

Mequitta Ahuja

1998 BA, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

2003 MFA, University of Illinois at Chicago

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2018 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Fellow

2015 Dora Maar Fellowship, Artist in Residence, Menerbes, France

2014 Siena Art Institute, Artist in Residence: Project Fellow, Siena, Italy

2011-12 MICA, Stewart McMillan Artist in Residence, Baltimore, MD

2009-10 Studio Museum in Harlem, Artist-in-Residence, New York, NY

2006-08 Core Program, Artist-in-Residence, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Notations* Tiwani Contemporary, London, United Kingdom

2018 *Held* Art Brussels, Tiwani Contemporary, Brussels, Belgium

2017 *Meaningful Fictions and Figurative Tradition* Sonja Haynes Stone Center, Chapel Hill, NC

2015 *Automythography* The Dodd Contemporary Art Center, Athens, GA

2013 *Mequitta Ahuja* Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York, NY

2012 *Mequitta Ahuja and Robert Pruitt* Bakersfield Museum of Art, Bakersfield, CA (two-person show)

2010 *Trois* Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France.

2010 *Automythography II* Arthouse, Austin, TX

2009 *Automythography I* BravinLee Programs, NY, NY

2008 *Flowback* Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX

2007 *Encounters* BravinLee Programs, NY, NY

2005 *Dancing on the Hide of Shere Khan* 12X12, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020 *Riffs and Relations: African American Artists and the European Modernist Tradition*
The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC

2018 *About Face* Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

For Freedom's 50 States Initiative, Billboard in Des Moines, IA

Embodied Politic Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL

Infinite Spaces: Rediscovering PAFA's Permanent Collection, Philadelphia, PA

2017 *The Art World We Want* Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA

A Space for Thought Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy

American African American Phillips, London, UK

Engender Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Lucid Dreams and Distant Visions: South Asian Art in the Diaspora Asia Society, NY

Sondheim Exhibition Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

Face to Face, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Shifting: African-American Women and the Power of their Gaze, Driskell Center, MD

2016 *Past/Present/Future* Grand Rapids Art Museum, MI

Champagne Life Saatchi Gallery, London

2015 *Sondheim Finalist Exhibition* Baltimore Museum of Art, MD

Mythopoeia Tiwani Contemporary, London

2014 *State of the Art* Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, AR

If You Build It No Longer Empty, NY

Marks of Genius: One Hundred Extraordinary Drawings Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MN

Leaves Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects, NY

How The Light Gets In Glassell School of Art, TX

2013 *Portraiture Now: Drawing on the Edge* Arkansas Arts Center, AR

War Baby/Love Child DePaul University Art Museum, IL

- Mixtopias* Visarts, MD
- 2012 *The Bearden Project* The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY
Portraiture Now: Drawing on the Edge Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery Washington, DC.
In Between Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Belgium.
Sleeping Inside Our Bodies Union Art Gallery, University of Wisconsin, WI
The Human Touch The Blanton Museum of Art, TX
Red Maison Particuliere, Belgium
- 2011 *Collected: Ritual* Studio Museum in Harlem, NY
Drawings for the New Century Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MN
- 2010 *Usable Pasts (Artists in Residence Exhibition)* Studio Museum in Harlem, NY
Body of Work (Women to Watch) National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
Art on Paper Weatherspoon Art Museum, NC
Weaving in and Out No Longer Empty, NY
Until Now: Collecting the New (1960- 2010) Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MN
New Works for the Collection Blanton Museum of Art, TX
- 2009 *Undercover* Spelman College Museum of Fine Arts, GA
Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC
Anomalies Rossi and Rossi Gallery, London
Wonder What The Others Are Up To Gallery OED, Cochin, India
\$timulus Artadia Awardees Exhibition Diverseworks, TX
The Talented Ten Deborah Colton Gallery, TX
- 2008 *Houston Collects* Museum of Fine Arts Houston, TX
- 2007 *Global Feminisms* Brooklyn Museum, NY
Painters and Poets Ulrich Museum, KS
- 2006 *Chimaera* Tenri Cultural Institute of New York, NY
New Art Event Ulrich Museum, KS
Spirit and Psyche: The Figure Transformed Highland Park Art Center, IL
- 2005 *d'Afrique d'Asie* Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, NY
Representations Contemporary Art Workshop, IL
- 2004 *Baltimore/Chicago* Maryland Institute College of Art, MD

INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX
 Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
 GAE LLC, an affiliate of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, AR
 David C. Driskell Center, College Park, MD
 Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, TX
 Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
 Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
 Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, Asbury, NJ
 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
 Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Wealth Management
 Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
 Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
 Ulrich Museum, Wichita, KS
 U.S. State Department, Mumbai Consulate, India
 U.S. State Department, New Delhi, India

AWARDS

2018 Guggenheim Fellow
 2013 Maryland Individual Artist Award
 2011 Louis Comfort Tiffany Award

- 2009 Joan Mitchell Award
- 2008 Artadia Award, Houston
- 2008 Cornelia and Meredith Long Prize, Inaugural Recipient
- 2003 Chicago Civic Arts Foundation Visual Arts Competition, First Place
- 2002 University of Illinois Diversity Fellowship

ARTIST TALKS

- Brooklyn Museum
- Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
- DePaul Museum of Art
- De Young Museum
- Harvard University
- Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (MCA)
- Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
- Minneapolis Institute of Art
- Northwestern University
- Siena Art Institute (Italy)
- Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery
- Stone Center, UNC, Chapel Hill
- Studio Museum in Harlem
- Walters Art Museum

