

**PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON**

**BORN**

1951 New York, NY

**EDUCATION**

1979 MA, New York University, NY  
1973 BA, Bennington College, Bennington, VT  
1970-72 New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting, & Sculpture; Summer Courses, New York, NY

**SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2024 *Sweet Dreams*, Manoir de Kerlaouen, Lesneven, France  
2023 *The Borders of Innocence*, Galerie Semiose, Paris, France  
2022 *Recent Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
2021 *Entangled in Truth*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2019 Foreman Gallery of Contemporary Art, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY  
Drumthwacket Foundation, New Jersey Governor's Mansion, Princeton, NJ  
*Career Retrospective: Philemona Williamson: Metaphorical Narratives*, Montclair Art Museum, NJ  
*Hovering Tales: Recent Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
*Ashé in the Art of Philemona Williamson*, Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture & History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC  
2015 *Black & Colored: Recent Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
2013 *Philemona Williamson: New Works*, Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE  
2012 *Philemona Williamson*, Holtzman MFA Gallery, Towson University, Towson, MD  
2010 *Fractured Tales*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
2009 *Philemona Williamson Exhibition*, Delaware County Community College, Media, PA  
2008 *Philemona Williamson: Sudden Passages: New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
2006 *New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
2003 *New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
2001 *Philemona Williamson*, Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, State Univ. of NY, College at Old Westbury, NY  
2000 *New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
1999 *Philemona Williamson...And What She Found There*, Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI  
1998 *Recent Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
1995 *New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
1994 *Philemona Williamson: Fables and Fantasies*, Hypo-Bank, New York, NY  
1993 *Inaugural Exhibition*, Flushing Council on Culture & Arts, New York, NY  
*Selected Paintings*, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA  
1992 *New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
Powers Art Gallery, East Stroudsburg University, PA  
1991 *Philemona Williamson Paintings*, African American Museum, Hempstead, NY

- Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY  
*Philemona Williamson: Through the Looking Glass*, Southampton College of Long Island University, NY  
 1989 *Philemona Williamson*, Wenger Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
 1988 *Philemona Williamson: Recent Paintings*, The Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY

## SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Art Basel Miami Beach*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL  
*The Culture From Which I Sprang*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Century 100 Years of Black Art*, Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey, NJ  
*Entangled Gaze*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2023 *The Minotaur's Daydream*, Galerie Semiose, NYC  
*Sins of the Fathers*, Taymour Grahne Projects, London, United Kingdom  
*Cyclical Bloom*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
 EXPO Chicago, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2021 *Art Basel Miami Beach*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL  
*The Armory Show*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY
- 2020 *Sit Still, Self-Portraits in the Age of Distraction*, Anna Zorina Gallery, New York, NY
- 2018 *10 Years 10 Artists*, Octavia Art Gallery, New Orleans, LA  
*Serenading Summer*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017 *Converging Voices: Gender and Identity*, Hofstra, Long Island: Hofstra University Museum, Hempstead, NY
- 2016 *Recharging the Image: Selections from the Mott-Warsh Collection*, The Visual Arts Center, Summit, NJ
- 2016 *Visions of our 44th President Barack Obama*, traveling exhibition, organized by Charles H Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI
- 2012 *A Complex Weave: Women and Identity in Contemporary Art*, traveling exhibition organized by Rutgers-Camden Center, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
- 2010 *Shrew'd: The Smart & Sassy Survey of American Woman Artists*, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE  
*Children's Pleasures: American Celebrations of Childhood*, Hofstra University Museum, Hempstead, NY
- 2007 *Crossing the Line: African American Artists in the Jacqueline Bradley and Clarence Otis, Jr. Collection*, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Winter Park, FL
- 2005 *Five Contemporary Voices in A New Space*, Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem, NC
- 2004 *A Universe of Art*, organized by Corporate Art Directions, Credit Suisse First Boston, New York, NY  
*Unveiling the Image: Multicultural Women Artists*, Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, Summit, NJ
- 2003 *Growing Up: Childhood in American and Native American Art*, Montclair Art Museum, NJ
- 2000 *Collector's Choice II: Contemporary Art from Central Florida Collections*, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL
- 1999 *Drawing in the Present Tense*, Arnold and Sheila Aronson Gallery, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY
- 1998 *Postcards from Black America*, Center for Contemporary Art in Breda, Netherlands, and the Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, Netherlands  
*Walk the Walk: Mentoring Youth in Art*, Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO
- 1997 *Women In Full Effect*, RUSH Philanthropic Art Foundation, New York, NY

