

RENA BRANSTEN GALLERY

SYDNEY CAIN

EDUCATION

- 2024 MFA, Yale University, Yale School of Art
2021 BA, San Francisco State University

AWARDS

- 2022 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SECA nomination)
2021 Artadia Award, San Francisco
Honorary Fellowship, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA
2019- 2020 Emerging Artist Award, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *The Forest is the Water*, Casey Kaplan, New York, NY
2021-22 *Dust to Dust*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2021 *Refutations*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA
2018 *Transitions*, African American Arts and Culture Complex, San Francisco, CA
the ones held tightly in my hands, San Francisco Arts Commission (Veterans Building), San Francisco, CA
2016 *Always Here*, Omi Gallery, Oakland, CA
2013 *Cosmograms: Visions of Black Matter*, Betti Ono Gallery, Oakland, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Nearly 31*, Casey Kaplan, New York, NY
2025 *Driftwork*, Sourthen Guild, Los Angeles, CA
Flesh of the Forest, Oxy Arts, Los Angeles, CA
Works on Paper, Casey Kaplan, New York, NY
2024 *Unknown Future*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
and the forms which linger / humming in our ears, Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT
2023 *Crafting Radicality: Bay Area Artists from the Svane Gift*, de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA
Figure Telling: Contemporary Bay Area Figuration, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, CA 2022
In Frequencies, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
Collective Arising: The Insistence of Black Bay Area Artists, Museum of Sonoma County, Sonoma, CA
2021 *ARK Exhibition and Auction*, The Svane Family Foundation
Mothership: Voyage into Afrofuturism, Oakland Museum of California
Spirit & Flesh, Slash, San Francisco, CA
Becoming, St. Joseph's Arts Society, San Francisco (Curated by Erica Deeman)
Podium II, 181 Fremont, San Francisco, CA
2020 *To Reflect Us*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Figural Effects, Rena Bransten Gallery, 8-bridges (Online)
2019 *Fruition: Water Holds All Memory*, Ashara Ekundayo Gallery, Oakland, CA
Tiny Room for Elephants Festival, Cherry Street Pier, Philadelphia, PA
2017 *I AM San Francisco: Black Past and Presence*, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
Distance ≠ Time, IceBox Project Space, Philadelphia, PA
Cloud of Witnesses, Omi Gallery, Oakland, CA

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- 2016 *The Black Woman Is God: Reprogramming That God Code*, SOMArts, San Francisco, CA
I Am San Francisco: Black Past and Presence, City College of San Francisco, (Rosenburg Library), CA
- 2015 *Psychedelic Inhibitions*, Luggage Store Projects, San Francisco, CA
Today is the Shadow of Tomorrow: Día de los Muertos, SOMArts, San Francisco, CA
Making a Scene: 50 Years of Alternative Bay Area Spaces, SOMArts, San Francisco, CA
Black Artist on Art, Oakstop Gallery, Oakland, CA
The Art of Living Black, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
- 2014 *Beacons*, Faultline Artspace, Oakland, CA
Origins, Rock Paper Scissors, Oakland, CA
The Black Woman Is God, San Francisco Public Library, CA
The Rejection Project: Catharsis, Big Umbrella Studios, San Francisco, CA
Oya: Mother of 9, Oakland, CA
- 2013 *R/EVOLVE: Faith Art Exhibition*, Oakland City Hall, CA
Creative Intelligence and Desire, MyGroove Designs, Inc., Oakland, CA
The Third Mind, Big Umbrella Studios, San Francisco, CA
Black Woman is God, African American Art and Culture Complex San Francisco, CA
Black Bucket Base, House of the Rising Sun, San Francisco, CA
Innovators, Warehouse 416, Oakland, CA
Alpha Omega Collective, Ear Peace Records Berkeley, CA
- 2012 *Lucid Dreams*, Betti Ono, Oakland, CA
Small Art Show, Warehouse 416, Oakland, CA
Breathe Easy, Ear Peace Records, Berkeley, CA
San Francisco Green Festival, Art Installation, San Francisco, CA
Life is Living, Art Installation with Betti Ono Gallery, Oakland, CA
Endless Canvases: Special Delivery, Inkwell Factory, Berkeley, CA
Visual Codex, Black Faun Gallery, Eureka, CA
The Exodus, The Migration, The Stand, African American Art and Culture Complex San Francisco, CA

