WILLIE BIRCH

1942 Born in New Orleans, LA

EDUCATION

1973 M.F.A., Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore

1969 B.A., Southern University, New Orleans, LA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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2022	Chronicling Our Lives: 1987–2021, Fort Gansevoort, New York, NY.
2021	Willie Birch, Kayne Griffin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. Willie Birch: Paintings from 1998–2019 In conversation with Leslie King Hammond, Fort Gansevoort (online exhibition).
2015	Seen and Unseen: Coupling, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA. Spirit House: Willie Birch, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE.
2013	Southern Gothic: An Insider's View, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA.
2010	Looking Back: 1978-2003, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA. In Search of Sacred Place, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, FL.
2008	Celebrating Freedom: The Art of Willie Birch, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA.
2007	Home Sweet Home, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA. Celebrating Freedom: The Art of Willie Birch, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ and 40 Acres Art Gallery, Sacramento, CA.
2006	Celebrating Freedom: The Art of Willie Birch, Acadiana Center for the Arts, Lafayette, LA and Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.
2005	Everywhere I Look I Hear Music, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA.
2003	Earlier Works, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA.
2002	Somebody's Child: Paintings by Willie Birch, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Adams, MA. Transforming Identities, University Art Museum, Joel L. Fletcher Hall, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LA.

2001-02	Willie Birch: 1994-1997, Zora Neal Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts, Eatonville, FL.
2001	Black-Male Portraits, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA.
2000	Free to Be in Black and White and Color, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY.
1999	Portraits: Witnessing New Orleans, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA.
1998-99	Transforming Identities, The McKinney Avenue Contemporary Museum, Dallas, TX.
1998	Spirit House and Recent Work by Willie Birch, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE.
1997	Dialogues and Heroes, Museum of African American Art, Tampa, FL. In Search of Heroes? Part II?, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA.
1996	Willie Birch: From Bertrandville to Brooklyn, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC; 1996 Spoleto Festival, Charleston, SC; Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC. Willie Birch, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. Not Just a Pretty Picture: Urban American Portraits, Satori Fine Art, Chicago, IL. In Search of Heroes? Part I, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY. My Holocaust, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA.
1995	Willie Birch, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA.
1994	An Urban Perspective, Gallery Joe, Philadelphia, PA. Dialogues, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY.
1993-94	Willie Birch: Spirit House, Sculpture Center, New York, NY; Contemporary Culture and Documentary Art, Dallas, TX; Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Buffalo, NY.
1993	Willie Birch, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA. Sculpture, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA. Willie Birch, Paa Ya Paa Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya. Nairobi Series, York College Art Gallery, New York, NY
1992	A Personal View of Urban America, Exit Art, New York, NY and Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, Philadelphia, PA.
1991	Affirmations, Sculpture Center, New York, NY.
1990	Philadelphia Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA.

1989	Tompkins Square Gallery, New York Public Library, New York, NY.
1988	Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, SUNY College, Old Westbury, NY.
1984	Miami-Dade Library, Miami, FL.
1979	Tim Blackburn Gallery, New York, NY.
1978	NYS Office Building in Harlem Gallery (sponsored by Studio Museum), New York, NY.
1977	New Muse Community Museum of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY. Kornblatt Gallery, Baltimore, MD
1975	Art Works Gallery, Baltimore, MD.
1971	Equitable Trust Bank, Baltimore, MD. Institute of Black Ministry, Philadelphia, PA.
1968	Southern University, New Orleans, LA.
GROUP EXHIBITIONS	
2024	Unprecedented: Art in Times of Crisis, Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, NE.
2023	Together in Time: Selections from the Hammer Contemporary Collection, Hammer Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
2022	American Stories: Gifts from the Jersey City Museum Collection, Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ.
2021-22	Two Versions of the Same Story: The Art of Willie Birch & Tina Freeman, New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, New Orleans, LA. Yesterday We Said Tomorrow, Prospect 5, New Orleans, LA.
2018	Changing Course: Reflecting on New Orleans Histories, New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), New Orleans, LA.
2017-18	Dress Matters: Clothing as Metaphor, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ.
2017	Pride of Place: The Making of Contemporary Art in New Orleans, New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), New Orleans, LA. The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst IL.

