

WARDELL MILAN

Born in 1977, Knoxville, TN
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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Modern Utopia*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA, March 21–May 24, 2024
- 2023 *Bluets & 2 Years of Magical Thinking*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, April 28–June 3, 2023
- 2022 *Wardell Milan: Recent Work*, Benton Museum of Art, Pomona College, Claremont, CA, October 15, 2022–July 23, 2023
- 2021 *Amerika. God Bless You If It's Good to You*, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY, June 23–October 24, 2021, curated by Jasmine Wahj
- 2020 *Death, Wine, Revolt: Uneventful Days*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA, October 29, 2020–January 15, 2021
- 2019 *Parisian Landscapes, Blue Zenith*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY, April 19–June 14, 2019
Parisian Landscapes, Blue in Green, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA, January 3–February 16, 2019
- 2018 *Wardell Milan*, ADAA | The Art Show, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY, February 28–March 4, 2018
- 2017 *Wardell Milan: PERSONA*, Project for Empty Space, 2 Gateway Center, Newark, NJ, September 6–October 15, 2017
- 2015 *The Charming Hour*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY, September 10–October 17, 2015
- 2014 *Show (Untitled) Parisian Landscapes*, Osmos Address, New York, NY, March 5–April 11, 2014
- 2013 *Kingdom or Exile: Parisian Landscapes*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA, September 27–December 29, 2013
- 2012 *A Series of Inspiring Women*, Louis B. James Gallery, New York, NY, March 4–April 14, 2012
- 2011 *On Beauty*, Annarumma 404 Gallery, Naples, Italy, May 5–September 15, 2011
- 2010 *Landscapes! Romance, Recession & Rottenness*, Clough-Hanson Gallery, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, October 22–December 8, 2010

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- 2009 *Landscapes! Romance, Recession, & Rottenness*, Taxter & Spengemann Gallery, New York, NY, December 12, 2009–February 6, 2010
Wardell Milan: Drawings of Harlem, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, November 12, 2009–March 14, 2010
- 2008 *Hercules & The Love Affair*, Franklin Art Works, Minneapolis, MN, November 7, 2008–January 2, 2009
Power!, Testosterone! They looked ferocious with heavy sexual overtones, Taxter & Spengemann Gallery, New York, NY, January 17–February 16, 2008
- 2006 *Desire and the Black Masseur*, Samson Projects, Boston, MA, April 28–May 27, 2006
- 2005 *Wardell Milan*, Taxter & Spengemann Gallery, New York, NY, November 19–December 21, 2005

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *A View*, Sikkema Malloy Jenkins, New York, NY, January 9–February 7, 2026
- 2025 *From the Studio: Fifty-Eight Years of Artists in Residence*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, November 15, 2025–February 28, 2026
Sign O the Times: or Buck-in-Hamm-Palace?, LeRoy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY, September 5–October 5, 2025, curated by william córdova
All of Me with All of You: LGBTQ+ Art Out of the Collection, The Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY, June 7–September 14, 2025
Queer Love, Stephen Friedman Gallery, New York, NY, April 17–May 21, 2025
a field of bloom and hum, Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, February 14–July 20, 2025
Black Ecologies in Contemporary American Art, Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College, Claremont, CA, February 13–June 29, 2025
- 2024 *Ancestral: Afro-Americas*, Museum of Brazilian Art FAAP, São Paulo, Brazil, October 29, 2024–January 25, 2025, curated by Ana Beatriz Almeida and Lauren Haynes
Fragments of Memory, Menil Drawing Institute, Houston, TX, September 20, 2024–January 26, 2025, curated by Kelly Montana
Fragile Beauty: Photographs from the Sir Elton John and David Furnish Collection, The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom, May 18, 2024–January 5, 2025
Healing, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, May 3–June 22, 2024
Fragmented Bodies, Galleria Lorcan O’Neill Roma, Rome, Italy, April 5–June 2024
- 2023 *Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage*, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN, September 15–December 31, 2023; traveling to: Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, February 18–May 12, 2024; The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, July 6–September 22, 2024
Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing, The FLAG Art Foundation / The Church, Sag Harbor, New York, NY, June 16–August 11, 2023; Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL, October 26, 2024–March 9, 2025

