Defined the Art Market in 2022." Artsy, December 7.
 Laster, Paul. "8 Must-See Gallery Shows in December." Galerie, December 6.

- Can Yerebakan, Osman. "James Little: Fear and Transcendence in Abstract Painting." *Artforum*, Nov 30.
- Samarov, Dmitry. "James Little's Constructed Abstractions." *Frieze*, November 29.
- Hieggelke, Brian. "Art Top 5: December 2022." *New City*, November 29.
- Cascone, Sarah. "See Inside James Little's Studio, Where He Combines Pigment, Beeswax, and Varnish to Create Layered Geometric Abstractions." *ArtNet News*, November 27.
- Sheet, Hilarie M. "James Little, Unapologetic Abstractionist Painter, Catches the Limelight." *New York Times*, October 20.
- "What To Do in New York City in August." *New York Times*, August 4.
- "What To Do in New York City in July." *New York Times*, July 13.
- Davis-Marks, Isis. "With a Whitney Biennial feature and newfound commercial representation, James Little's commitment to abstraction is finally paying off." *The Art Newspaper*, June 21.
- Morici, Abigail. "James Little: Homecoming," *Memphis Magazine*, June 20.
- Yates, Christin. "Dixon's 16 Gallery Spaces Each Hosting a Mini-Exhibition." *Daily Memphian*, June 6.
- "A Long Overdue Recognition: James Little Finally Gets His Turn in the Spotlight at this Year's Whitney Biennial," *ARTnews*, May 2.
- Chiu, Vivian. "The 2022 Whitney Biennial Expands the Scope of 'American' Art." *OCULA*, April 27.
- Gordon, Dana. "The Single Best Work in the Whitney Biennial." *The New York Sun*, April 18.
- Fisher, Simon; Fuchs, Eva; Mitchell, Rory. "Whitney Biennial 2022: Artist Installations that Stole the Show." *OCULA*, April 8.
- Marius, Marley. "A Glimpse into this Year's Whitney Biennial." *VOGUE*, April 2.
- Dozier, Ayanna. "At the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Compelling Works Are Overshadowed by an Inaccessible Space." *ARTSY*, March 31.
- Cotter, Holland. "A Whitney Biennial of Shadow and Light." *New York Times*, March 31.
- Greenberger, Alex. "A Sharp Understated Whitney Biennial Looks to the Past to Process the Grief of the Present." *ARTnews*, March 30.
- Durón, Maximiliano. "12 Standouts at the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Where Poetic Reflections on Past Two Years Shine Brightly." *ARTnews*, March 29.
- 2021 *James Little*, Kavi Gupta, 2021
Chromatic Rhythm / James Little: Paintings on Paper, Sarah Moody Gallery of Art, 2021
- Voon, Claire. "Chicago: Six Must-See Exhibitions." *Art Basel*, December 18.
- 2020 *Louise Nevelson + James Little*, Rosenbaum Contemporary, 2020
James Little / Beyond Geometry-Selections, The Lobby Gallery Park Avenue and 59th Street, 2020
The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection, St. Louis Art Museum, 2020
- Valentine, Victoria L. "James Little's Black Paintings are a 'Volley of Minimalist Ideals' Exposing the Drama, Richness, and Contrasting Values of Black." *Culture Type*, October 22.
- Corwin, William. "Going Beyond Geometry: James Little's Social Abstraction," *Arcade Project*, August 15.
- Sheets, Hilarie M. "Color and Design Matter. So Does Optimism." *New York Times*, March 19.
- 2019 Kistner, Matthew. "Interview: James Little Talks 'The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection' at Saint Louis Art Museum." *ReviewSTL*, October 23.
- Duff, Gary. "A Curator Finds Inspiration In Abstract Expressionism at The American Fine Arts Society Gallery." *Gotham*, April 3.
- Corwin, William. "ArtSeen: New York-Centric." *Brooklyn Rail*, March 5.
- 2018 *Color / Line / Form*, Rosenbaum Contemporary, 2018
- 2017 Brooks, Leronn P. "James Little by LeRonn P. Brooks." *BOMB*, April 19.
- 2013 Panero, James. "Studio Visit: James Little." *New Criterion*, May 3.
- 2011 McGee, Celia. "Driven to Abstraction." *ARTnews*, January 1.
- 2009 Cotter, Holland. "NY Times Art in Review: James Little." *New York Times*, June 5.
- La Rocco, Benjamin. "James Little with Benjamin La Rocco." *Brooklyn Rail*, May 1.
- 2007 Harithas, James. *James Little: Untold Stories*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, 2007
- 2005 N'Namdi, George; Loving, Al; Costa, Robert; Brockington, Horace; Morgan, Robert C.; Harithas, James, *James Little: Reaching for the Sky*, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, 2005
- 1981 Kingsley, April, *Afro-American Abstraction*, 1981