Southern Accent: Seeking the American South in Contemporary Art, Nasher Museum

2016-17

2016-17	of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC and Speed Museum, Lexington, KY. Face to Face: A Survey of Contemporary Portraiture by Louisiana Artists, Hilliard Art Museum, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LA.
2016	According to What, The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY.
	A New World in My View: Gifts from Gordon W. Bailey, The Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY.
	The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT.
2015-16	Common Ground: African American Art from the Flint Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI and the Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon MI. The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN.
2015	Ashé to Amen: African Americans and Biblical Imagery, Ashé Cultural Arts Center, New Orleans, LA.
	The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.
	Ten Years Gone, New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), New Orleans, LA.
2014	The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, OR. Viewpoints: 20 years of Adderley, MassArt, Boston, MA.
2013-14	Ashé to Amen: African Americans and Biblical Imagery, Museum of Biblical Art, New York, NY; Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, Baltomore, MD; Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, TN.
2013	Breaking Ground: Gifts form Katie and Drew Gibson, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA.
	Cross//Roads, The Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.
	The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ.
2012	The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, RedLine Gallery, Denver, CO and Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
	Thenceforward, and Forever Free, Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.

2011 The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Saint Petersburg, FL. Printed Histories: 16 Years of Print Portfolios at Exit Art, Exit Art, New York, NY. 2010 The Global Africa Project, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY. The Human Touch: Contemporary Art from the RBC Wealth Management Collection, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV. 2009 High Water Marks, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT. There Goes the Neighborhood, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, OH. The American Scene, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE. 2008 Prospect. 1 New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA. In Katrina's Wake, Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, Austin, TX. 2007 Katrina: Catastrophe and Catharsis, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs, CO. 2006-07 Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery, New York Historical Society, New York, NY. 2005 The Chemistry of Color, African American Artists in Philadelphia 1970-1990, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA. The Other Mainstream: Selections from the Mikki and Stanley Weithorn Collection, Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ. 2004 Rap: Reflections of Our Time, Barrister's Gallery, New Orleans, LA. Southern Journeys, Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria, LA. 2002-04 In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.; Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI; Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, FL; Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN; International Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN; Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL. 2003 Modern Story Tellers: Bearden, Birch, Lovell, Ringgold, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY. 2000 Go Figure, Lew Allen Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM. The Rutgers SummerFest 2000 Exhibition, New Brunswick, NJ. Culture of Class: Issues of Class in North American Culture, Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, MD. 1999-00 Outward Bound: American Art at the Brink of the Twenty-First Century, Meridian International Center, Washington, D.C.; The Museum of Fine Arts, Hanoi, Vietnam;

The Painting Institute, Shanghai, China; The Working People's Cultural Palace, Beijing, China; The CIPTA Gallery, Jakarta Arts Center, Jakarta, Indonesia; Meridian International Center, The Metropolitan Museum, Manila, Philippines and The Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.

Passages: Contemporary Art in Transition, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY: Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, II: Miami, Art Museum, Miami, FL.

	NY; Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL; Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL.
1998	New Orleans Triennial, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA. The Colors of Rhythm, The Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA.
1996-98 1995	Rediscovering the Landscape of the Americas, Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe, NM and Western Gallery, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. 48th Annual Purchase Exhibition, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY.
1992	Altars, Divinations and Icons, Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA.
1989	The Blues Aesthetic: Black Culture and Modernism, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, D.C.
1989-90	If You Lived Here, Dia Art Foundation, New York, NY.
1987-88	USA Paintworks: Prints from the Brandywine Workshop Collection, United States Information Agency/Arts America.
1986-87	Por Encima Del Bloqueo: Donación De Artistas Plásticos Norteamericanos Al Pueblo De Cuba, Centro Wilfredo Lam, Havana, Cuba and, Museum Universitario do Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico.
1986	Contemporary Print Images: Works by Afro-American Artists from the Brandywine

1986 Contemporary Print Images: Works by Afro-American Artists from the Brandywine Workshop, presented by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service

(SITE).

1984 Call and Response: Art on Central America, Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville,

ME.

1980 Outlaw Aesthetics, Just Above Midtown/Downtown, New York, NY.

RESIDENCES, AWARDS, GRANTS, AND COMMISSIONS

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc., Community

Partnership Grant, New Orleans, LA.

