

# RENA BRANSTEN GALLERY

## JOHN BANKSTON

### EDUCATION

1990 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, MFA, Painting  
1989 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture  
1985 University of Chicago, AB, Biology

### AWARDS

2021 Holt Visiting Artist, Stanford University, Stanford, CA  
2009 Jack Drake Visiting Artist, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL  
2004 Viola Frey Distinguished Visiting Professor, California College of Art, San Francisco  
2002 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant Program Award Recipient, New York, NY  
Fleishhacker Foundation Eureka Fellowship, San Francisco, CA  
Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, New York, NY  
Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art (SECA) Award, San Francisco  
Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
2001 Art Council Grant, San Francisco, CA  
1993 Outstanding Ford Foundation Fellow, New York, NY  
1988-90 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Trustees Fellowship, Chicago, IL

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 *John Bankston: 20 Years in the Rainbow Forest*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2023 *The Companion*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (\*catalog)  
2021 *John Bankston: Painting As Storytelling*, Coulter Art Gallery, Stanford University, Stanford, CA  
2020 *Escape*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2018 *The Sky Above Us*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2015 *Dream to Dream: The Art of John Bankston*, Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph, MI  
*John Bankston: The Explorer*, Rena Bransten Projects, San Francisco, CA  
*John Bankston: Sundry Stories*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2013 *John Bankston: New Work*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2012 *John Bankston: Magic at Hand*, Beta Pictoris Gallery, Birmingham, AL  
*John Bankston: Smoke and Mirrors*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*John Bankston: Magic at Hand*, Raum Zwei, Leipzig, Germany  
2011 *John Bankston: The Changing Machine*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

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2010	<i>John Bankston: New Work</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA <i>James Harris Gallery</i> , Seattle, WA <i>John Bankston: Abstracticator</i> , Beta Pictoris Gallery, Birmingham, AL
2009	<i>John Bankston: The Fabulist's Colored Life</i> , Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY <i>John Bankston: Imaginary Friends</i> , Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA <i>John Bankston: Jack Drake Visiting Artist</i> , University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL <i>Drawings and works on paper</i> , Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento, CA
2007	Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
2006	<i>John Bankston: Locating Desire</i> , de Young Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA <i>John Bankston: A place in the woods</i> , Vacío 9, Madrid, Spain
2005	Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2004	Marella Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
2003	<i>John Bankston: Wild West</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA <i>2002 SECA Art Award</i> , San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA (Catalogue) <i>A Chance Romance</i> , Galerie Zink & Gegner, Munich, Germany
2002	<i>John Bankston: Temptation and Desire</i> , The Atlanta College of Art Gallery, Atlanta, GA <i>John Bankston: The Capture and Escape of Mr. M, Chapter 2</i> , Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
2001	<i>John Bankston: Lovers</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA <i>John Bankston: The Capture and Escape of Mr. M, Chapter I</i> , Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
1999	<i>John Bankston, Recent Work</i> , Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2008 – 2022	<i>30 Americans – Traveling</i> : Columbia Museum of Art, SC (forthcoming); Albuquerque Museum, NM; Honolulu Museum of Art, HI; Barnes Foundation, PA; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, MO; Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE; Tucson Museum of Art, AZ; Juliet Art Museum, Charleston, WV; McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX; Tacoma Art Museum, WA; Cincinnati Art Museum, OH; Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI; Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR; Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA; Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN; Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI; Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC; Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL
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2021	<i>In the Groove: Persistence and Endurance</i> , 15 Year Anniversary Exhibition, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA <i>Plant Life</i> , Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA <i>Queerest of the Queer</i> , Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2018	<i>The Portrait Show</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA <i>COSMIC TRAFFIC JAM</i> , Zevitas Marcus, Los Angeles, CA <i>In This Together, Embracing Diversity</i> , curated by Sagi Rafael and Brenda G. Williams, Castelli Art Space, Los Angeles, CA
2016	<i>A Star Is Born: Ten Years Later</i> , Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA 30 Americans, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
2015	<i>ArtPrize 2015 at GRAM: Nature/Nurture</i> , Grand Rapids Art Museum, MI <i>The 2015 Dorothy Saxe Invitational: Tzedakah Box</i> , Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco (catalogue)
2014	<i>Reigning Cats and Dogs</i> , Rena Bransten Projects, San Francisco <i>Not of this World</i> , Pro Arts, Oakland, CA
2013	<i>2013 California Pacific Triennial</i> , Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA <i>Alter Egos and the Magical Other: John Bankston, Amy Cutler, Jeremiah Jonson, Fred Stonehouse</i> , Taubman Museum, Roanoke, VA <i>Rehearsals: The Practice an Influence of Sound and Movement</i> , Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA
2012	<i>Shift</i> , The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY <i>2012 Annual Art Auction Exhibition and Gala</i> , Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC <i>Figure Studies: Recent Representational Works on Paper</i> , Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, MO <i>Do Not Destroy: Trees, Art, and Jewish Thought</i> , Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA <i>The Bearden Project</i> , The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
2011-12	<i>Watching Hands: Artists Respond to Keeping Well</i> , CDC Museum, Atlanta, GA <i>Fifty Years of Bay Area Art</i> , The SECA Awards, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA
2010-11	<i>Now What</i> , Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL
2009-10	<i>A Delicate Touch: Watercolors from the Permanent Collection</i> , Studio Museum Harlem, Harlem, NY
2009	<i>Connections</i> , Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA and New York, NY <i>Political Draw</i> , Walter Maciel Gallery, Culver City, CA <i>Collected, Proposition on the Permanent Collection</i> , The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY <i>Passover Table</i> , Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA