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2015 Saatchi Gallery Champagne Life Natasha Hoare, p. 11-25
- 2014 Crystal Bridges State of the Art Don Bacigalupi and Chad Allgood
- 2014 Minneapolis Institute of Arts Master Drawings Rachel McGarry and Tom Rassieur, *Tress IV* p.273
- 2014 *Callaloo: Art and Culture in the African Diaspora* Volume 37, Number 4, p. 889-893
- 2014 Point of View: African American Art from the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Collection *Tress II* p.85
- 2013 Blanton Museum of Art 110 Favorites From the Collection Simone F. Wicha *Parade* p.108
- 2013 DePaul Art Museum War Baby Love Child Laura Kina and WeiMing Dariotis, Front cover, about, 197; *Automythography*, 17, 197, 198; *Dream Region*, 198-99, 259n1, plate 32; hybrid vision of self, 188; interview, 197-99; *Spark*, 4-5, 198-99, plate 1
- 2013 *Callaloo: Arts and Letters of the African Diaspora* Volume 36, Number 2, Cover: *Royal Ease, Surge*
- 2012 The Studio Museum in Harlem The Bearden Project Thelma Golden and Lauren Haynes, *Epilogue* p.35
- 2012 Art and Social Justice Education: Culture as Commons “Mequitta Ahuja: Afrogalaxy” Romi Crawford
- 2010 The Studio Museum in Harlem Re: Collection “Kerry James Marshall” essay by Mequitta Ahuja p.98
- 2009 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Collecting African American Art Alvia Wardlaw, Back cover, p. 90-91
- 2009 *Callaloo: Arts and Letters of the African Diaspora* Volume 32, Number 1, *Off the Edge* p.279
- 2007 Brooklyn Museum Global Feminisms Maura Reilly and Linda Nochlin, Bio p.267 *Boogie Woogie* p.169
- 2007 Ulrich Museum Poets and Painters Katie Geha, *Tsunami Generation* p.28. with poet Eric Baus p.29

SELECTED PRESS

- 2018 *The Paris Review*, The Daily, Notations by Mequitta Ahuja, June 11
- The Baltimore Sun*, Baltimore Painter is Among the 2018 Guggenheim Fellows, Sarah Meehan, April 16
- 2017 *The New Yorker*, Goings on About Town: Lucid Dreams and Distant Visions, July 24
- 2015 *City Paper* “Sondheim Finalists 2015: Mequitta Ahuja’s allegorical oil paintings reference art history’s canon and reclaim the artist’s agency” Maura Callahan, July 7
- 2014 *ARTnews.com* “101 Women Artists Who Got Wikipedia Pages This Week” Robin Cembalast, Feb 6
- Star Tribune* “The Genius of Drawing” Mary Abbe, July 11
- 2013 *The Chicago Tribune* “‘War Baby’ is Something to See if You Can Let Go” Lori Waxman, May 8
- Gallerist NY* “Mequitta Ahuja at Thierry Goldberg Gallery” Will Heinrich, Nov 26
- Face to Face:* (Smithsonian blog) “Beneath the Surface: An Unusual Installation” Warren Perry, 4/26

- The Georgetown* "Portraiture Now at the National Portrait Gallery" Ari Post, Jan 16
Examiner.com "Drawing on the Edge: Six Voices at the National Portrait Gallery" Brett Busang, Jan 7
The In Towner "Museums: National Portrait Gallery" Anthony L. Harvey, January, Vol. 44, # 7
Vocolo 90.7FM "War Baby/Love Child" Interview with Brian Babylon, May 16
The Washington Post Editor's Picks: "In Fact There Is Fiction on Display" Michael O'Sullivan, Dec 7
- 2010 *The International Review of African American Art* "Usable Pasts..." Cherilyn Wright, 23.1
Art Practical "From New York: Usable Pasts" Christine Wong, Sept 10,
Thirteen New York Public Media "Sunday Arts News" September 19
The New Yorker "Usable Pasts" Vince Aletti, August 18
ARTnews "Artists to Watch: The Key to Her Locks" Rachel Wolff, February, p. 76-77
MW Capacity "Q&A with Mequitta Ahuja" Chris Lowrance, April 22
Art Lies "Usable Pasts: The Studio Museum in Harlem" John Ewing, No. 67 Fall/Winter, p.94-95
Might be Good "Interview: Mequitta Ahuja" Wendy Vogel, Oct 29, Issue #156
Examiner.com "New Works for the Blanton Collection" Shannon Moore, Aug 12
- 2009 *Houston Public Radio KUHF* "The Front Row" Meghan Handley, Jan 6
Houston Chronicle "Artwork is a Reflection of its Audience" Douglas Britt, Jan 8, p.E2
Saatchi Online Critic's Choice "Mequitta Ahuja" Rebecca Wilson, March 16
Artforum.com "Undercover: Performing and Transforming Black Female Identities" Rebecca D.Cochran
Might be Good "Project Space: Mequitta Ahuja" Nicole Caruth, April 10, Issue #120
- 2008 *ABC 13 News* "MFAH Houston Collects" Laura Whitley, October 15
- 2007 *The New York Times* "Last Chance" Holland Cotter, June 1
Art News "We're Finally Infiltrating" Phoebe Hoban, February, p.112
Modern Painters "VIVA" Carrie Moyer, March, p.77