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The Week in Black Art, February 15-21, 2021: Art Institute of Chicago Hires People and Culture VP, Phillips Collection and Newark Museum of Art Announce New Board Appointments

by VICTORIA L. VALENTINE on Feb 16, 2021 • 7:58 pm

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This post will be updated throughout the week

Feb. 19, 2021

Art Institute of Chicago Appoints Leader of People and Culture

Norissa Bailey is joining the Art Institute of Chicago as senior vice president, People and Culture. In her new post, she will “shape the museum’s efforts on inclusion and belonging, staff engagement, performance management, and communications. Under her guidance the team will advance the museum’s anti-racism and equity work and prioritize building and sustaining a supportive workplace culture in alignment with our central Human Resources team.” Bailey previously served as vice president, People and Culture at Chicago’s Navy Pier and managed human resources at Perkins and Will, the global design firm. She officially starts at the Art Institute on March 1.



Calida Rawles Joins Lehmann Maupin

Lehmann Maupin announced its representation of **Calida Rawles**. The Los Angeles-based artist is recognized for her images of Black men, women, and young people submerged and floating in waves of pool water. Her first solo exhibition with the gallery will open in New York City in September 2021. | [Culture Type](#)

Newark Museum of Art Announces Board Co-Chairs

Two business executives are leading the Newark Museum of Art’s Board of Trustees. **Eric Fitzgerald Reed**, vice president of public policy and community engagement for Verizon Communications, has been appointed co-chair of the museum’s board. He is serving alongside Allen Karp, executive vice president of health care management and transformation at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Linda Harrison serves as director and CEO of New Jersey’s Newark Museum of Art.

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POPULAR READING



50 Years Ago, Alma Thomas Made ‘Space’ Paintings that Imagined the Moon and Mars

Phillips Collection Elects New Board Members

The Phillips Collection elects five new board members, including **Sala Elise Patterson**, a writer and communications, content, and brand strategist, who founded The Songhai Group, a communications advisory firm whose clients include international organizations, cultural institutions, and mission-driven companies. The Washington, D.C., museum is celebrating its centennial in 2021.

IMAGE: Norissa Bailey. | Courtesy Art Institute of Chicago



Feb. 18, 2021

Art Historian Kobena Mercer is Joining Faculty at Bard College

Bard College announced the appointment of Kobena Mercer, whose scholarship focuses on "modern and contemporary art in the Black Atlantic, examining African American, Caribbean and Black British artists with critical methods from cultural studies." Beginning in fall 2021, he will serve as the Charles P. Stevenson Chair in Art History and

the Humanities, a joint appointment between the Art History and Visual Culture Program in the undergraduate College, and the Center for Curatorial Studies (CCS). Mercer is joining Bard from Yale University. His many books include "Welcome to the Jungle: New Positions in Black Cultural Studies" (1994), his first, and "Alain Locke and the Visual Arts," which is forthcoming in 2022.

Artists Announced for Desert X 2021

Serge Attukwei Clottey, Christopher Myers, and Xaviera Simmons are among the 13 artists selected for Desert X 2021. The third edition of the outdoor biennial exhibition is March 12-May 16 in Coachella Valley, Calif.

Hauser & Wirth Opening in Menorca This Summer

After a two-year conservation and restoration project, Hauser & Wirth Menorca is opening July 17 with a **Mark Bradford** show. The new art center and outdoor sculpture trail on Isla del Rey is located in the port of Mahon in the Mediterranean Sea. The inaugural exhibition will feature a group of new paintings and sculptures by Los Angeles-based Bradford.