- 1996 *Bearing Witness: Contemporary Works by African American Women Artists*, traveling exhibition, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
- 1996 *Real: Figurative Narratives in Contemporary African American Art*, Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, FL
- The Boat, Object and Metaphor*, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, Rubelle and Norman Schafner Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, NY
- Other Agendas*, Kingsborough Community College Art Gallery of CUNY, Brooklyn, NY
- 1994 *Current Identities: Recent Paintings in the United States*, Cuenca International Biennial of Painting, Ecuador, organized by Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ
- 1992 *Present Tense*, UWM Fine Arts Gallery, The University of Wisconsin, WI
- 1988 *Alice And Look Who Else Through the Looking Glass*, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, New York, NY

## COLLECTIONS

Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ  
 Kalamazoo Art Museum, Kalamazoo, MI  
 Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC  
 Hampton University Museum, Hampton, VA  
 Newark Museum, Newark, NJ  
 Sheldon Art Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE  
 Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA  
 Mott-Warsh Art Collection, Flint, MI  
 Reader's Digest, Pleasantville, NY  
 AT&T, NJ

## AWARDS

- 2015 Artists-in-Residence Program, Joan Mitchell Center, New Orleans, LA
- 2008 Bau Institute, Residency, Otranto, Italy
- 1997 Joan Mitchell Foundation Award in Painting, New York, NY
- 1993 Ludwig Vogelstein Grant, New York, NY
- 1994 MTA Arts & Design Poster Commission, Union Square Station, New York, NY
- 1991 New York Foundation for the Arts, Fellowship in Painting, New York, NY
- 1990 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, NY
- 1988 AIM, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York Artists Space, Exhibition Grant, New York, NY
- 1987 National Endowment for the Arts, Fellowship in Painting, Washington, DC
- 1983 The Millay Colony for the Arts, Artist-in-Residence, Austerlitz, NY

## TEACHING/CONSULTING

- 2019 Board of Directors, Present DoingArtTogether, NY
- 2017 Present Pratt University, Painting, New York, NY
- Present Hunter College, Painting, New York, NY
- 2017-2003 Instructor, Doing Art Together, NYC
- 2017-2016 Hunter College, Visiting Professor, Narrative Painting, New York, NY
- 2012-2007 School of Visual Arts, Drawing and Painting, New York, NY
- 1998 The Getty Center for Education in the Arts/Advisory Board, Los Angeles, CA

- 1996-1994 New York State Council on the Arts/Visual Arts Panelist, New York, NY
- 1994 Parsons School of Design/Visiting Artist/MFA Program, New York, NY
- 1992 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts/Juror/Art Fellowships, Harrisburg, PA
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/Visiting Artist, Chapel Hill, NC
- Parsons School of Design/Adjunct Faculty/Freshman Foundation Drawing, NY
- 1992-1991 Cooper Union/Adjunct Faculty/Freshman Foundation Painting, New York, NY
- 1992-1991 Parsons School of Design/Adjunct Faculty/Freshman Foundation Drawing, NY
- 1991 Bard College/Painting Faculty/Milton Avery Grad School of the Arts, Annandale-On-Hudson, NY
- 1990 Flushing Council on Culture & Arts, New York/Panelist, Artist Colonies Seminar, Flushing, NY
- National Endowment for the Arts, Panelist/Services to Arts/Artist Communities Panel, Washington, DC
- 1989-1990 RISD/Adjunct Faculty/Freshman Foundation Drawing, Providence, RI

