

# RENA BRANSTEN

## GALLERY

### LAVA THOMAS

**Born** Los Angeles, CA

#### Education

1999 BFA, California College of the Arts, Oakland, CA

1996 UCLA School of Art Practice, Los Angeles, CA

#### Exhibitions - Solo

2015 "Looking Back and Seeing Now", Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA

2014 "Lava Thomas: Beyond", Museum of African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA

2005 Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Ojai, CA

2003 Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Ojai, CA

1996 Art Dome, CA State University, Northridge, CA

#### Exhibitions – Group

2016 Expo Chicago, Rena Bransten Projects, Chicago, IL

"After Pop Life", Minnesota Street Projects, San Francisco, CA

artMRKT San Francisco, Rena Bransten Gallery, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA

"Contemporary Figuration as an Expression of Humanism", Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA

"These American Lives", Rena Bransten Gallery, Minnesota Street Projects, San Francisco, CA

"Introspective", BravinLee Programs, New York, NY

2015 Pulse Miami Beach, Rena Bransten Projects, Miami, FL

Expo Chicago, Rena Bransten Projects, Chicago, IL

"Collect!", Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA

artMRKT San Francisco, Rena Bransten Projects, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA

2014 Collect!, Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA

"West Coast Ink", University Art Gallery, Sonoma State University, Sonoma, CA

2013 "Being Scene", a performance installation in collaboration with Aleta Hayes, Iris & B Gerald Cantor Center at Stanford University, Stanford, CA

2012 "Community Creates", Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA

"Women In Print", Etchings from the Paulson Bott Press, Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, CA

2011 "Chain Letter", Shoshona Wayne Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

"Women in Print", Paulson Bott Press, Berkeley, CA

"Tel-Art-Phone", Beacon Arts Building, Inglewood, CA

2010 "Secret Drawings", Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA

Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA

2008 Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, CA

Idyllwild Art Center, Idyllwild, CA

2007 International Print Center, New York, NY

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- Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA
- 2006 Fullerton College Art Gallery, Fullerton, CA  
Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, CA  
Idyllwild Art Center, Idyllwild, CA  
Paulson Bott Press, Berkeley, CA  
"Strictly Graphite", Fine Arts Gallery, College of Marin, Marin, CA  
"Hair Raising", San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA  
ArtLA, Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
- 2005 "Paintings Edge", Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, CA  
"Face Paint", Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
San Francisco International Art Exhibition, Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Fort Mason Center
- 2004 "Meat Show", San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Commission '04, San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
"Art Interrupted 2", Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA  
"Echoes of Africa", American Pavilion, Epcot Center, Disneyworld, Orlando, FL  
"Hidden Treasures", Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Ojai, CA
- 2003 Djerassi Resident Artists Program Annual Open House, Woodside, CA
- 1999 "Two Artists: Stacy Pyles and Lava Thomas", San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery  
New Work, CA College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA
- 1998 "Sexing Myths", Betty Wymer Gallery, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 1997 "Caressed By the Earth", CA African-American Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
"Aphrodisiac", Ascension Gallery, Washington, DC  
III, Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute  
"Time of Departure", Pro Arts Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 1995 "Parallel Origins", Landing Space, Wight Gallery, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

### Commissions

- 2013 Set Design, "Singing the Rooms: Songs For Alan", performance by Aleta Hayes, Performance Studies International Conference, Stanford University
- 2007 Set Design, Remix Project, Stanford University  
Set Design, "Rock, Pop and Hip Hop in Contemporary Theater", Stanford University High School Program
- 2006 Set Design Collaboration, "Remix Project", Eastside College Preparatory High School, East Palo Alto, CA
- 2004 Commission '04 Mini-box set, SF Arts Commission Gallery, with Trillium Press
- 1996 Set painting for "Five Dead Friends", Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO
- 1994 City of Santa Clarita Mural Project with East Los Angeles Street Scapers Studio, Los Angeles

### Bibliography

- 2016 David M. Roth. "These American Lives @ Rena Bransten Gallery" Squarecylinder.com 4/25/2016
- 2015 Black Renaissance Noire, Volume 15.2, Institute of African American Affairs, New York University, Fall/Winter 2015  
LeDuc, Aimee. "Lava Thomas: Looking Back and Seeing Now," Catalog 8/15  
Garchick, Leah. "What if you gave a piano concert and goofs didn't matter," sfchronicle.com 7/15/15