DIA Investing in African American Art

In December, the Founders Junior Council (FJC) at the **Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)** donated more than \$1 million to the museum, including \$250,000 designated for the purchase of works by African American artists. FJC is a group of young professional dedicated to exposing Detroit youth to DIA and its programming. This week, leaders of the council appeared on a local radio program and discussed the investment in African American Art. | Deadline Detroit



Hugo McCloud's New Paintings are Made with Single-Use Plastic Bags: 'This Material Could Be Used as Art, But Also as a Tool to Open Up Conversation'



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THE WEEK IN BLACK ART, FEBRUARY 22-28, 2021: HONOR TITUS NOW REPPED BY TIMOTHY TAYLOR GALLERY, PRECIOUS OKOYOMON WINS FRIEZE ARTIST AWARD



WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2021: MORE THAN 30 EXHIBITIONS, BOOKS, AND EVENTS FOCUSED ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ART



CARRIE MAE WEEMS, "Thoughts on Marriage," 1989. | © Carrie Mae Weems; Courtesy Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

Feb. 17, 2021

Carrie Mae Weems Joined Fraenkel Gallery

Fraenkel Gallery [announced its representation](#) of multidisciplinary artist **Carrie Mae Weems** today. The San Francisco gallery is working with Weems in collaboration with Jack Shainman Gallery in New York. Weems, whose practice spans photography, installation, video, and performance, will have a survey exhibition at Fraenkel in September 2021.

Newfields President is Out in Wake of Racially Offensive Job Posting

Charles L. Venable, the president of Newfields, has resigned. Newfields board [released a statement](#) about his departure today. The 152-acre campus houses the **Indianapolis Museum of Art**, which is seeking a new director via the search firm m/Oppenheim. The employment listing posted on the firm's website stated the new leader would be charged with diversifying the museum's audience, while maintaining its "traditional, core, white art audience." After complaints, the listing was modified. Subsequently, museum employees and the board released a public letter calling for Venable's resignation. Nearly 2,000 artists, local arts leaders and former employees of the museum also issued an open letter calling for his removal. | [The New York Times](#)

Theaster Gates is Co-Curating Sculpture Milwaukee

Artists **Theaster Gates** and Michelle Grabner have been [named co-curators](#) of **Sculpture Milwaukee 2021**. The Wisconsin event is "one of the largest annual outdoor exhibitions to focus on contemporary sculpture and public art practices." The fifth edition of Sculpture Milwaukee opens June 2021 and will be on view through fall 2022.



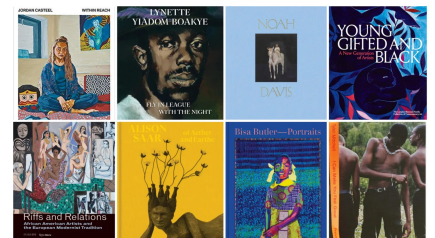
COMING SOON: 'ICONS OF NATURE AND HISTORY,' A MAJOR SURVEY OF DAVID DRISKELL OPENS AT HIGH MUSEUM IN ATLANTA IN FEBRUARY 2021



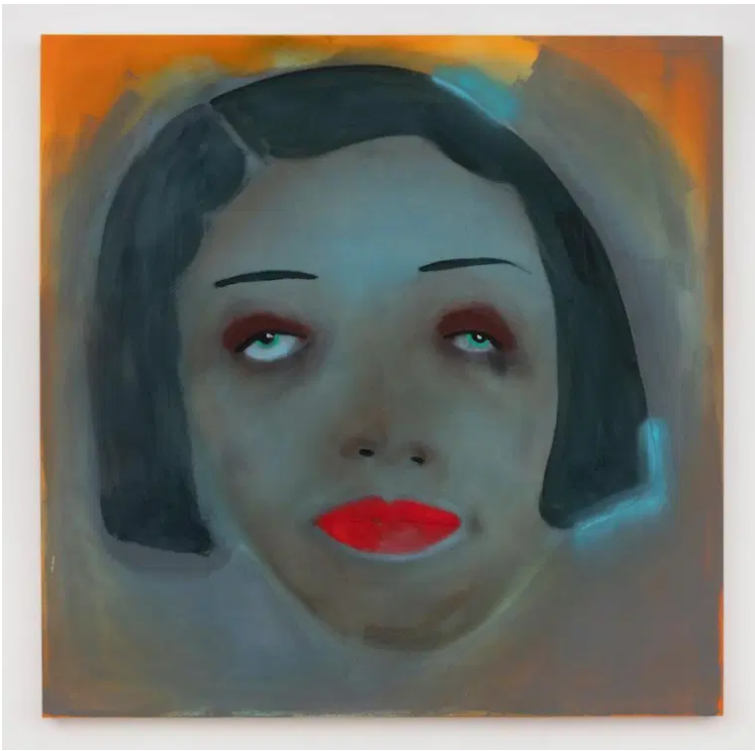
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS IS PRESENTING FIRST SURVEY OF TEXTILE AND SOCIAL PRACTICE ARTIST SONYA CLARK IN MARCH 2021