## LECTURES

- 2017 Speaker, Hunter College Mellon Fellow Arts Workshop, New York, NY
- 2017 Speaker, Montclair Art Museum, NJ
- 2016 Art Educators of New Jersey, Keynote Speaker at conference *Tell Me a Story*, Long Branch, NJ
- 2015 Visiting Lecturer, Art Department, Pace University, New York, NY
- 2014 Visiting Artist, Lecturer and Critique, Graduate painting class, Pratt University, New York, NY
- 2013 Delaware Center for Contemporary Art Lecture
- 2012 *Gallery Talk*, Center for the Arts, Holtzman Gallery, Towson University, Towson, MD
- 2005 *Gallery Talk*, Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem, NC
- 2000 *Conversation with African-American Artists*, *The Montclair Art Museum*, Montclair, NJ

## COMMISSIONS

- 2020 *Lubaya's Quiet Roar* (Children's' book illustrations), Penguin Random House, New York, NY
- 2016 *Poetry in Motion*, MTA Arts & Design, New York, NY
- 2015 *Visions of Our 44th President Barack Obama*, (bust), Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI
- 2007 *Seasons*, (six fused-glass panels), MTA Arts & Design, Livonia Avenue MTA Station, Brooklyn, NY
- 2004 *Folktales From Around the World*, (four glass mosaic murals, 6 feet x 15 feet & 6 feet x 8 feet), New York State School Construction Authority and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art Program, New York, NY
- 1999 Art in Embassy Program, US State Department, Antananarivo, Madagascar

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2020 Publishers Weekly Editors. "New and Forthcoming Kids' and YA Books by Black Creators." *Publishers Weekly*, 30 July 2020.
- Christie's Editors. "What I've learned: Belinda Tate, executive director of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts." *Christie's*, 5 March 2020.

- 2019 La Gorce, Tammy. "Painter Philemona Williamson Colorfully Depicts Adolescents." *New Jersey Monthly*, 5 March 2019.
- 2018 Baristanet Staff. "Fright Night III, Montclair Art Museum's Halloween Happening, Is Back!" *Baristanet*, 23 October 2018. Online.  
 Cascone, Sarah. "Editors' Picks, Print Week Edition: 21 Things Not to Miss in New York's Art World This Week." *Artnet News*, 22 October 2018.  
 Manufacturers Village Artists. "A Weekend Tour of Artist Studios at the Manufacturers Village in East Orange, New Jersey." *Hyperallergic*, 11 October 2018.  
 Sinclair Colman, Michelle. "15 Art Museums Outside NYC Worth the Trip." *6sqft*, 3 April 2018.  
 Valentine, Victoria L. "Remembering Peggy Cooper Cafritz, the Passionate Art Collector and Education Advocate Died at 70." *Culture Type*, 22 February 2018.
- 2017 Valentine, Victoria L. "October Openings: Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Toyin Ojih Odutola, John Akomfrah, African Design, Hank Willis Thomas Debuts in London, and Women Working in Abstraction." *Culture Type*, 22 October 2017.  
 Valentine, Victoria L. "New Season, New Art: Fall Begins with 45 Notable Exhibitions Featuring Works by Black Artists." *Culture Type*, 30 September 2017.  
 Orel, Gwen. "Human Nature Wears Bright Colors At Montclair Art Museum: Philemona Williamson." *Montclair Local*, 19 September 2017.  
 Finch, Abbey. "Montclair Art Museum unveils retrospective of Philemona Williamson." *North Jersey*, 19 September 2017.
- 2016 Micchelli, Thomas. "From Flint with Love, Art of the African Diaspora." *Hyperallergic*, 2 July 2016.
- 2015 Daniel, Daria. "artnet Asks: Philemona Williamson, Emotive Painter." *Artnet News*, 3 May 2015.  
 Valentine, Victoria L. "Spring Openings: 28 New Exhibitions Feature Black Artists." *Culture Type*, 8 April 2015.
- 2014 Sheets, Hilarie M. "Utopian Vision Born of a Harsh Truth." *The New York Times*, 11 April 2014.

