

# FRAENKEL

## WARDELL MILAN

Born in 1977, Knoxville, Tennessee

Lives and works in New York, NY

## EDUCATION

### 2004

MFA Photography, Yale University, New Haven, CT

### 2001

BFA Photography & Painting, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

### 2025

Artist in Residence, Civitella Ranieri Foundation, Umbertide, Italy

### 2019

Joan Mitchell Painter & Sculptors Grant

### 2017

African American Trailblazer Award, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Collaborator on W. David Hancock's play *Master*, The Foundry Theater, New York, NY

Artist in Residency, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, New York, NY

### 2014

Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant, New York, NY

### 2011

Traveling Grant, Art Matters, New York, NY

**2010-11**

Artist in Residence, Lower East Side Printshop, New York, NY

**2007**

The Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, New York, NY

Artist in Residence, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

**2003**

Artist in Residence, Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

**SELECTED INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS**

**2024**

*Modern Utopia*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

**2023**

*Bluets & 2 Years of Magical Thinking*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY

**2022**

*Wardell Milan: Recent Work*, Benton Museum of Art, Pomona College, Claremont, CA

*The World Is Made of Eggs*, Borch Editions, Berlin, Germany

**2021**

*Amerika. God Bless You If It's Good to You*, Bronx Museum, Bronx, NY

**2020**

*Death, Wine, Revolt: The Nonsense of the World*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

*The Balcony*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY

*Death, Wine, Revolt: uneventful Days*, David Nolan Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

**2019**

*Parisian Landscapes, Blue Zenith*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY

*Parisian Landscapes: Blue in Green*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

**2018**

*Wardell Milan*, ADAA | The Art Show, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY

**2017**

*Wardell Milan: PERSONA*, Project For Empty Space, 2 Gateway Center, Newark, NJ

**2015**

*The Charming Hour*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY

**2014**

*Show (Untitled) Parisian Landscapes*, Osmos Address, New York, NY

**2013**

*Kingdom or Exile: Parisian Landscapes*, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA

**2012**

*A Series of Inspiring Women*, Louis B. James Gallery, New York, NY

**2011**

*On Beauty*, Annarumma 404 Gallery, Naples, Italy

**2010**

*Landscapes! Romance, Recession & Rottenness*, Clough-Hanson Gallery, Rhodes College,  
Memphis, TN

**2009**

*Landscapes! Romance, Recession, & Rottenness*, Taxter & Spengemann Gallery,  
New York, NY

*Wardell Milan: Drawings of Harlem*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

**2008**

*Hercules & The Love Affair*, Franklin Art Works, Minneapolis, MN

*Power!, Testosterone! They looked ferocious with heavy sexual overtones*, Taxter &  
Spengeman  
Gallery, New York, NY

**2006**

Sampson Projects, Boston, MA

**2005**

Taxter & Spengemann Gallery, New York, NY

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2025**

*a field of bloom and hum*, Tang Teaching Museum and Gallery, Saratoga Springs, NY

*Fragments of Memory*, Menil Drawing Institute, Houston, TX

*Black Ecologies in Contemporary American Art*, Benton Museum of Art, Pomona, CA

**2024**

*Fraenkenstein*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

*FRAGMENTED BODIES: Celia Hempton, Paul Sepia, Wardell Milan*, Galleria Lorcan O'Neill,  
Rome, Italy

*Fragile Beauty: Photographs from the Sir Elton John and David Furnish Collection*, The  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England

**2023**

*Mickalene Thomas / Portrait of an Unlikely Space*, Yale University Art Gallery,  
New Haven, CT

*Under the Sheltering Sky*, New Bedford Art Museum, New Bedford, MA

*Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage*, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN  
(touring); Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC

*Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing*, The FLAG Art Foundation/The Church,  
Sag Harbor, New York, NY

*Please Stay Home*, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University,  
Cambridge, MA

**2022**

*Lux et Veritas*, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL

*A Traves*, James Cohen Gallery, New York, NY

*Young, Gifted, and Black: The Lumpkin - Boccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art*,  
Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, Davis, California

**2021**

*Our Whole, Unruly Selves*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA

*Mining the Archive*, Yancy Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

*Speaking Tree*, Candice Made Gallery, New York, NY

*Dawoud Bey, John Edmonds, Wardell Milan*, Art Gallery of Toronto, Ontario

*Mel Kendrick, David Hartt and Wardell Milan*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY

**2020**

*Closer to Life: Drawings and Works on Paper in Marieluise Hessel Collection*, Hessel  
Museum of Art Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY New York

**2019**

*Young, Gifted, and Black: The Lumpkin Boccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art*,  
OSilas Gallery, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY

*Wars*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY

## **2018**

*Queens International: 2018 Volumes*, Queens Museum, Queens, NY

*Constructing Identity in America (1776-2017)*, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ

*Echoes: Reframing Collage*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL

*Vision of the Other Worlds*, Sargent's Daughters, New York, NY

*The Beyond: Georgia O'Keefe & Contemporary Art*, Crystal Bridges Museum of Contemporary Art, Bentonville, AK; travelled to Huntington Library Art Collections & Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA

## **2016**

*George Grosz: Politics & His Influence*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY

*BIG ART / SMALL SCALE*, Philip Slein Gallery, St. Louis, MO

*Making & Unmaking*, Camden Arts Center, London, England (curated by Duro Olowu)

## **2015**

*Black: Color, Material, Concept*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

