

McArthur Binion

Biography

McArthur Binion (b. 1946, Macon, Georgia) lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.

Since the 1970's, he has sought an alternative to minimalist art, through his personal philosophy of the pictorial grids fused with his archival belongings, such as the pages of his phone books, personal family photographs, or found documents from the history of the Afro-American community. Binion's reduced combination of colors and forms enclose not only formal mastery but also layers of meaning, beginning with his search for modernist abstract painting's legacy in relation to a wider context, that of the need of human society to leave traces of itself and, at the same time, to project itself into the future.

McArthur Binion's work is strongly political, although very subtle. In fact, curator Lowery Stokes Sims once described Binion's DNA series as 'notions of self-awareness and self-discovery, a conscious reflection on himself and to the historical discourse he has contributed to'. McArthur Binion's 40-year career has been a continual investigation of abstract painting. The artist distinctive insertion of narrative and personal history and his emphasis on content differentiates his work from a more traditional minimalist practice. Binion's works have been prominently included in the 57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, VIVA ARTE VIVA, curated by Christine Macel.

Binion's work is featured in several public and private collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC; Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills; Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Kemper Museum of Art, Kansas City; Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson; New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans; Strauss Family Collection, Santa Fe; Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo.

Solo exhibitions

2026

2026 - Stuttering:Standing:Still II, Lehmann Maupin, New York, USA

2025

2025 - McArthur Binion: Notes on Form (Intimate Structures), Georgetown University Art Galleries, Washington D.C., USA

2025 - Rawness Dancing:With Intellect, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, B

2024

2024 - McArthur Binion, Peter Marino Art Foundation, Southampton, NY, USA

2024 - McArthur Binion and Jules Allen: Me and You , Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA

2022

2022 - McArthur Binion: Self:Portraits, Library Street Collective, Detroit, USA

2022 - Visual:Ear / Paper:Work, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, B

2022 - DNA:Study/(Visual:Ear), Lehmann Maupin, Seoul, ROK

2021

2021 - Modern: Ancient: Brown, Lehmann Maupin, New York, USA

2021 - DNA: Orange: Work, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F

2020

2020 - Modern Ancient Brown, Museo del Novecento, Firenze, I

2020 - DNA: WORK AND THE UNDER: CONSCIOUS DRAWING, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, USA. Catalogue

2019

2019 - McArthur Binion, Lehmann Maupin, New York, USA

2019 - McArthur Binion, Ghosts: Rhythms & Haints, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, USA

2019 - Hand: Work: II, Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong, HK

2019 - Hand: Work: II, Lehmann Maupin, Seoul, ROK

2019 - New: Work (Hong Kong), Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong, PRC

2019 - Hand: Work, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY, USA

2018

2018 - Ink: Work, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I

2018 - Binion/Saarinen, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, USA

2018 - Ink: Work, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I

2017

2017 - Route One: Box Two, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, USA

2017 - DNA: Sepia, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

2016

2016 - Seasons, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, USA

2015

2015 - McArthur Binion: Re: Mine, Galerie Lelong, New York, USA. Catalogue

2014

2014 - DNA Study, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, USA

2013

2013 - Ghost: Rhythms, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, USA

2012

2012 - Perspectives 177: McArthur Binion, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, USA

2010

2010 - Color Exploration: Simplicity in the Art of McArthur Binion, University of Maryland, University College Gallery, Adelphi, USA

2009

2009 - House : Work, Center Galleries at College for Creative Studies, Detroit, USA

2008

2008 - Simplicity II: The Gouaches, Audible Gallery, Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago, USA

2005

2005 - Simplicity, G. R. N'Namdi Gallery, Chicago; G. R. N'Namdi Gallery, New York, USA

2004

2004 - Simplicity, G. R. N'Namdi Gallery, Detroit, USA

2001

2001 - Modern : Ancient : Brown, Alley Culture, Detroit, USA

1990

1990 - Laconic : Love : Letters; K.V.C., Fisher Theater, New Center One, Detroit, USA

1980

1980 - The Juices: New Paintings, Anspacher Gallery, New York, USA

1980 - Drawings, Peg Alston Gallery, New York, USA

Group exhibitions**2025**

2025 - Contemporary Conceptual Obstruction , Galerie Maximillian, Aspen, CO, USA

2025 - Nemo, Lehmann Maupin, Seoul, KR

2025 - Apparitions, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA

2025 - Beyond Material, Lehmann Maupin, London, UK

2025 - New Symphony Of Time, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS, USA

2024

2024 - SpaceRace, Lehmann Maupin, London, UK

2024 - Culture of Creativity, Tiffany & CO flagship store, New York, NY, USA

2024 - Palimpsest, Mariane Ibrahim, Chicago, IL, USA

2024 - 15X15: Independent 2010-2024, Independent Art Fair, New York, NY, USA

2024 - Hlobo, and Brittney Leeanne Williams, Lehmann Maupin, London, UK

2024 - Beyond the Physical World: Abstraction from the Mott-Warsh Collection, MW Gallery, Flint, MI, USA