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2021 Black Space Residency, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 Creatives in Place Residency, Oakland, CA
- 2018 African American Arts and Culture Complex, San Francisco, CA
- 2016 Signal Fire: Unwalking the West, Portland, OR
Residencia Gorila, Tulum, Mexico
1307 Gallery, San Francisco, CA

PANEL DISCUSSIONS / MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2023 *Works in Progress: Artist Sydney Cain (aka sage stargate)*, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
- 2020 *Rightnowish*, KQED (Interview by Pendarvis Harshaw)
- 2016 *Ibeji Lounge*, 89.5 K-POO, July, (Radio)
Ibeji Lounge, 89.5 K-POO, February, (Radio)
- 2013 *Transitions on Traditions*, 94.1 KPFA, (Radio)
Black Artist in San Francisco, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA (Panel Discussion)

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2012 *Exodus*, African American Art and Culture Complex, San Francisco, CA (Panel Discussion)

COMMISSION MURALS & PROJECTS

2021 *Radio Imagination*, Oakland Museum of California (for the exhibition *Mothership: Voyage into Afrofuturism*)

2017 San Francisco Anti-Displacement Coalition & San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (Artist Design)

2016 Demos, New York

2014 & 2017 *Super Heroes Mural Project*, Attitudinal Healing Connection/ CalTRANS (Mural Assistant) Oakland, CA

2014 San Francisco Arts Commission, *Third on Third* Mural Project, San Francisco, CA

PUBLICATIONS

2022 *Dust to Dust*, Rena Bransten Gallery, (exhibition catalog)
Emergence Magazine v.3: Living with the Unknown

2021 *Acres of Ancestry – Emergence Magazine*, Online Publication (April)
BLATANT: A Zine of Art, Rage, and Joy, Issue 2

2019 *TwentySevensBorn*. Philadelphia, PA. Cain, Sydney by Carbon Cyphers (self-published)

2017 *Race, Poverty Environment: The National Journal for Social and Environmental Justice Power in Place*, published by RE:Imagine! Oakland, CA Volume 21, No. 1

2016 *Out of Seeds*, Oakland, CA. Cain, Sydney; Singleton, Tahjane by Carbon Cyphers (self-published)

2013 *Black Dandelion* by Sasha Kelley, produced by The House of Malico, Oakland, CA
Art For Change by Sarah Rewers for University of San Francisco Foghorn, Feb 12
Cosmograms, Oakland, CA. Cain, Sydney by Carbon Cyphers (self-published)

2011 *Art, Kids, and Institutions: A Brief Memoir of Teaching* by Richard Olsen

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2025 Keenan, Annabel, "How Pamela Joyner's Passion for Art Books Sparked a Visionary Collection", Artsy, October 30

2023 Bravo, Tony, "Don't miss 'Crafting Radicality' in its final week", Datebook, December 25
Hotchkiss, Sarah, "At the de Young, 'Crafting Radicality' Captures the Energy of a Local Moment", KQED, July 26

2022 Mgbeahuruike, Ezinne, "5 Artists We Discovered at Frieze New York", Okay Africa, May 23
Schneider, Tim, "5 Under-the-Radar Works to Seek Out at Frieze New York, From an Edward Said Themed Video to an Artist's Poignant Memorial", Artnet, May 20
Harshaw, Pendarvis & Marisol Medina-Cadena, "Rightnowish Presents: 'Visions of Black Futurity' from Raw Material", KQED, May 13
Valentine, Victoria L., "On View: See Images From 'Sydney Cain: Dust to Dust', Artist's First Solo Exhibition at Rena Bransten Gallery", Culture Type, February 10
Suarez Porras, Tamara, "Review: Sydney Cain's gentle erasures summon omnipotent ancestral lineages", 48 Hills, February 9
Blue, Max, "Sydney Cain's solo show dares and dislocates at Rena Bransten Gallery", San Francisco Examiner, January 7

2021 Van Proyen, Mark, "Sydney Cain @ MOAD and Rena Bransten", Square Cylinder, December 7

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"7 Bay Area arts and entertainment events to check out this week, Dec. 6-12",
SquareCylinder.com, December 7

Kosman, Joshua, "Artadia Awards recognize three Bay Area visual artists with financial
and institutional support", San Francisco Chronicle, September 20

2020

Harshaw, Pendarvis, "Conjuring Our Ancestral Spirits Through Art", KQED, March 20

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Joyner / Giuffrida Collection

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV

de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA

Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA