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STEVE LOCKE

Born 1963, Cleveland, OH
Lives and works in the Hudson Valley, NY

EDUCATION

MFA, 2001, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston
BFA, 1997, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston
BS, 1984, Business Administration, Boston University, MA

SELECTED ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2026 *I said what I said*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY
waiting for my man, LaMontagne Gallery, Boston, MA
2024 *the fire next time*, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), North Adams
2022 *your blues ain't like mine*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY
the daily practice of painting, Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg
Homage to the Auction Block, Alexander Gray Associates, Germantown, NY
2021 *Steve Locke: Homage to the Auction Block*, Stone Gallery, Boston University, MA
2020 *Homage to the Auction Block*, LaMontagne Gallery, Boston, MA
2019 *in the name of love*, Gallatin Galleries at NYU, New York, NY
the color of remembering, Gallery 221@HCC, Tampa, FL
2018 *The School of Love*, Bard College at Simon's Rock, Great Barrington, MA
#Killers and *Family Pictures*, Yours Mine and Ours Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Love Letter to a Library, Boston Public Library, MA
Three Deliberate Grays For Freddie (A Memorial for Freddie Gray), Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA
2017 *Family Pictures (Red)*, P.S. Satellites a project of Prospect.4: The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp, New Orleans, LA
2016 *The School of Love*, Samsøñ, Boston, MA
Family Pictures, Gallery Kayafas, Boston, MA

2015 *that last time we touched the water*, Hudson Opera House, NY

2014 *Dlectricity*, Midtown Detroit's Biennial Light Festival, MI

there is no one left to blame, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, MI

2013 *there is no one left to blame,* Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, MA

2012 *companions*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

you don't deserve me, Samsøñ, Boston, MA

2009 *Rapture/New Work*, Samsøñ, Boston, MA

the boy with the thorn in his side, The VOLTA Show / VOLTA 5, Basel, Switzerland

2008 *Rapture*, Hall Street Gallery, Savannah College of Art and Design, GA

2007 *No Ego: New Paintings by Steve Locke*, Schlosberg Alumni Gallery, Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA

mo(u)rning, Lillian Immig Gallery, Emmanuel College, Boston, MA

2005 *circumference*, Mills Project Space, Boston Center for the Arts, MA

when you're a boy…, Artists Foundation Main Gallery, Boston, MA

New Paintings/New Drawings, Mazmanian Gallery, Framingham State College, MA

2000 *Some Men*, Patricia Doran Gallery, Boston, MA

1996 *Guys with Ties and other Portraits—New Paintings*, Noonan Gallery, Cambridge, MA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Tom's Stretch*, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2025 *Revolution! 250 Years of Art & Activism in Boston*, Boston Public Library, MA

Meanwhile, Inside, LaMontagne Gallery, Boston, MA

Eye of the Blackbird, Bo Bartlett Center, Columbus State University, GA

2023 *Togetherness: For Better or Worse*, Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, TX

The Myth of Normal: A Celebration of Authentic Expression, MassArt Art Museum (MAAM), Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston

In [ ] We Trust, UT Knoxville Downtown Gallery at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Then Is Now: Contemporary Black Art in America, Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT

Hot Off the Press, Patton-Malott Gallery, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO

Fine Arts Faculty/Staff Exhibition Series: Part 2, The Rubelle and Norman Schaffer Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Think Pinker, GAVLAK, Los Angeles, CA

2022 *Equals 6: A Sum Effect of Frank Bowling's 5+1*, University Hall Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Under My Skin, Galeria Campeche, Mexico City, Mexico

2021 *Annotations & Improvisations*, Miles McEnery Gallery, New York, NY

Intertwined: Akinbola, Locke, Rubin, RIVALRY PROJECTS, Buffalo, NY

While You Were Sleeping, LaMontagne Gallery, Boston, MA

Feedback, The School-Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY

I AM A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD, Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, Asheville, NC

2020 *The BIG Picture: Giant Photographs and Powerful Portfolios*, Fitchburg Art Museum, MA

