

# RENA BRANSTEN GALLERY

## LAVA THOMAS

Born in Los Angeles, CA

### EDUCATION

- 1999 BFA, CA College of the Arts, Oakland, CA  
1996 UCLA School of Art Practice, Los Angeles, CA

### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & RESIDENCIES

- 2020 Artadia Awardee, San Francisco  
2019 Lucas Artists Fellowship in Visual Arts, Architecture, and Design, Saratoga, CA  
Master Artist Award, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA  
Art Practical, San Francisco, CA  
2018 Artadia Award Finalist, San Francisco, CA  
2017 Artist in Residence, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA  
Artist in Residence, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA  
2015 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant  
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

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 Panelist, National Endowment for the Arts  
2017 Juror, TOSA Award  
2010 Juror, Visions for a New California, Residency, Alliance of Artist Communities  
2010-13 Trustee, Alliance of Artists Communities  
2007-13 Trustee, Djerassi Resident Artist Program

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Mugshot Portraits: Women of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2015 *Looking Back and Seeing Now*, Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA  
2014 *Lava Thomas: Beyond*, Museum of African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA  
2005 *Organic*, Nathan Larramendy Gallery, Ojai, CA  
1996 *Parallel Origins*, Art Dome, CA State University, Northridge, CA

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## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century*, Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA
- 2020 *The Black Index*, University Art Galleries, University of California, Irvine, CA  
UNTITLED, ART, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2019-20 *The Outwin 2019: American Portraiture Today*, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC
- 2019 *To Reflect Us*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Adjust Yo' Eyes For This Darkness*, Ashara Ekundayo Gallery, Oakland, CA  
*Plumb Line, Charles White and the Contemporary*, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
*Women to Watch 2020: Surfacing Histories Sculpting Memories*, CCA Hubbell Street Galleries, San Francisco, CA  
Spring Auction Exhibition, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA
- 2018 EXPO Chicago, Rena Bransten Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Pretty Big Things*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press*, Bedford Gallery (traveling nationally through 2022)  
SF Art Book Fair, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA  
*Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times (Part II)*, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, CA  
*The Portrait Show*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press*, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA+  
*Face Forward*, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA  
*States of Matter*, Zeitgeist Gallery, Nashville, TN
- 2017 PULSE, Miami Beach, Rena Bransten Gallery, Miami, FL  
*Sabbath: The 2017 Dorothy Saxe Invitational*, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA  
Modern and Contemporary Art Collection, Lincoln Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.  
*Culture In A Changing America, Artist Salon Series*, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY  
*With Liberty and Justice for Some*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (traveled to Berkeley Art Center, CA and SFAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA)  
*Lift Off*, Rio Hondo College Art Gallery, Rio Hondo, CA  
*The True Stories Project: Exploitation and Empowerment*, Patan Museum, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2016 EXPO Chicago, Rena Bransten Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*After Pop Life*, Minnesota Street Projects, San Francisco, CA  
artMRKT, San Francisco, Rena Bransten Gallery, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA

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- Contemporary Figuration as an Expression of Humanism, Richmond Art Center,  
Richmond, CA
- These American Lives, Rena Bransten Gallery, 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  
artMRKT San Francisco, Rena Bransten Projects, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture,  
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 for Visual Arts, Palo Alto, CA
- 2012 *Community Creates*, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA  
Bolin 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  
San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, 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
- 2009 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  
Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA
- 2006 Fullerton College Art Gallery, Fullerton, CA  
Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, CA  
Idyllwild Art Center, Idyllwild, CA  
Paulson 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

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- 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  
*New Drawing*, Artspace 241, San Francisco, 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

- 2018 "Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times," di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, CA
- 2013 Set Design, "Singing the Rooms: Songs For Alan", 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, CA

## LECTURES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, & ARTIST TALKS

- 2020 "Creative Conversations: Personal to Political Part II with Radcliffe Bailey and Lava Thomas," Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts  
"In the Artist's Studio: Lava Thomas," Museum of the African Diaspora  
"The Holding Patterns Waiting Room: Michele Pred, Lava Thomas, and Lexa Walsh in Conversation," California College of the Arts  
"See Black Women: A Two-Part Forum Highlighting the Voices of 9 Black Womxn Artists," Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Art + Action, and the Museum of the African Diaspora for "Come To Your Census"  
"In Conversation: Sheldon Scott & Lava Thomas," National Portrait Gallery, Washington

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DC

“Navigating the Landscape of Public Art: A Conversation with Artists Mildred Howard and Lava Thomas,” Thinking Through Art & Design at UC Berkeley: Public Art & Belonging, Berkeley, CA

Artist Talk, Art + Practice, Los Angeles, CA

2019 “In Conversation: Angela Hennessy, Dana King, and Lava Thomas,” moderated by Leigh Raiford, PhD. Ashara Ekundayo Gallery, Oakland, CA

Lecture, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

Panel Discussion & Podcast, “Authority & Agency in the Art World,” Untitled Art Fair, San Francisco, CA

2018 Artist Talk, New York University, New York, NY

Panel Discussion, “Contemporary Artists in Conversation with History: 1968,” with Alfredo Jaar and Sam Gilliam, moderated by E. Carmen Ramos, PhD, Smithsonian Art Museum, Washington, DC

2017 Artist Talk, “Double Take: One Artwork Two Viewpoints,” conversation series with Joanna Marsh and Kevin Strait, PhD, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC

Lecture, Visiting Artists and Scholars Series, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA

Lecture, Department of Art and Art History, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

Lecture, Art History Department, Mills College, Oakland, CA

“Culture In A Changing America,” conversation series, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY

2015 Conversation with Jacqueline Francis, PhD., Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA

Lecture, Ceramics Dept., California College of the Arts, Oakland, 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, CA

2010 Artist Talk, Dance Department, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Studio Visit, Graduate Seminar in Design Management, SF State University, CA

2008 Artist Talk, Drama Department, Stanford University, CA

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, CA

2005 Artist Talk, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, CA

1999 Artist Talk, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, CA

1995 Artist Talk, California State University, Northridge, CA

Artist Talk, UCLA, CA

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## **Public Collections**

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA

Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, CA

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

United States Embassy in Johannesburg, South Africa, Art in Embassies Program