2023

2023 - McArthur Binion – Carl Andre, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F

2023 - Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, USA

2023 - Yuen Yeung, K11 Musea, Shanghai, PRC

2023 - Beyond Form, Lehmann Maupin, Palm Beach, USA

2023 - Neo Chicago, The Peninsula, Chicago, USA

2023 - Tracing Lineage: Abstraction and its Aftermath, Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT, USA

2023 - GRAY at 60, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA

2023 - Lee Bul, Angel Otero, Vaughn Spann, and Zhang Huan, Lehmann Maupin, Palm Beach, FL, USA

2022

2022 - Citing Black Geographies, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, New York, USA

2022 - Black Abstractionists: From Then 'til Now, Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, USA

2022 - Borrow and Steal: Appropriation from the Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, USA

2022 - Sense of Place, Green Naftali, New York, USA

2022 - Fire Figure Fantasy: Selections from ICA Miami's Collection, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA

2021

2021 - Black Art: in the Absence of Light, HBO Documentary, HBO

2021 - McArthur Binion - Sol LeWitt, MASSIMODECARLO, Milano, I

2021 - Building a Legacy: Chrysler Collects for the Future, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, USA

2021 - The Medium is Memory, Lehmann Maupin, Taipei, RC

2021 - Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention Center, Hong Kong, PRC

2020

2020 - Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, USA

2020 - Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem, Frye Museum of Art, Seattle, USA

2020 - Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem, Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake City, USA

2020 - Listen to Your Eyes, Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, NL

2020 - Making Community: Prints from Brandywine Workshop and Archives, Brodsky Center at PAFA, and Paulson Fontained Press, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, PA, USA

2019

2019 - Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, USA

2019 - Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem, Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, USA

2019 - Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, USA

2019 - Expanding Narratives: The Figure and the Ground, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, USA

2019 - Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI, USA

2019 - Beyond Infinity: Contemporary Art After Kusama, Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Boston, MA, USA

2018

2018 - Expanding Narratives: The Figure and the Ground, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

2018 - Something to Say: The McNay Presents 100 Years of African American Art, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX, USA

2017

2017 - Color People, Rental Gallery, East Hampton, USA

2017 - VIVA ARTE VIVA, 57th Venice Biennale, Venezia, I

2017 - Dimensions of Black: a Collaboration with the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art, Museum of Contemporary San Diego, San Diego, USA

2017 - New at NOMA: Recent Acquisitions in Modern and Contemporary Art, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, USA

2017 - From the Vault: Recent Gifts to the Collection, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, USA

2017 - Through the African American Lens, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, USA

2017 - Thought Patterns, Deborah Ronnen Fine Art, Rochester, USA

2017 - Above and Below the Surface: Eight Artists, Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, USA

2017 - Black and the Abstract, Part 2: Soft Curves/Hard Edges, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, USA

2017 - Picturing Mississippi, 1817-2017: Land of Plenty, Pain, and Promise, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, USA

2017 - Something to Say: The McNay Presents 100 Years of African American Art, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, USA

2017 - Paper, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, USA

2017 - Picturing Mississippi, 1817-2017: Land of Plenty, Pain, and Promise, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, USA

2016

2016 - Circa 1970, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, USA

2016 - Through the African American Lens, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, USA

2016 - Recent Acquisitions, The Phillips Collection, Washington, USA

2016 - Viewpoints, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, USA

2016 - Chicago Invites Chicago, Galerie Lelong, New York, USA

2016 - Exhibition of Work by Newly Elected Members and Recipients of Honors and Awards, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, USA

2016 - Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, USA

2016 - Dimensions of Black: a Collaboration with the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art, Museum of Contemporary San Diego, San Diego, USA

2016 - New at NOMA: Recent Acquisitions in Modern and Contemporary Art, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, USA

2016 - Chicago Invites Chicago, Galerie Lelong, New York, USA

2016 - Thought Patterns, Deborah Ronnen Fine Art, Rochester, NY, USA

2015

2015 - Piece by Piece: Building a Collection, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, USA

2014

2014 - Prospect.3: Notes for Now, New Orleans, USA

2014 - Another Look at Detroit: Parts 1 and 2, Marianne Boesky, New York, Marlborough Chelsea, New York, USA

2014 - Ice Fishing, Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK

2014 - When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination in the American South, Studio Museum, Harlem, New York, USA

2014 - Above and Below the Surface: Eight Artists, Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, USA

2014 - Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Soft Curves/Hard Edges, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX, USA

2013

2013 - Black in the Abstract, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, USA

2013 - Green Flower Street, curated by TR, Tatiana Kourochkina Gallery, Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul

