

Jenkins Johnson Gallery

Philemona Williamson

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Established 1996. Member AIPAD and the San Francisco Art Dealers Association
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PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON

Philemona Williams is acclaimed for narrative paintings in which she populates with children and adolescents, beautifully encapsulating themes of time and memory, revealing fleeting moments that are at once unknown but relatable. Her paintings inspire infinite narratives as her subjects intertwine with our own experiences.

Williamson explores the tenuous bridge between adolescence and adulthood, encapsulating the intersection of innocence and experience at its most piercing and poignant moment. The lush color palette and dreamlike positioning of the figures ensures that their vulnerability - of age, of race, of sexual identity - is seen as strength and not as weakness.

Williamson recently had a mid-career retrospective at the Montclair Art Museum, NJ and collaborated with author Marilyn Nelson to create a series of paintings for the children's book "Lubaya's Quiet Roar" (Penguin Random House). She is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies including the Joan Mitchell Foundation, Pollock-Krasner, National Endowment for the Arts and New York Foundation for the Arts. Williamson also served on the advisory board of the Getty Center for Education. She has shown in institutions including The Queens Museum of Art, The Bass, Miami, and Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis. Williamson's work is in museums including the Montclair Art Museum, NJ, Kalamazoo Institutes of Arts, MI, Mint Museum, NC, Smith College Museum of Art, MA, Hampton University Museum, VA and Sheldon Art Museum, NE. Her public works include murals for the MTA Arts in Transit Program. Art & Object named her "10 Contemporary Black Artists You Should Know More About". She currently teaches painting at Pratt Institute and Hunter College in New York.



Philemona Williamson, *Fragile Promises*, 2020, oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches.



Philemona Williamson, *Fragile Promises*, 2020, oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches.



Philemona Williamson
Because I Said So, 2011-2012
oil on linen
66 x 66 inches
signed verso

PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON

BORN:

Detroit, MI. Lives and works in New York, NY

EDUCATION:

1979 MA, New York University, New York

1973 BA, Bennington College, Vermont

1970-72 New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting, & Sculpture; Summer Courses

SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND COLLABORATIONS:

2021 Art Basel Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL

Entangled in Truth, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2019 Foreman Gallery of Contemporary Art, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY

Drumthwacket Foundation (NJ Governor's Mansion) Princeton, NJ

Career Retrospective: Philemona Williamson: Metaphorical Narratives, Montclair Art Museum, N

J Hovering Tales: Recent Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, NYC

Ashé in the Art of Philemona Williamson, Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture & History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2015 Black & Colored: Recent Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, NYC

2013 Philemona Williamson: New Works, Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts, Wilmington

2012 Philemona Williamson, Holtzman MFA Gallery, Towson University, Towson, Maryland

2010 Fractured Tales, June Kelly Gallery, NYC

2009 Philemona Williamson Exhibition, Delaware County Community College, Media, PA

2008 Philemona Williamson: Sudden Passages: New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, NYC

2006 New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, NYC

2003 New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, NYC

2001 Philemona Williamson, Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, State Univ. of NY, College at Old Westbury, N

Y 2000 New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, NYC

1999 Philemona Williamson...And What She Found There, Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

1998 Recent Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

1995 New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

1994 Philemona Williamson: Fables and Fantasies, Hypo-Bank, New York, New York

1993 Inaugural Exhibition, Flushing Council on Culture & Arts, New York, New York

Selected Paintings, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

1992 New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, New York

Powers Art Gallery, East Stroudsburg University, Pennsylvania

1991 Philemona Williamson Paintings, African American Museum, Hempstead, New York

Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

Philemona Williamson: Through the Looking Glass, Southampton College of LI Univ., NY

1989 Philemona Williamson, Wenger Gallery, Los Angeles, California

1988 Philemona Williamson: Recent Paintings, The Queens Museum of Art, Queens, New York

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2021 Art Basel Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL (forthcoming)