Recruiting for Utopia: Print and the Imagination, Fruitlands Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2019 *Coded*, Mills Gallery at Boston Center for the Arts, MA

Dreamhouse Vs. Punk House (plus Cat House), Serious Topics, Inglewood, CA

SOMEBODY TOLD ME YOU PEOPLE WERE CRAZY, Hathaway Gallery, Atlanta, GA

Kim – Locke – Rich: Works by Byron Kim, Steve Locke & Matt Rich, LaMontagne Gallery, Boston, MA

Dreamhouse Vs. Punk House (plus Cat house), Serious Topics, Inglewood, CA

2018 *Nine Moments for Now*, Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Under a Dismal Boston Skyline, Stone Gallery, Boston University, MA

Cosmic Traffic Jam, Zevitas/Marcus, Los Angeles, CA

USPS, Visual Art, Architecture & Design School (VA{A}DS), Free University of Tbilisi, Georgia

Legacy of the Cool: A Tribute to Barkley L. Hendricks, Bakalar and Paine Galleries, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston

2017 *People Watching: Then and Now*, Fitchburg Art Museum, MA

First I was Afraid…, Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Programs, Long Island City, NY

Black and Brown People/White Problems, Samsøñ, Boston, MA

Reconstitution, LAXART, Los Angeles, CA

Political Discourse, University Hall Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Boston

I Dread to Think…, Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts, MA

2016 *Mentors*, CFHILL Art Space, Stockholm, Sweden

Selections, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston

2015 *This is Boston, not L.A.*, Zevitas Marcus Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

The Abstract Body, Sharon Arts Center, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Peterborough

2014 *Gay*, Longwood Art Gallery, Bronx Council of the Arts, New York, NY

2013 *Come Like Shadows: Palimpsests, Traces, Specters of The Silver Screen, Nightlife, Veils, The Absent Present*, Zürich Studio, New York, NY

White Boys, Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, Haverford College, PA

Paint Things: Beyond the Stretcher, deCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA

2012 *Hung Jury*, 225 Friend Street, Boston, MA

Shame/Less, FPAC Gallery, Boston, MA

One more kiss then we're history, Platform Gallery, Seattle, WA

2011 *Anthony Greaney X Samsøn X DAN GRAHAM*, Cottage Home Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

i am who I am: The Portrait Reconsidered, Steven Zevitas Gallery, Boston, MA

2010 *Traversing Gender*, The McInnch Art Gallery, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester

Man Up, Judi Rotenberg Gallery, Boston, MA

Boston Does Boston III, Proof Gallery, Boston, MA

2009 *Intersexions*, Cushing-Martin Gallery, Stonehill College, Easton, MA

Reaganography, No Globe, Brooklyn, NY

Casual Males, Sherman Gallery, Boston University, MA

Still Painting, RHYS Mendes Gallery, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil

2008 *Gallery Peopeo Art Exhibition No. 3*, Gallery Peopeo, Beijing, China

ambivalent figuration; people, Samsøñ, Boston, MA

Selections '08, Stephen D. Paine Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston

2007 *Visual Dialogue*, Schiltkamp Gallery, Clark University, Worcester, MA

2006 *Youshi Li + Steve Locke*, RHYS Gallery, Boston, MA

2004 *superSalon*, Samsøñ, Boston, MA

Boston High Tea, AramonaStudio, New York, NY

The 18th Drawing Show, Mills Gallery, Boston, MA

2002 *Making a Mark*, Danforth Museum, Framingham, MA

2001 *Selections from the Boston Drawing Project*, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

Drawing the New Millennium: The Challenge of Media and Idea to the Nature of Drawing, Danforth Gallery, Maine Artists Space, Portland

His and Hers: New Drawings (with Candice Smith Corby), Patricia Doran Gallery, Boston, MA