2013 - Xstraction, The Hole, New York, USA

2013 - Outside the Lines, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, USA

2010

2010 - Well Put Together II, Thomas McCormick Gallery, Chicago, USA

2007

2007 - 25th Anniversary Group Exhibition, G. R. N'Namdi Gallery, New York, USA

2007 - STUFF: International Contemporary Art from the Collection of Burt Aaron, The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, USA

2002

2002 - Americas Remixed, Comune di Milano, Milano, I

2002 - No Greater Love, Abstraction, Jack Tilton/Anna Kustera Gallery, New York, USA

2002 - The Bones of Clouds: Some Recent Experiences of Chance, Center Galleries, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, USA

2002 - Paths, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, USA

2000

2000 - Art for Technology: A Reunion of Mural Artists, Martin Luther King Neighborhood Network, Detroit, USA

1997

1997 - T-race, Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago, USA

1996

1996 - Drawing in Chicago Now, 11th Street Gallery, Chicago, Illinois and Carleton College, Northfield, USA

1992

1992 - Drawings for Billboards, Focus Gallery, Detroit, USA

1987

1987 - Share the Memories, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, USA

1985

1985 - David Hammons' House, Art on the Beach, Creative Time, Inc., New York, USA

1984

1984 - Affirmation of Life, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York, USA

1983

1983 - The Regentrified Jungle, Hamilton College, Clinton, New York; Wayne State University/NYC, Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

1983 - Modernist Trends, 22 Wooster Gallery, New York, USA

1982

1982 - Organized by Joe Lewis and Holly Solomon Gallery of New York, Mark Twain Bank, Kansas City, USA

1982 - Six Murals by Six Artists, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Gallery, Detroit, USA

1982 - Cranbrook USA: A 50-Year Survey of Alumni, Cranbrook Museum of Art, Bloomfield Hills, USA

1978

1978 - Detroit and Chicago: Art of the 70s, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, USA

1973

1973 - McArthur Binion, Jonathan Borofsky and Mary Obering, Artists Space, New York, USA

1972

1972 - Michigan Biannual, Saginaw Museum of Art, Saginaw, USA

Bibliography

2021

Getsy, David J.. "Gray Warehouse", *Artforum*, February 2021.

2020

"Black Lives Matter al Museo Novecento: via alla mostra d'arte 'Modern Ancient Brown'", *GoNews*, October 2020.

"Black Lives Matter: apre la mostra di McArthur Binion a Firenze", *Amica*, October 2020.

"Duel. McArthur Binion. Modern Ancient Brown", *Arte*, October 2020.

"McArthur Binion la storia è black", *la Repubblica - Robinson*, October 2020.

"McArthur Binion - Modern Ancient Brown", *Exibart*, October 2020.

"McArthur Binion: la nuova mostra al Museo Novecento di Firenze", *Turismo Itinerante*, October 30, 2020.

"Modern Ancient Brown - McArthur Binion", *Pittorica*, October 2020.

Ficichia, Loredana. "Guarda e Leggi - c'è McArthur Binion", *Corriere Fiorentino*, October 24, 2020.

Franza, Carlo. "L'afroamericano McArthur Binion erede dell'astrattismo modernista ripensa il minimalismo e la sua storia personale tra arti visive e letteratura. La mostra al Museo Novecento di Firenze.", *il Giornale*, 2020.

Meloni, Bruna. "McArthur Binion è a firenze con la mostra Modern Ancient Brown", *MAM-e*, October 25, 2020.

Montanari, Laura. "Black Lives Matter anche nell'arte", *la Repubblica*, October 24, 2020.

Zarley, David. "McArthur Binion's 'Data-Driven' Design", *Frieze*, October 29, 2020.

2019

"Discovered After 70, Black Artists Find Success, Too, Has Its Price", *The New York times*, March 23, 2019.

"McArthur Binion: Modern Ancient Brown", *GoGoFirenze*, October 20, 2019.

2017

Gavin, Francesca. "The African-American artists exciting savvy collectors", *Financial Times*, June 9 2017.

Swirsky, Rebecca. "McArthur Binion, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK", *Frieze*, October 2017.

Public Collections

The Netherlands

Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar

United Kingdom

Zabludowicz Collection, London

United States of America

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Oberlin

Ariel Mutual Funds, Chicago

Art Bridges Foundation, Bentonville

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, Detroit

Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit

City of Detroit, Detroit

Cook County Hospital, Chicago

Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills

Detroit Institute of Arts, Michigan

Fidelity Investments Art Collection

Guggenheim Museum, New York

Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston

Joyner Giuffrida Collection, San Francisco

Kemper Museum of Art, Kansas City

McNay Art Museum, San Antonio

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson

Mott Warsh Collection, Flint

Museum, Winter Park

National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.

New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.

Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

The Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins College, Winter Park

The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo

Wayne State University, Detroit

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York