The Armory Show, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY

2020 Sit Still, Self-Portraits in the Age of Distraction, Anna Zorina Gallery, NYC

- 2018 10 Years 10 Artists, Octavia Art Gallery, New Orleans, LA
Serenading Summer, June Kelly Gallery, NYC
- 2017 Converging Voices: Gender and Identity, Hofstra, Long Island: Hofstra University Museum 2016
Recharging the Image: Selections from the Mott-Warsh Collection, The Visual Arts Center, Summit, New Jersey
- 2016 Visions of our 44th President Barack Obama, traveling exhibition, organized by Charles H Wright
Museum of African American History, Detroit, Michigan
- 2012 A Complex Weave: Women and Identity in Contemporary Art, traveling exhibition organized by R
utgers-Camden Center, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey
- 2010 Shrew'd: The Smart & Sassy Survey of American Woman Artists, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln,
Nebraska
Children's Pleasures: American Celebrations of Childhood, Hofstra University Museum, Hempstead,
New York
- 2007 Crossing the Line: African American Artists in the Jacqueline Bradley and Clarence Otis, Jr. Colle
ction, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Winter Park, Florida
- 2005 Five Contemporary Voices in A New Space, Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 20
04 A Universe of Art, organized by Corporate Art Directions, Credit Suisse First Boston, New York
2004 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,
New Jersey 2000 Collector's Choice II: Contemporary Art from Central Florida Collections, Orlando
Museum of Art, Florida
- 1999 Drawing in the Present Tense, Arnold and Sheila Aronson Gallery, Parsons School of Design, New
York, New York, traveling exhibition
- 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, Missouri
- 1997 Women In Full Effect, sponsored by RUSH Philanthropic Art Foundation, New York, New York 1
996 Bearing Witness: Contemporary Works by African American Women Artists, traveling exhibition,
Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, Georgia
- 1996 Real: Figurative Narratives in Contemporary African-American Art, Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach,
Florida
The Boat, Object and Metaphor, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, NYC, and the Rubelle and Norman Sch
hafler Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York
Other Agendas, Kingsborough Community College Art Gallery of CUNY, Brooklyn, New York 199
4 Current Identities: Recent Paintings in the United States, 1994 Cuenca International Bial of P
ainting, Ecuador, organized by Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ
- 1992 Present Tense, UWM Fine Arts Gallery, The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 1988 Alice And Look Who Else Through the Looking Glass, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, New York

COLLECTIONS:

Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
 Kalamazoo Art Museum, Kalamazoo, MI
 Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina
 Hampton University Museum, Hampton, Virginia
 Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey
 Sheldon Art Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska
 Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts
 Mott-Warsh Art Collection, Flint, Michigan

Reader's Digest, Pleasantville, New York
AT&T, New Jersey

SPECIAL PROJECTS/COMMISSIONS:

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

GRANTS AND AWARDS:

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

LECTURES:

- 2017 Speaker, Hunter College Mellon Fellow Arts Workshop
- 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, New York
- 2014 Visiting Artist, Lecturer and Critique, Graduate painting class, Pratt University, New York, New York 2013 Delaware Center for Contemporary Art Lecture
- 2012 "Gallery Talk," Center for the Arts, Holtzman Gallery, Towson University, Towson, Maryland
- 2005 "Gallery Talk," Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- 2000 "Conversation with African-American Artists, The Montclair Art Museum," Montclair, NJ

TEACHING/CONSULTING:

- 2019 Present DoingArtTogether, NYC, Board of Directors
- 2017 Present Pratt University, Painting, New York
Present Hunter College, Painting, New York
- 2017-2003 Doing Art Together, NYC, Instructor
- 2017-2016 Hunter College, Visiting Professor, Narrative Painting, New York, New York 2012-2007 School of Visual Arts, Drawing and Painting, New York, New York
- 1998-1989 The Getty Center for Education in the Arts/Advisory Board, Los Angeles, California 1996-1994 New York State Council on the Arts/Visual Arts Panelist, New York,
- 1994 Parsons School of Design/Visiting Artist/MFA Program, New York, New York

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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- 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.
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- Valentine, Victoria L. “Remembering Peggy Cooper Cafritz, the Passionate Art Collector and Education Advocate Died at 70.” *Culture Type*, 22 February 2018. Online.
- 2017 Valentine, Victoria L. “October Openings: Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Toyin Ojih Odutola, John Akmofrah, African Design, Hank Willis Thomas Debuts in London, and Women Working in Abstraction.” *Culture Type*, 22 October 2017. Online.
- Valentine, Victoria L. “New Season, New Art: Fall Begins with 45 Notable Exhibitions Featuring Works by Black Artists.” *Culture Type*, 30 September 2017. Online.
- Orel, Gwen. “Human Nature Wears Bright Colors At Montclair Art Museum: Philemona Williamson.” *Montclair Local*, 19 September 2017. Online.
- Finch, Abbey. “Montclair Art Museum unveils retrospective of Philemona Williamson.” *North Jersey*, 19 September 2017. Online.
- 2016 Micchelli, Thomas. “From Flint with Love, Art of the African Diaspora.” *Hyperallergic*, 2 July 2016. Online.
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- 2014 Sheets, Hilarie M. “Utopian Vision Born of a Harsh Truth.” *The New York Times*, 11 April 2014. Online.