- Please Stay Home*, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, February 3–April 9, 2023, curated by Makeda Best
- 2022 *Lux et Veritas*, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 2, 2022–January 8, 2023, curated by Bonnie Clearwater
- 2021 *Our Whole, Unruly Selves*, San José Museum of Art, San Jose, CA, November 19, 2021–June 26, 2022
Mel Kendrick, David Hartt and Wardell Milan, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY, April 15–May 28, 2021
- 2020 *Dawoud Bey, John Edmonds, Wardell Milan*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada, October 31, 2020–December 5, 2021
- 2019 *Young, Gifted, and Black: The Lumpkin-Bocuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art*, Osilas Gallery at Concordia College New York, Bronxville, NY, September 24–December 7, 2019; traveled to: Lehman College Art Gallery at Lehman College City University of New York, The Bronx, NY, February 8–May 2, 2020; Gallery 200 at the University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, September 2–December 11, 2021; Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, February 1–May 27, 2022; The Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at University of California, Davis, Davis, CA, July 28–December 19, 2022; Victoria H. Myhren Gallery at the University of Denver, Denver, CO, January 19–April 30, 2023; Clough-Hanson Gallery at Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, September 8–December 9, 2023; Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, Santa Cruz, CA, August 23–December 29, 2024, curated by Antwaun Sargent and Matt Wycoff
Wars, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY, September 12–November 2, 2019
- 2018 *Echoes: Reframing Collage*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL, October 11–December 21, 2018
Queens International: 2018 Volumes, Queens Museum, NY, October 7, 2018–February 24, 2019
Constructing Identity in America (1766–2017), Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ, September 1, 2018–January 5, 2020
Vision of the Other Worlds, Sargent's Daughters, New York, NY, May 31–June 24, 2018
The Beyond: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR, May 26–September 3, 2018, curated by Lauren Haynes, Curator of Contemporary Art, Crystal Bridges; and Chad Alligood, Independent Curator; traveled to North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC, October 13, 2018–January 20, 2019; New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT, February 22–June 2, 2019
- 2016 *George Grosz: Politics and His Influence*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY, September 8–October 22, 2016
Big Art / Small Scale, Philip Slein Gallery, Saint Louis, MO, May 20–June 25, 2016
Making & Unmaking, Camden Arts Centre, London, United Kingdom, June 19–September 18, 2016, curated by Duro Olowu
- 2015 *Rush20: 1995 – 2015*, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, Brooklyn, NY, November 15–December 20, 2015
Black: Color, Material, Concept, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, November 15, 2015–March 6, 2016, organized by Lauren Haynes, Associate Curator

- Greater New York, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY, October 11, 2015–March 7, 2016
- The Confident Line: George Grosz, Wardell Milan, Andy Warhol*, David Nolan Gallery, NY, February 4–March 13, 2015
- 2014 *Three thousand times, each hour, a different terrain: Titus Kaphar, Wardell Milan, Demetrius Oliver*, Inman Gallery, Houston, TX, July 11–August 16, 2014
- 2013 *Body Language*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY, July 18, 2013–January 23, 2014
- Glitter and Folds*, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, February 6–March 31, 2013
- 11 Dimensions: Titus Kaphar, Demetrius Oliver, Wardell Milan*, Louis B. James Gallery, New York, NY, June 7–July 26, 2013
- 2012 *Pose/Re-Pose: Figurative Works Then and Now*, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA, July 23–December 9, 2012
- Long Shadows*, Inman Gallery, Houston, TX, April 13–May 19, 2012
- 2011 *Don't Get High On Your Own Supply*, David Castillo Gallery, Miami, FL, November 12–December 31, 2011
- The Bearden Project*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, August 16–October 21, 2012
- Mixed Signals: Artist Consider Masculinity in Sports*, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA, May 26–August 7, 2011
- Stargazers: Elizabeth Catlett in Conversation with 21 Contemporary Artists*, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY, January 27–May 29, 2011
- 2010 *Looking Back: The Fifth White Columns Annual Group Show*, White Columns, New York, NY, December 11, 2010–January 29, 2011
- Quadruple-Consciousness*, Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA, December 3, 2010–January 30, 2011, curated by Malik Gaines
- Roundabout*, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand, September 25, 2010–January 16, 2011
- 2009 *Collected. Propositions on the Permanent Collection*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, April 2–June 28, 2009
- Decoding Identity: I Do It For My People*, The Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA, January 23–March 8, 2009
- Time – Life Part I*, Taxter & Spengemann Gallery, New York, NY, May 21–June 20, 2009
- 2007 *Midnight's Daydream: Titus Kaphar, Demetrius Oliver and Wardell Milan, Artists-in-Residence*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, July 18–October 28, 2007
- Wardell Milan & Kalup Linzy*, Context Gallery, Londonderry, Ireland
- Blur*, Arndt and Partner Gallery, Berlin, Germany, December 1, 2007–January 12, 2008
- 2006 *Queens International 2006: Everything All at Once*, Queens Museum of Art, New York, NY, October 1, 2006–January 14, 2007

Black Alphabet, Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland, September 22–November 19, 2006, curated by Maria Brewinska

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

Being There, Ingalls & Associates, Miami, FL, September 9–October 8, 2006

25 Bold Moves, House of Campari, New York, NY, May 5–May 21, 2006

2005 *Frequency*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, November 9, 2005–March 12, 2006