CULTURE TYPE PICKS: 15 BEST BLACK ART BOOKS OF 2020



PIECE-BY- PUZZLE PIECE, REALIZING MAJOR WORKS BY AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS, INCLUDING MICKALENE THOMAS, CHARLES WHITE, ALMA THOMAS, AND ARCHIBALD MOTLEY



FEBRUARY JAMES, "Change comes upon us like a change of weather," 2020 (oil, oil pastel, watercolor, and acrylic on linen). | © February James, Courtesy the artist and Tilton Gallery

Feb. 16, 2021

February James Joins Tilton Gallery

Tilton Gallery in New York now represents **February James**. Her emotional figurative works amount to emotional portraits capturing the essence of her subjects, rather than true likenesses. The Los Angeles-based artist described her work in an interview with Sixty Inches From Center last year. James said: "When I make work now, I'm conjuring up this emotional place. I am painting from my lived experiences. These are all aunts, uncles, and people that have been around me or informed my upbringing. I'm attempting to create a space that holds that emotional state. In my work, I do tend to probe cultural transmissions and oral histories; things that are passed down from generation to generation. But I'm not resolving that in the work itself. I'm kind of situating all of us into this emotional space to start to bring about conversations that will change the future." Her first solo show with the gallery will be presented in late spring. The news was announced today. | via email



SCULPTOR SIMONE LEIGH IS REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES AT 2022 VENICE BIENNALE



BACKSTORY: NINA CHANEL ABNEY REVISITS HER FIRST MAJOR PAINTING, 'CLASS OF 2007'



EMPLOYING 'OUTRAGEOUS COLOR,' PETER WILLIAMS MAKES BOLD PAINTINGS THAT CONFRONT RACIAL OPPRESSION AND ENVISION A 'BLACK UNIVERSE'



KARA WALKER HAS OPENED HER PERSONAL ARCHIVE, SHOWING NEARLY 270 DRAWINGS




Judson Powell at "66 Signs of Neon" exhibition, in front of "Barrel and Plow" (1966), a collaboration between Powell and Noah Purifoy. | Noah Purifoy Foundation

Feb. 15, 2021

Los Angeles Artist Judson Powell Has Died

The Noah Purifoy Foundation [announced the passing](#) of **Judson Powell** (1933-2021) last week. He died Feb. 8. An established musician, Powell met Noah Purifoy in 1964 and the two became great friends and collaborators. Powell transformed himself into an assemblage artist, taught at the Watts Towers Art Center, and co-organized the traveling exhibition "66 Signs of Neon" with Purifoy. In 1969, Powell founded Communicative Arts Academy in Compton and hired John Outterbridge (1933-2020) as director.

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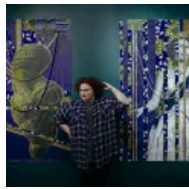


CULTURE TALK: FRANK STEWART ON HIS JAZZ PHOTOGRAPHS, APPROACH TO IMAGE MAKING, AND FORTHCOMING MUSEUM RETROSPECTIVE





The Week in Black Art, February 22-28,



The Week in Black Art, Feb. 8-14, 2021:



The Week in African American Art: 7



Coming Soon: Major Charles White

Tags: February James, Judson Powell

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ON THE RISE: 54 CURATORS AND ARTS LEADERS WHO TOOK ON NEW APPOINTMENTS IN 2020



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