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	<i>As It Is Written: Project 304,805</i> , Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA
	<i>A Delicate Touch</i> , the Studio Museum in Harlem, NY
2008	<i>Black: a celebration of African American Art in Sacramento area collections</i> , 40 acres and a mule gallery, Sacramento, CA
	<i>Creature Feature</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	<i>Drawings and works on paper</i> , Center for Contemporary Art Sacramento, CA
2007	<i>Pacific Light: California Watercolor Refracted, 1907–2007</i> , SFSU Fine Arts Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2006	<i>black alphabet – contexts of contemporary African-American art</i> , Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland
2005	<i>African Queen</i> , The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
	<i>The Anniversary Show</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	<i>Seeing Double: Encounters with Warhol</i> , The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA
	<i>Celebrating Heritage: Art and the Chris Webber Collection</i> , Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA (four person exhibition with Mike Henderson, David Huffman and Dominique Moody)
2005	<i>Spice Boxes an Invitational: Scents of Purpose, Artists Interpret the Spice Box</i> , The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA
	<i>Eureka Fellowship 2002-2004</i> , University of California, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA
2004	<i>Comics Stripped</i> , Off the Preserve! Gallery, di Rosa Preserve: Art and Nature, Napa, CA
	<i>East of the Sun and West of the Moon</i> , White Columns, New York, NY
2003	<i>Scenery</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	Comic Release, Negotiating Identity for a New Generation, The Regina Gouger Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
	<i>Splat, Boom, Pow</i> , Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX
	<i>American Art Today: Faces &amp; Figures</i> , The Art Museum at Florida International University, Miami, FL
2002	<i>Tribe</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	<i>Fantasyland</i> , D'Amelio Terras Gallery, New York, NY
2001	<i>Freestyle</i> , The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, traveled to Santa Monica Museum, Santa Monica, CA
	<i>Starry Night</i> , Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
	<i>Comic Relief</i> , Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	<i>Breathless</i> , Lombard Freid Fine Art, New York, NY
2000	<i>A Big Picture Show</i> , Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1999-2000	<i>Bay Area Now 2</i> , Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

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1999	<i>Countdown</i> , Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1998	<i>Insomnia</i> , Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1997	<i>Fellows Invitational</i> , Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA
	Group Show, Linetzky Molinero Fine Art, San Francisco, CA
1996	<i>Don Baum Says Chicago Has Famous Artists</i> , Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
1994	<i>Just Good Art</i> , Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
	Illinois Center (curated by Struve Gallery), Chicago, IL
	<i>D.B.'s Grab Bag</i> , Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
	<i>Emerging Talent: African-American Artists in California</i> , Skyline College, San Bruno, CA
1993	<i>Emerging Chicago Abstraction</i> , Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, IL
1991	<i>Abstraction</i> , 1991, Struve Gallery, Chicago, IL
1990	<i>Abstraction - New Talent</i> , Struve Gallery, Chicago, IL
	<i>Five Friend, Fifty Fingers</i> , Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
	<i>Artist from Outline</i> , MWMWM Gallery, Chicago, IL
	Skowhegan Group Show, Hokin-Kaufman Gallery, Chicago, IL
	Illinois Art Center, Chicago, IL
	<i>MFA Thesis Exhibition</i> , School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL
	<i>John Bankston and Jake Webster</i> , Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI
1989	<i>A Part of the Whole</i> , School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2021	Holt Visiting Artist, Stanford University
2002	Visiting Artist, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
1998	Instructor, Basic Drawing, California College of Arts and Crafts, San Francisco, CA
1990	Instructor, Beginning Painting, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