Members Show, Copley Society, Boston, MA

Red, Cambridge Art Association, MA

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA
The Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park, FL
Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, Asheville, NC
Brooklyn Academy of Music, NY
Buffalo AKG Art Museum, NY
Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
Hall Art Foundation, Reading, VT
Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, MA
Mead Art Museum, Amherst College, MA
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
Rennie Museum, Vancouver, BC
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa, Iowa City
Tufts University Art Galleries, Medford, MA

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2026 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant
2022 Rappaport Prize, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
2020 John Simon Guggenheim Fellow
2014 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant
Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant
2013 MassArt Foundation Faculty Fellowship
2009 LEF Contemporary Work Fund Grant
2007 Art Matters Foundation Award

SELECTED WRITINGS

"Artist's Project: Proposal for the Auction Block Memorial at Faneuil Hall: A site dedicated to those enslaved Africans and African-Americans whose kidnapping and sale here took place and whose labor and trafficking through the triangular trade financed the building of Faneuil Hall." *Public Art Dialogue* 15, no. 1 (Spring 2025): 35–41.

"Witnesses to What Might Have Been," In *Hughie Lee-Smith* with contributions by Hilton Als, Lauren Haynes, Leslie King-Hammond, and Steve Locke, and a conversation with Kellie Jones, LeRonn P. Brooks, and Reggie Burrows Hodges, pp. 16–19. New York: Karma, 2023.

"Signs of Resistance in a New Painting by Mickalene Thomas." *Frieze*, September 6, 2021.

"Guston, Whiteness, and the Unfinished Business of the Vile World." *Artforum*, December 2020.

"Why I withdrew my proposed slave memorial at Faneuil Hall." *The Boston Globe*, August 4, 2019.

"I, Too, Sing America," in *Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*. Exh. cat. Edited by Elizabeth Hutton Turner and Austen Barron Bailly, pp. 16–21. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2019.

"What Did You Do on Your Sabbatical?" *Hyperallergic*, February 19, 2016.

"The Body Manifest: On Robert Gober." *artcritical*, November 12, 2014.

"In Praise of A Newsstand." Edited by Dushko Petrovich. *Art Papers,* November 27, 2013.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Alex Gartenfeld's Top Picks from Frieze New York Viewing Room 2023." *Frieze*, May 11, 2023.

Ambrose, Graham. "Installation at the Gardner Honors the 'Unfinished Business' of Freddie Gray." *The Boston Globe*, June 28, 2018.

Armstrong, Annie. “Steve Locke Withdraws Proposal for Slave Auction Block Memorial in Boston.” *Artnews*, July 17, 2021.

“Artist Steve Locke joins Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture Board of Governors.” *Artdaily*, January 22, 2024.

Battaglia, Andy. “Steve Locke Talks About His Painterly and Polemical Provocations.” *Art in America*, November 20, 2024.

“Best of 2018: Our Top 20 Exhibitions Across the United States.” *Hyperallergic*, December 20, 2018.

Block, Annie. “A New Exhibition by Steve Locke to Open This June in Germantown, New York,” *Interior Design*, May 4, 2022.

Brooks, Anthony. “Steve Locke at the ICA: ‘there is no one left to blame.’” *WBUR Radio Boston*, August 5, 2013.

Campbell, Jerome. “Artist Withdraws Proposed Faneuil Hall Slave Memorial After Boston NAACP Says It Will Oppose It.” *WBUR Local Coverage*, July 17, 2019.

Cannon, William. “Cooper Gallery brings artists together to inspire civic discussion.” *The Harvard Gazette*, December 13, 2018.

Case, Wesley. “Freddie Gray lives on in art, his eyes watching Baltimore.” *The Baltimore Banner*, April 15, 2025.

Cook, Greg. “‘What Does Winning Look Like?’—Cooper Gallery’s Riveting Look at Blackness During Trump, #BlackLivesMatter, #MeToo.” *Wonderland*, November 27, 2018.

Cash, Stephanie. “Artist Steve Locke’s Plans for a Memorial to the Slave Trade in Boston Have Been Derailed After Opposition From Activists.” *Artnet news*, July 18, 2019.