*Greater New York*, MoMA PS1, New York, NY

*Rush20: 1995 – 2015*, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, Brooklyn, NY

*The Confident Line: George Grosz, Wardell Milan, Andy Warhol*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY

Permanent Collection Rotation, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

## **2014**

*Three thousand times, each hour, a different terrain: Titus Kaphar, Wardell Milan, Demetrius Oliver*, Inman Gallery, Houston, TX

## **2013**

*Body Language*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

*Worm Hole*, Louis B. James Gallery, New York, NY

*Glitter & Folds*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA

*11 Dimensions: Titus Kaphar, Demetrius Oliver, Wardell Milan*, Louis B. James Gallery, New York, NY

*White Petals Surround Your Yellow Heart*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA

**2012**

*Long Shadows*, Inman Gallery, Houston, TX

*POSE/RE-POSE*, Savannah College of Art & Design, Savannah, GA

**2011**

*The Bearden Project*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

*Elizabeth Catlett: Roundtable Remix*, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY

*Mixed Signals*, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA

*Don't Get High On Your Own Supply*, David Castillo Gallery, Miami, FL

**2010**

*Quadruple-Consciousness*, Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA

*Looking Back: The Fifth White Columns Annual Group Show*, White Columns, New York, NY

*Roundabout*, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

**2009**

*Time - Life*, Taxter & Spengemann Gallery, New York, NY

*Collected. Propositions on the Permanent Collection*, The Studio Museum in Harlem,  
New York, NY

*Decoding Identity: I Do it for My People*, The Museum of the African Diaspora,  
San Francisco, CA

**2007**

*Wardell Milan & Kalup Linzy*, Context Gallery, Londonderry, Ireland

*Blur*, Arndt & Partner Gallery, Berlin, Germany

*Midnight's Daydream*, Studio Museum Artist In Residence Show, The Studio Museum in  
Harlem, New York, NY

**2006**

*The Searchers*, White Box, New York, NY (curated by Patricia Maloney)

*Queens International 2006*, Queens Museum of Art, New York, NY

*Black Alphabet*, Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland

*Being There*, Ingalls & Associates, Miami, FL

*25 Bold Moves*, House of Campari, New York, NY

**2005**

*Frequency*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

*Being There*, Cuchifritos, New York, NY

*Super Sonic*, Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

*La Beauté de l'Enfer*, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium

*Greater New York*, MoMA P.S.1, New York, NY

## **2004**

*Homemade World, Reconstructed Images in Photograph*, Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY

*Notorious Improprity*, Samson Projects, Boston, MA

*Skillz*, Ingalls & Associates, Miami, FL

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **2021**

"Wardell Milan: Amerika. God Bless You If It's Good To You," *The Brooklyn Rail*

### **2020**

"Pentimenti," *Brooklyn Rail*, as told to Alvin Hall.

"Nine Black Artists & Cultural Leaders on Seeing & Being Seen," *The New York Times Style Magazine*.

### **2019**

"A Disruptor of Race & Sex," *Hyperallergic*, John Yau.

"Critic's Picks: Wardell Milan: Parisian Landscapes: Blue in Green," *Artforum*, Glen Helfand.

### **2018**

"ADAA: A Fair to Remember Starts a Month of Art Show Madness," *The New York Times*, Roberta Smith. 1 March 2018.

### **2015**

Foster, Carter, et al. *Wardell Milan: between late summer and early fall*. Cay Sophie Rabinowitz,

ed., New York: Osmos Books.

"Hermaphroditic Beauty," *Interview Magazine*, Emily McDermott, February.

"The Ones to Watch," *Interview Magazine*, December.

### **2014**

"From King to Camus..." *Osmos Magazine*, Isolde Brielmaier & Wardell Milan, Issue 05, Winter, p. 28-30, print.

**2013**

*Vitamin D2: New Perspectives in Drawing*. New York: Phaidon Press, p.183-187.

**2011**

Ligon, Glenn. *Yourself in the World: Selected Writings & Interviews*. Scott Rothkopf, ed.  
New Haven: Yale University Press. Rosenberg, Karen.

**2010**

"Landscapes! Romance, Recession & Rottenness." Weekend Arts, Fine Arts & Leisure. *The New York Times*, 8 January.

**2007**

"Midnight's Daydream: Titus Kaphar, Wardell Milan II, Demetrius Oliver, Frances Richard,"  
*Artforum*, November, p. 371. Schwendener, Martha.

"Three Contemporaries, Each With A Different Way to View the Past." Weekend Arts, Fine Arts & Leisure. *The New York Times*, 11 August, p. A17.

"Nina, Meet Jesus, Frank Leon Roberts." Art. *The Village Voice*, 12 September, p.58.

**2005**

"Art in Review: Wardell Milan at Taxter & Spengemann, Holland Cotter." Weekend Arts, Fine Arts & Leisure. *The New York Times*, 16 December, p. E38. Smith, Roberta.

"Frequency at The Studio Museum in Harlem: Where Issues of Black Identity Meet the Concerns of Every Artist." Weekend Arts, Fine Arts & Leisure, Art in Review. *The New York Times*, 18 November, p. E37.

**SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS**

Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

The British Museum, London, England

Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY

Daniel & Florence Guerlain Contemporary Art Foundation, Paris, France

Dartmouth Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NH

Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Hall Art Foundation Collection



Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA  
Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY  
The Menil Collection, Houston, TX  
Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ  
Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY  
Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago, IL  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
Tang Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
Hall Art Foundation Collection  
UBS Art Collection