## Selected Publications

*The Companion*, published in conjunction with an exhibition of the same name at Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, 2023

*Dream to Dream: The Art of John Bankston*, published in conjunction with an exhibition at the Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph, MI, January 2015

*Bodies of Work: Contemporary Figurative Painting*, Lauren P. Della Monica, Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2015

*New American Painting*, Number 109, The Open Studios Press, Juried Exhibition-in-Print, published December 2013

# RENA BRANSTEN GALLERY

*Abstracticator*, published in conjunction with an exhibition at Beta Pictoris Gallery, Birmingham, Alabama, October 2010

*30 Americans Rubell Family Collection*, Distributed Art Publishers (DAP) Inc., Published 2008

*New American Painting*, Number 55, The Open Studios Press, Juried Exhibition-in-Print, Published January 2005

## **Selected Bibliography**

“John Bankston: The Sky above Us, Walter Maciel Gallery, Culver City, Through June 30,” Shana Nys Dambrot, Art and Cake, June 14, 2018

“John Bankston’s surreal storytelling on parade at Walter Maciel Gallery,” Sharon Mizota, Los Angeles Times, December 12, 2015

“Shape-shifter emerges in John Bankston works at Walter Maciel,” Sharon Mizota, Los Angeles Times, October 17, 2013

“John Bankston,” Renny Pritikin, Art Papers, March/April 2011

“Art: Mastery’s on the line,” Victoria Dalkey, The Sacramento Bee, September 19, 2008

The Georgia Review, Summer Issue, 2007, John Bankston, Through the Woods with Mr. M, pp 372-380

7x7 Magazine, 2006, Graphic Content, Artist John Bankston Makes the Connection, Rachel Swaby, p. 66

Juxtapoz Magazine, May 2006, Showstoppers, PP 62-63

*Comic Release: Negotiating Identity for a New Generation*, Vicky A. Clark, Barbara Bloemink with Ana Merino and Rick Gribenas, Exhibition catalog, The Regina Gouger Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University, published by D.A.P.

American Art Today: Faces & Figures, Exhibition Catalog, The Art Museum At Florida International University, 2003

“John Bankston at Jack Shainman,” Faye Hirsch, Review of Exhibitions, *Art in America*, April, 2003

“Temptation and Desire” ( Atlanta College of Art Gallery), John Bankston, Southeast reviews, Susan E Richmond, *Art Papers*, July/August 2002

“Fantasyland,” Michael Kimmelman, Art in Review, *The New York Times*, June 14, 2002

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“John Bankston,” David Spalding, *Artext* #76 (Spring 2002)

“First Take: Hamza Walker on John Bankston”, Hamza Walker, *Artforum*, January 2002

“Coloring Well Outside the Lines,” David Bonetti, San Francisco *Chronicle*, October 13, 2001

“Breaking Away,” Peter Schjeldahl, , *The New Yorker*, June 11, 2001

*Freestyle*, Exhibition Catalog, The Studio Museum in Harlem, 2001

“ Satyrs, Slaves and Monsters in the Colors of Childhood,” Leslie Camhi, *The New York Times*, March 18, 2001

“Material and Matter, John Bankston,” Holland Cotter, *Art in Review*, *The New York Times*, March 9, 2001

“Bay Area Now: MFA’s in Toyland,” Tessa DeCarlo, *Wall Street Journal*, January 27, 2000

“Local Heroes,” Kenneth Baker, *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 20, 1999

*Bay Area Now 2*, Exhibition Catalog, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 1999

## **SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA

Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL

City of Chicago, Harold Washington Memorial Library Center, IL

Crocker Museum of Art, Sacramento, CA

de Young Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA

di Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI

Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL

Museum of Art and Design, New York

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL

Norton Family Foundation, Santa Monica, CA

Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA

Progressive Corporation, Mayfield Village, OH

Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA

San Jose Museum, San Jose, CA

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA

# RENA BRANSTEN GALLERY

The Studio Museum, Harlem, NY

University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT