

# MCARTHUR BINION

b. 1946 Macon, MS; lives and works in Chicago, IL

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

McArthur Binion creates unique, labor-intensive works that blend minimalism, identity politics, and abstraction. He uses materials such as oil paint stick, ink, and graphite to create detailed grids over personal photographs and documents. These archival elements provide insight into his life and experiences, including his birth certificate, childhood home, and early years in New York. Binion's work, influenced by poetry and jazz, combines improvisation with structure, and personal narrative with the broader history of Black Abstraction. His pieces defy simple classification, reflecting both critique and acceptance of minimalist art.

## EDUCATION

- 1973 Masters of Fine Art, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
- 1971 Bachelor's of Art, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *McArthur Binion and Jules Allen: Me and You*, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2022 *McArthur Binion: Self:Portraits*, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI  
*Visual:Ear / Paper:Work*, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium  
*DNA:Study/(Visual:Ear)*, Lehmann Maupin, Seoul, South Korea
- 2021 *Modern: Ancient: Brown*, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY  
*DNA: Orange: Work*, Pièce Unique, Massimo De Carlo, Paris, France
- 2020 *Modern Ancient Brown*, Museo Novecento, Florence, Italy  
*DNA: Work and the Under: Conscious Drawings*, Gray Warehouse, Chicago, IL  
*Hand: Work: II*, Lehmann Maupin, Seoul, South Korea  
*New: Work*, Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong, China  
*Hand: Work II*, Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong, China  
*Hand: Work*, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
- 2018 *Binion/Saarinien: A McArthur Binion Project*, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
*Ink: Work*, Massimo De Carlo, Milan, Italy
- 2017 *Route One: Box Two*, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, NY  
*DNA: Sepia*, Massimo De Carlo, London, England
- 2016 *Seasons*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *Re: Mine*, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, NY
- 2014 *McArthur Binion: DNA Study*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL
- 2013 *McArthur Binion: Ghost: Rhythms*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL
- 2012 *Perspectives 177: McArthur Binion*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX
- 2010 *Color Exploration: Simplicity in the Art of McArthur Binion*, University College Gallery, University of Maryland, Adelphi, MD (2011)
- 2009 *House: Work*, Center Galleries, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI
- 2008 *Simplicism II: The Gouaches*, Audible Gallery, Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago, IL
- 2005 *Simplicism, G.R.* N'Namdi Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Simplicism, G.R.* N'Namdi Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 *Simplicism, G.R.* N'Namdi Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 2001 *Modern: Ancient: Brown*, Alley Culture, Detroit, MI
- 1998 Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, MI
- 1990 *Laconic: Love: Letters*; K.V.C., Fisher Theater, New Center One, Detroit, MI
- 1983 Small Walls Gallery, New York, NY
- 1980 *Drawings*, Peg Alston Gallery, New York, NY  
*The Juices: New Paintings*, Anspacher Gallery, New York, NY  
New York Shakespeare Festival, New York, NY
- 1975 Gallery Seven, Fisher Building, Detroit, MI

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## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Palimpsest*, Mariane Ibrahim, Chicago, IL  
*15X15: Independent 2010-2024*, Independent Art Fair, Tribeca, NY  
*Culture of Creativity*, The Landmark, Tiffany & Co., New York, NY  
*SpaceRace: Leonardo Benzant, McArthur Binion, Alteronce Gumby, Nicholas Hlobo, and Brittney Leeanne Williams*, Lehmann Maupin, London, England
- 2023 *Tracing Lineage: Abstraction and its Aftermath*, Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT (2024)  
*Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage*, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN; travels to The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX Houston; Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.  
*Beyond Form: Loriel Beltrán, Sanford Biggers, McArthur Binion, Frank Bowling, Lee Bul, Angel Otero, Vaughn Spann, and Zhang Huan*, Lehmann Maupin, Palm Beach, FL  
*Neo Chicago*, The Peninsula, Chicago, IL  
*GRAY at 60*, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois; traveled to Richard Gray Gallery, New York, NY  
*McArthur Binion - Carl Andre*, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, France
- 2022 *Citing Black Geographies*, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, Illinois [cat.]; traveled to Richard Gray Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021 *McArthur Binion - Sol LeWitt*, Massimo De Carlo, Milan, Italy  
*Building a Legacy: Chrysler Collects for the Future*, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA  
*Experience & Expression*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI  
*The Medium is Memory*, Lehmann Maupin, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2020 *Reframing Minimalism: McArthur Binion and his Contemporaries in New York, 1973 - 1992*, Richard Gray Gallery, New York, NY  
*Inside Out: The Body Politic*, Seoul, South Korea  
*Making Community: Prints from Brandywine Workshop and Archives*, Brodsky Center at PAFA, and Paulson Fontained Press, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 *Beyond Infinity: Contemporary Art after Kusama*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA  
*Black Refractions: Highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem*, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI [cat.]; traveled to the Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC; the Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA; the Smith College Museum of Art, Smith College, Northampton, MA (2020); the Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA; and the Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake City, UT  
*cart, horse, cart*, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
- 2018 *DPAM Collects: Happy Little Trees & Other Recent Acquisitions*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL  
*Expanding Narratives: The Figure and the Ground*, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Something to Say: The McNay Presents 100 Years of African American Art*, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX
- 2017 *Picturing Mississippi, 1817-2017: Land of Plenty, Pain and Promise*, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS  
*Color People*, Rental Gallery, East Hampton, NY  
*Paper*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL  
*VIVA ARTE VIVA*, 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy  
*New at NOMA: Recent Acquisitions in Modern and Contemporary Art*, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
- 2016 *Dimensions of Black: A Collaboration with the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA  
*From the Vault: Recent Gifts to the Collection*, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI ( Circa 1970, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
*Viewpoints*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*35 Years-N'Namdi Collection*, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI  
*De Facto Detroit: Selections from the N'Namdi Collections*, Center Galleries, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI  
*Chicago Invites Chicago*, Galerie LeLong & Co., New York, NY  
*2016 Exhibition of Work by Newly Elected Members and Recipients of Honors and Awards*, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY  
*Thought Patterns*, Deborah Ronnen Fine Art, Rochester, NY  
*2016 Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts*, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY
- 2015 *Through the African American Lens*, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.  
*Piece by Piece: Building a Collection*, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
- 2014 *Prospect.3: Notes for Now*, Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, New Orleans, LA  
*Another Look at Detroit*, Marianne Boesky Gallery and Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY  
*Ice Fishing*, Max Wigram Gallery, London, England