Chakrabarti, Meghna and Zoë Mitchell. “How Should Boston Reckon With the Complicated History of Faneuil Hall?” *WBUR Radio Boston*, July 19, 2018.

“Come Like Shadows.” *The New Yorker*, January 20, 2014.

Cook, Greg. “Boston Painter Steve Locke: ‘It’s My Job to Bear Witness to my Time.’” *WBUR Local Coverage*, July 30, 2013.

Dafoe, Taylor. “Boston’s Famed Faneuil Hall Is Named After a Slave Trader. Now an Artist Has a Plan to Make That Ugly Fact Abundantly Clear.” *Artnet news*, June 20, 2019.

Darrow, Susannah and Carl Rojas. “A Not-So-Brief Chat with Painter Steve Locke.” *Burnaway*, February 14, 2014.

Drennen, Craig, Erin Dziedic, and Helen Molesworth. *there is no one left to blame*. Exh. cat. Boston, MA: Samsøñ, 2014.

Duray, Dan. “One Fine Show: ‘Steve Locke, the fire next time’ at MASS MoCA.” *Observer*, September 13, 2024.

Edelman, Emily. “Bits & Bytes: ‘The School of Love’ at Simon’s Rock; ‘North on the Wing’ birding lecture; college financial aid presentations; Fairview gala celebrates nurses.” *The Berkshire Edge*, September 29, 2018.

Eltringham, Gregory. “Steve Locke: Family Pictures.” *Artpulse*, October 23, 2016.

“Faneuil Hall’s slave legacy.” *The Boston Globe*, July 30, 2018.

Garcia, Maria. “Outside the Gardner, a Place to Mourn Freddie Gray Through Color.” *WBUR Local Coverage*, June 28, 2018.

Garza, Evan ed. *Steve Locke: I Said What I Said*. North Adams, MA; New York: MASS MoCA, DelMonico Books, 2026.

Gavin, Christopher. "The NAACP said it opposes a Faneuil Hall memorial for slave trade victims. Now, the artist says he'll take it out of Boston." *Boston*, July 18, 2019.

Gay, Malcolm. "Artist Steve Locke awarded Rappaport Prize by deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum." *Boston Globe*, August 25, 2022.

Gorel, Amy. "Meet Boston's New Artists-In-Residence." *WBUR Local Coverage*, Janurary 8, 2018.

Graham, Renée. "Another Way to Atone for Past Sins at Faneuil Hall." *The Boston Globe*, July 21, 2018.

Greenhouse, Pat. "The nearly erased artist behind the hidden face of the proposed Faneuil Hall memorial." *The Boston Globe*, August 21, 2018.

Greenstein, Colette. "Steve Locke honors Freddie Gray with public art installation." *The Bay State Banner*, June 22, 2018.

_____. "Artist Steve Locke Gets First Major Exhibition at Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston." *The Bay State Banner*, July 25, 2013.

Heinrich, Will. "Teaching a New Inclusiveness at The School." *The New York Times*, August 12, 2021.

Huberdeau, Jennifer. "At Mass MoCA, 'Steve Locke: the fire next time' confronts violence against Black and queer communities." *The Berkshire Eagle*, January 17, 2025.

Jahnke, Art. "Alum Steve Locke Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship." *Bostonia*, July 13, 2020.

Kaizen, William. "Steve Locke." *Artforum*, November 2013.

Kelleher, Solon. "16 art exhibits to explore this summer." *WBUR*, June 18, 2024.

Kohli, Diti. "Guggenheim Foundation awards fellowships to several local scholars and artists." *The Boston Globe*, April 9, 2020.

Kovel, Sophie. "Critics' Picks: Steve Locke *Yours Mine & Ours*." *Artforum*, October 1, 2018.

Levato Coyne, Lauren. "Steve Locke: MASS MoCA." *Sculpture Magazine*, October 9, 2025.