2014 United States Artists Fellowship, James Baldwin Fellow.

2013	National Conference of Artists (NCA) Lifetime Achievement Award Artist in Residence, RedLine Milwaukee, WI.
2012	Sculpture Commission, Jimmy Club Sculpture Garden, St. Ann, LA.
2011	Artist in Residence, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), New Orleans, LA.
2009	Artist in Residence, École supérieure des beaux-arts de Nantes, France.
2008	The Benjamin Altman Prize, National Academy of Design.
2006	The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award. Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant.
2005	Cue Art Foundation Fellowship.
2004	The Governor's Award, State of Louisiana.
2002-4	Artist in Residence, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, New Orleans, LA.
2000	Artist in Residence, Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM.
1997	Commission, Spoffard Juvenile Detention Center, Brooklyn, NY.
1996	Louisiana Division of the Arts Artist Fellowship NYC Metropolitan Transit Authority, Arts for Transit, 135th St/Lenox Ave, New York, NY. Commission, Philadelphia International Airport, Terminal A, Philadelphia, PA (murals).
1995	Municipal Collaborative Project for Downtown Winston-Salem, NC.
1994	Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, New York, NY.
1993	John Guggenheim Fellowship (sculpture).
1989-90	National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist Fellowship Grant. New York State Council on the Arts National Endowment for the Arts Visual Art Fellowship. New York, NY.
1988	Commission, Public Art Fund, Inc., New York, NY.
1987	New York Foundation for the Arts Artists Fellowship Award.
1985-86	Brandywine Workshop Visiting Artist Fellowship, Philadelphia, PA.

1984-85 National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist Fellowship Grant.

1983 Commission, Public Art Fund, Inc., New York, NY.

1980-81 Artist in Residence, Henry Street Settlement, New York, NY.

1977-78 Artist in Residence, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Baltimore, MD, (sculpture).

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI Hammer Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA Legacy Museum, Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, AL Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY Miami-Dade Public Library, Miami, FL Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane University, New Orleans, LA New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York, NY San José Museum of Art, San José, CA Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE Southern University, New Orleans, LA Speed Museum, Louisville, KY Temple University, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY Xavier University, New Orleans, LA

PRINT COLLECTIONS

Bob Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, New York, NY Tim Blackburn Gallery, New York, NY Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA

The Lower East Side Printshop, New York, NY
Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM
The Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper, New Brunswick, NJ

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2023 MacCash, Doug. "The Cut is a hidden gem in this 7th Ward neighborhood. An artist brings its history to light.", Times Picayune. December 27.

Moses, Janée. "An Oral History with Mr. Willie Birch by Ron Bechet, Keith Calhoun, Chandra McCormick & Shana M. griffin", BOMB Magazine online, October 23.

Griffin, Shana M. "ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: Willie Birch", BOMB Magazine, Issue 165, Fall 2023.

Rimpsey, Sherae. "Marking Time: Willie Birch's The Roofers", Art Papers, August 8.

2022 "The 22 Best Art Shows of 2022", Cultured Magazine, December 23.

McCall, Tris. "Spirit of Jersey City Museum lives on, in Zimmerli Art Museum's 'American Stories' exhibition", njartst.net.

Woodward, Daisy. "Brilliant Things to Do This April", AnOther, April 1.

Haber, John. "Emma Amos and Willie Birch", haberarts.com.

Hopkins, Zoë. "From New Orleans to New York, Willie Birch Maps the Human Experience", Cultured Magazine, March 21.

Tully, Judd. "Willie Birch, Artist and 'Social Chronicler,' Is Portraying the World as He Sees It", ARTnews, March 21.

Goodman, Jonathan. "Willie Birch: Chronicling Our Lives: 1987-2021 at Fort Gansevoort", Whitehot Magazine, March 17.

"Willie Birch Chronicling Our Lives: 1987-2021 Exhibition at Fort Gansevoort", YRB Magazine, March 14.

"Willie Birch: Chronicling Our Lives: 1987-2021", AIR MAIL Magazine, March 3.

"Willie Birch, Chronicling Our Lives: 1987-2021 to Open at Fort Gansevoort New York", GothamToGo, February 25.

Seymour, Tom. "As a highway looming over a historic Black community in New Orleans faces renewal, artists evoke its history", The Art Newspaper, February 1.