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- Zack, Jessica. "Lava Thomas' Mirrored Art Helps Viewers Reflect," SF Chronicle 7/31/15  
Burke, Sarah. "Lava Thomas' Tambourine Dream," East Bay Express 7/15/15
- 2014 Garchick, Leah. "MoAD cuts the ribbon and welcomes art lovers to reimagined space," sfchronicle.com 12/4/14  
LeFalle-Collins. Lizetta, "Lava Thomas: Beyond," Catalog 9/15  
Winn, Steven. "Lava Thomas' art rooted in biography," sfgate.com 11/29/14  
Winn, Steven. "MoAD reopens with big changes and big plans," sfchronicle.com 11/26/14  
"The Cantor collaborates with Stanford students in many creative ways: Being Scene," Cantor Arts Center News, April-May-June 2014
- 2013 Kienzle, Karen. "The Veterans Portrait/Self-Portrait Project", Catalog 4/13
- 2011 Studio Visit Magazine, Fall/Winter 2011
- 2010 ZYZZYVA 90, Winter 2010  
"Art Collection of the United States Consulate General, Johannesburg, South Africa", Catalog  
Graham, Jason-Louise. "Lava Thomas Shakes Berkeley", Examiner.com 9/28/10  
Messer, Ari. "Studies in Digital Imaging", COLOR #6, 3/10
- 2006 ZYZZYVA 78, Winter 2006  
ArtLA, Catalog, 1/06  
Hendrix, Anastasia. "Art off the top of our heads", San Francisco Chronicle, 1/15/06
- 2005 Wiebe, Stacey. "Body of Art", Ventura County Reporter, 9/22/05  
San Francisco International Art Exhibition, Catalog, 1/05
- 2004 Buckner, Clark. "Critic's Choice", San Francisco Bay Guardian, 12/22/04  
"Meat Show", Catalog, 11/04
- 2003 Campbell, Rob. "Natural refinement", Ventura County Reporter, 12/11/03  
Woodard, Joseph. "All certified 'Organic'", LA Times Calendar Weekend, 12/4/03
- 1997 Wilson, Stanley. "Caressed by the Earth", Catalog, 10/97  
"New Drawing" Catalog, 9/97
- 1996 Johnson, Reed. "Similar Visions from Worlds Apart", Daily News, 10/11/96  
Woodard, Joseph. "Sights", LA Times Calendar, 11/14/96
- 1995 Von Blum, Paul and Du Tan, Stephanie. "Parallel Origins", Catalog, 6/95

### Fellowships, Awards and Residencies:

- 2016 Artist in Residence, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley CA
- 2015 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant Program Recipient
- 2008 Paintings Edge, Idyllwild Arts Center, Idyllwild, CA  
Winter Residency, Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA
- 2004 Paintings Edge, Idyllwild Arts Center, Idyllwild, CA
- 2003 Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA  
Peninsula Community Foundation Fellowship
- 1998 All College Honors, CA College of the Arts
- 1995 J.P. Getty Undergraduate Internship for Diversity in the Arts and Humanities

Lectures, Panel Discussions, Artist Talks, and Workshops.

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- 2015 Conversation with Jacqueline Francis, PhD., Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA  
Lecture, Ceramics Department, CA College of the Arts, Oakland, CA
- 2014 Artist Talk, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 Lecture, California State University Monterey, Monterey, CA
- 2013 Studio Visit, Graduate Seminar, San Francisco Art Institute, CA
- 2012 Studio Visit, Graduate Seminar in Design Management, SF State University
- 2010 Artist Talk, Dance Department, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA  
Studio Visit, Graduate Seminar in Design Management, SF State University
- 2008 Artist Talk, Drama Department, Stanford University,
- 2007 Panel Discussion, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
- 2006 Artist Talk, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
- 2006 Artist Talk, San Francisco Art Institute
- 2005 Artist Talk, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery
- 1999 Artist Talk, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery
- 1995 Artist Talk, California State University, Northridge  
Artist Talk, UCLA

### Curatorial

- 2011 St(art)up Projects, Kara Maria at Virtuata, Inc., Milpitas, CA

### Professional Organizations

- 2010-2013 Trustee, Alliance of Artists Communities
- 2007-2013 Trustee, Djerassi Resident Artist Program

### Collections

- Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- US Embassy in Johannesburg, Art in Embassies Program
- Numerous Private Collections