Liesbrock, Heinz, ed. *Josef Albers: Homage to the Square 1950–1976*. Berlin, Germany: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2023.

McGowan, Amanda. "Proposed Memorial at Faneuil Hall Would Recognize the Victims of the Slave Trade." *WGBH Boson Public Radio*, July 13, 2018.

McQuaid, Cate. "A painter challenges modernism with the harrowing history of slavery." *The Boston Globe*, July 29, 2020.

_____. "Searing images in a sweeping show about race and democracy." *The Boston Globe*, December 5, 2018.

_____. "Celebrating Barkley L. Hendricks at MassArt." *The Boston Globe*, January 17, 2018.

_____. "Where Rage and Love Meet: An Artist's Vision of Where Racial Violence Meets the American Dream of Home." *The Boston Globe*, October 31, 2016.

_____. "Images speaking of desire and fear at the ICA." *The Boston Globe*, August 1, 2013.

_____. "Love and its comical wounds." *The Boston Globe*, June 16, 2012.

Miller, Francine Koslow. "Steve Locke." *Art in America*, October 4, 2012.

Moeller, Robert. "School of Love: Interview with Steve Locke." *Big Red and Shiny*, November 2, 2016.

Muldowney, Greer. "Steve Locke: The States Project: Massachusetts." *Lenscratch*, April 25, 2017.

Nnuro, Derek, ed. *In a Time of Witness*. Iowa City, Iowa: Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa, 2023.

"NYC Selected Gallery Guide, November 2026." *Two Coats of Paint*, November 2, 2026.

Osterheldt, Jeneé. "Boston was robbed of a slave monument at Faneuil Hall. Here's what happened." *The Boston Globe*, February 28, 2020.

Parker, Adam. "Artist Steve Locke to discuss public monuments in Gibbes Museum lecture." *The Post and Courier*, November 1, 2021.

Penman, Maggie. "A History To Be Reckoned With At Faneuil Hall." *WGBH News*, August 8, 2018.

Pietroni, David Guido. "Boston's Slave Auction Block Memorial's Proposal Withdrawn By Steve Locke." *The Art Insider*, July 19, 2019.

Popovska, Viktoria. "Stone Gallery exhibition honors Josef Albers's legacy." *The Daily Free Press,* October 13, 2021.

Reynolds, Pamela. "15 Art Exhibits Worth Exploring This Fall: Steve Locke 'Homage to the Auction Block.'" *WBUR Local Coverage*, September 27, 2021.

Smallwood, Michael. "Artist Steve Locke set for keynote speech." *Charleston City Paper*, October 27, 2021.

Struck, Jules. "Boston Artist Honors Freddie Gray with New Abstract Piece." *Boston*, June 25, 2018.

"Ten Works under $25K on Frieze Viewing Room." *Frieze,* February 15, 2022.

Valentine, Victoria. "Latest News in Black Art: Georgia Museum Honoring Lou Stovall, Edmonia Lewis Gets Postage Stamp, Steve Locke Now Repped by Alexander Gray & More." *Culture Type,* January 16, 2022.

Valentine, Victoria. "Latest News in Black Art: 2024 United States Artists Fellow Announced, James Claiborne Returns to Barnes Foundations, Jupiter Magazine Debuts & More." *Culture Type*, January 26, 2024.

Weber, Jasmine. "The Potential of Ancestral Memory to Reconcile Personal and Racial Histories." *Hyperallergic*, October 26, 2018.

Whyte, Murray. "At Mass MoCA, Steve Locke's 'the fire next time' chills to the bone." The Boston Globe, August 29, 2024.

_____. "Two collections become one in 'On This Ground: Being and Belonging in America' at PEM." *The Boston Globe*, March 17, 2022.

_____. "Boston lost a powerful, poetic work when artist pulled his 'Auction Block' slave memorial." *The Boston Globe*, August 17, 2019.

Zosuls, Kristina. *Togetherness: For Better or Worse*. Exh. pub. Dallas, TX: Green Family Art Foundation, 2023.