Cooper, Alwa. "In New Orleans, A White Picket Fence That's Seen Better Days", The New

York Times Style Magazine, January 21. 2021 Birch, Willie and Emily Wilkerson. "Willie Birch on making art a neighborhood affair," Artforum, November 23. Dafoe, Taylor. "Prospect New Orleans Made 'a Million Compromises' to Open. Here's How Organizers Pulled It Off Without Compromising the Art," Artnet, November 1. MacCash, Doug. "Artistic duo Birch and Freeman channels COVID stillness, Ida, political rage: Part of Prospect.5," Nola, October 21. Sheets, Hilarie M. "A Show With Its Host City, New Orleans, as the Protagonist," The New York Times, October 20. 2020 Keith, Naima. Prospect 5 New Orleans: Yesterday We Said Tomorrow, Electa. 2017 Sasse, Julie. Dress Matters: Clothing As Metaphor, Tucson, AZ: Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block. Pride of Place: The Making of Contemporary Art in New Orleans, New Orleans, LA: New Orleans Museum of Art. 2016 Southern Accent: Seeking the American South in Contemporary Art, Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 2015 Seen and Unseen: Coupling, New Orleans, LA: Arthur Roger Gallery. Harman, Shelby. "'Ashe to Amen' spirituality exhibit opens at Ashe Cultural Arts Center", The Times-Picayune, July 31. 2013 King-Hammond, Leslie, ed. Ashé to Amen: African Americans and Biblical Imagery, New York, NY: Museum of Biblical Art. Sakakeeny, Matt. Roll With It: Brass Bands in the Streets of New Orleans, Duke University Press. Bookhardt, D. Eric. "Willie Birch and Paul Ninas," Gambit Weekly, July 11. 2010 Friedley, Renae. "Keeping it Real - The Art of Willie Birch," Black Art in America, October 2. 2008 Calas, Terrington. "Birch at Home," New Orleans Art Review, Fall/Winter. Sasser, Bill. "In His Element," Oxford American, October.

2007	Sothern, Billy. "New Orleans' African Retentions: Willie Birch with Billy Sothern," The Brooklyn Rail, November. Bookhardt, D. Eric. "Uncommon Folk," Gambit Weekly, October 30.
2006-07	Volkmar, Karl F. "Aesthetic Ethnography," New Orleans Art Review, December/January.
2006	Caesar, Petula. "All Roads Lead Home," Baltimore City Paper, November 26.
2005	Celebrating Freedom: The Art of Willie Birch, Manchester, VT: Hudson Hills Press; New Orleans, LA: Contemporary Arts Center.
	Sajet, Kim. <i>The Chemistry of Color, African American Artists in Philadelphia 1970-1990,</i> Philadelphia, PA: Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Art.
2004-05	Volkmar, Karl F. "Transforming Identities," New Orleans Art Review, November-January.
2004	Johnson, Eloise E. and Stella Pinkney-Jones. <i>Southern Journeys</i> , Alexandria, LA: Alexandria Museum of Art.
	Volkmar, Karl F. "Sitting In," New Orleans Art Review, September-November.
	MacCash, Doug. "Have Mercy," The Times-Picayune, July 9.
2003	Bookhardt, D. Eric. "Inside Art," Gambit Weekly, November 25.
2002	Miles, Gary. In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Atlanta, GA: Tinwood Books.
2001	Willie Birch: 1994-1997, Eatonville, FL: Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts.
2000	Scott, Deirdre A. <i>Passages: Contemporary Art in Transition</i> , New York, NY: The Studio Museum in Harlem.
1999	MacCash, Doug. "Birch's New Messages More Subtle," The Times-Picayune, November 19.
	Matthews, Nacy. <i>Outward Bound: American Art at the Brink of the Twenty-First Century</i> , Washington, D.C.: Meridian International Center.
1996	Rediscovering the Landscape of the Americas, Santa Fe, NM: Gerald Peters Gallery.
1995	Margolis, Nancy H., ed. <i>Willie Birch: From Bertrandville to Brooklyn</i> , Winston-Salem, NC: Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.

1992	Smith, Roberta. "Review/Art; Social Commetary in Works by Willie Birch," The New York Times, April 10.
1989	Powell, Richard. <i>The Blues Aesthetic: Black Culture and Modernism</i> , Washington, D.C.: Washington Project for the Arts.
	Wallis, Brian, ed. If You Lived Here: the city in art, theory and social activation: a project by Martha Rosler, New York, NY: Dia Art Foundation and Seattle, WA: Bay Press.
1986	Contemporary Print Images: Works by Afro-American Artists from the Brandywine Workshop, Washington, D.C.: SITES.
	Lippard, Lucy. Por Encima Del Bloqueo: Donación De Artistas Plásticos Norteamericanos Al Pueblo De Cuba, Havana, Cuba: Centro Wilfredo Lam.
1984	Lippard, Lucy. <i>Call and Response: Art on Central America</i> , Waterville, ME: Colby College Museum of Art.