Greater New York, MoMA PS1, New York, NY, March 13–September 26, 2005

Being There, Cuchifritos, New York, NY, December 17, 2005–February 4, 2006

Supersonic, Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, April 15–May 15, 2005

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

2004 *Homemade World, Reconstructed Images in Photograph*, Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY

Notorious Impropriety, Samson Projects, Boston, MA, September 17–October 29, 2004

Skillz, Ingalls & Associates, Miami, FL, April 7–May 7, 2004

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2019 Joan Mitchell Painters & Sculptors Grant, New York, NY

2017 African American Trailblazer Award, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
Collaboration to W. David Hancock's play *Master*, The Foundry Theater, New York, NY
Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Artist in Residency, New York, NY

2014 Grant, Foundation for Contemporary Arts (FAC), 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 and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2024 Wiedemann, Julius, and Catarina Ayres, editors. *Ancestral: Afro-Américas [Estados Unidos e Brasil]*. FAAP | Afluente, 2024, p. 79. Print.

2023 Danilewitz, Joel. "Wardell Milan: Bluets & 2 Years of Magical Thinking." *The Brooklyn Rail*, 17 May 2023, brooklynrail.org/2023/05/artseen/Wardell-Milan-Bluets-2-Years-of-Magical-Thinking.

Delmez, Kathryn E., editor. *Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage*. Frist Art Museum, 2023. Print.

Lee, Yaniya. "A Modern, Tragic Portrait of the Sea." *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, 26 Apr. 2024, nytimes.com/interactive/2024/04/26/t-magazine/wardell-milan-fraenkel-gallery.html.

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- 2022 Best, Makeda. "Voices from the Collections: Photographer Wardell Milan in Conversation with Curator Makeda Best: Index Magazine: Harvard Art Museums." *Index Magazine | Harvard Art Museums*, 10 Feb. 2022, harvardartmuseums.org/article/voices-from-the-collections-photographer-wardell-milan-in-conversation-with-curator-makeda-best.
- Clearwater, Bonnie, editor. *Lux Et Veritas: Pushing a White Wall*. Skira Editore | NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, 2022.
- 2021 Dawson, Cat. "Wardell Milan: Amerika. God Bless You If It's Good To You." *The Brooklyn Rail* Oct. 2021, brooklynrail.org/2021/10/artseen/Wardell-Milan-Amerika-God-Bless-You-If-Its-Good-To-You.
- 2020 "Pentimenti: as told to and edited by Alan Hall." *The Brooklyn Rail* Feb. 2020, brooklynrail.org/2020/02/criticspage/Pentimenti.
- "Nine Black Artists and Cultural Leaders on Seeing and Being Seen." *New York Times Style Magazine*, 23 Jun. 2020, nytimes.com/2020/06/23/t-magazine/black-artists-white-gaze.html.
- 2019 Dykstra, Jean. "Portfolio: Wardell Milan." *Photograph* Jan./Feb. 2019.
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- Yau, John. "A Disruptor of Race and Sex." *Hyperallergic*, 3 Jun. 2019, hyperallergic.com/502980/a-disruptor-of-race-and-sex.
- 2015 Foster, Carter E., et al. *Wardell Milan: Between Later Summer and Early Fall*. edited by Cay Sophie Rabinowitz, OSMOS Books, 2015.
- MacDonald, Christian. "Wardell Milan." *Interview Magazine*, 2 Dec. 2015, interviewmagazine.com/art/wardell-milan.
- McDermott, Emily. "Hermaphroditic Beauty." *Interview Magazine* 6 Feb. 2015, interviewmagazine.com/art/wardell-milan-the-confident-line-david-nolan.
- 2014 Brielmaier, Ian. "From King to Camus..." *Osmos Magazine*, no. 5, 2014, pp. 28–35.
- 2013 *Vitamin D2: New Perspectives in Drawing*. Phaidon Press, pp. 183–87.
- 2010 Rosenberg, Karen. "Art in Review: Landscapes! Romance, Recession and Rottenness at Taxter & Spengemann, Drawings of Harlem at The Studio Museum in Harlem." *The New York Times*, 8 Jan. 2010, archive.nytimes.com/query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage-9F02E7DD163CF93BA35752C0A9669D8B63.html.
- 2007 Richard, Frances. "Midnight's Daydream: Titus Kaphar, Wardell Milan, Demetrius Oliver." *Artforum*, Nov. 2007, p. 371.
- 2006 Jurkiewicz, Małgorzata, editor. *Black Alphabet: ConTEXTS of Contemporary African American Art*. Zacheta National Gallery of Art, 2006, pp. 100–3.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
 Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON, Canada
 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
Hall Art Foundation Collection
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
The Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY
Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Kupferstichkabinett Berlin, Berlin, Germany
The Menil Collection, Houston, TX
Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
The Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY
Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago, IL
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, LA
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
UBS Art Collection