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- When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination and the American South*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; traveled to the NSU Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, FL; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
- Above and Below the Surface: Eight Artists*, Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Hard Edges/Soft Curves*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX
- 2013 *Green Flower Street*, Tatiana Kourochkina Galleria, Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
- Xstraction*, The Hole, New York, NY
- 2010 *Well Put Together II*, Thomas McCormick Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2007 *STUFF: International Contemporary Art from the Collection of Burt Aaron*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI
- 25th Anniversary Group Exhibition*, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, New York, NY
- 2002 *Americas Remixed*, Comune di Milano, Milan, Italy
- The Bones of Clouds: Some Recent Experiences of Chance*, Center Galleries, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI
- No Greater Love: Abstraction*, Jack Tilton/Anna Kustera Gallery, New York, NY
- Paths*, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, MI
- 2000 *Art for Technology: A Reunion of Mural Artists*, Martin Luther King Neighborhood Network, Detroit, MI
- 1997 *T-Race*, Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1996 *Drawing in Chicago Now*, 11th Street Gallery, Chicago, Illinois; traveled to Carleton College, Northfield, MN
- 1992 *Drawings for Billboards*, Focus Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 1989 *Hotel Imperator*, Berlin, Germany
- 1988 *Poggibonsi*, Siena, Italy
- 1987 *Share the Memories*, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, MI
- 1985 *David Hammons' House*, Art on the Beach, Creative Time, Inc., New York, NY
- 1984 *Affirmation of Life*, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York, NY
- 1983 *Modernist Trends*, 22 Wooster Gallery, New York, NY
- The Regentrified Jungle*, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY; traveled to Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- 1982 *Cranbrook USA: A 50-Year Survey of Alumni*, Cranbrook Museum of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- Organized by Joe Lewis and Holly Solomon Gallery of New York*, Mark Twain Bank, Kansas City, MO
- Six Murals by Six Artists*, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 1981 *Condesco/Lawler Gallery*, New York, NY
- 1978 *Detroit and Chicago: Art of the 70s*, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, MI
- 1976 *Susan Caldwell Gallery*, New York, NY
- 1973 *McArthur Binion, Jonathan Borofsky and Mary Obering*, Artists Space, New York, NY
- 1972 *Michigan Biannual*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2019 The Artsy Vanguard 2019
- 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- Purchase Prize, Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY
- 1993 Artist-in-Residence, Chicago Children's Museum, Boys & Girls Club of Chicago, Robert Taylor Homes Unit, Chicago, IL
- 1992 Artist-in-Residence, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
- 1978 New York CETA Artist Project Grant, New York, NY
- 1976 National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship Grant, Washington, D.C.

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA

The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art at Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH

Art Bridges Foundation, Bentonville, AR

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Detroit, MI

Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit, MI

City of Detroit, Detroit, MI

Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL

Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Winter Park, FL

Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR

DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL

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Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, MI  
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA  
Joyner/Giuffrida Collection  
Kemper Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO  
McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York  
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS  
Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA  
Mott Warsh Collection, Flint, MI  
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA  
Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
Strauss Family Collection, Santa Fe, CA  
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

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