

# Alexander Gray Associates

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## **BETHANY COLLINS**

Born 1984, Montgomery, AL

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

## **EDUCATION**

MFA, 2012, Georgia State University, Atlanta

BA, 2007, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

## **SELECTED ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS**

2026 *Bethany Collins: The Deluge*, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, CO

2025 *Bethany Collins: The Dixie of Our Union*, Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond, VA  
*Collection in Context: Bethany Collins*, Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, NY

2024 *At Sea*, Seattle Art Museum, WA  
*Years*, Alexander Gray Associates, Germantown, NY  
*Accord*, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University, AL

2023 *Undercurrents*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY  
*America: A Hymnal*, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA  
*Tempest*, Bryn Mawr College, PA

2022 *Cadence*, PATRON, Chicago, IL

2021 *America: A Hymnal*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AK  
*Evensong*, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN  
*My Destiny Is In Your Hands*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, AL

2019 *Chorus*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, MO  
*Benediction*, University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington  
*A Pattern or Practice*, University Galleries of Illinois State University, Normal

2018 *The Litany*, Locust Projects, Miami, FL  
*Undersong*, PATRON, Chicago, IL  
*Occasional Verse*, Center for Book Arts, New York, NY

2017 *Of a piece*, 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA  
*Material Fact*, PATRON, Chicago, IL

2016 *In Evidence*, William H. Van Every, Jr. and Edward M. Smith Galleries, Davidson College, NC  
*The problem we all live with*, Birmingham Museum of Art, AL  
*with the exception of the sky*, Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Center for Art & Learning, Duluth, GA

2015 *Inquiry's End*, Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*This is how the myth repeats*, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, GA

2012 *(Unrelated)*, Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery, Georgia State University, Atlanta

### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2026 *Unbound Narratives: Embodied Language*, Atlanta Contemporary, GA

2025 *From the Studio: Fifty-Eight Years of Artists in Residence*, Studio Museum in Harlem, NY  
*Victory Over the Sun*, Ryan Lee Gallery, New York, NY  
*Performance on Paper*, Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Expanding the 50th: Shared Stories*, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, IL  
*MONUMENTS*, The Brick and The Geffen Contemporary at The Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, CA  
*Alice Coltrane: Monument Eternal*, Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles  
*History Lessons*, University Art Museum, University at Albany, State University of New York

2024 *Palimpsest*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*In an effort to be held*, The Shepherd, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI  
*Prospect.6: The Future is Present, The Harbinger is Home*, New Orleans, LA  
*WORKS BY: Tony Lewis with Bethany Collins, Devin T. Mays & Ellen Rothenberg*, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago, IL

2023 *Smart to the Core: Poetry is Everything*, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, IL  
*Black Writing*, Spencer Museum of Art, The University of Kansas, Lawrence  
*All Hearts Beneath the Sun*, University Galleries of Illinois State University, Normal

2022 *Visual Record: The Materiality of Sound in Print*, Print Center New York, NY  
*In With The New...*, Philadelphia Art Museum, PA  
*Language Between Worlds*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL  
*Monochrome Multitudes*, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, IL  
*Angela Davis: Seize the Time*, Oakland Museum of California  
*The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR; Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, CO

2021 *Common Space*, Oolite Arts, Miami Beach, FL

*Young, Gifted, and Black: The Lumpkin-Bonccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art*,  
Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago

*Who Says, Who Shows, What Counts: Thinking about History with The Block's Collection*, Block  
Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

*Promise, Witness, Remembrance*, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY

*The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse*, Virginia Museum of  
Fine Arts, Richmond; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX

*Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*, Seattle Art Museum, WA; The Phillips Collection,  
Washington, D.C.

*Angela Davis: Seize the Time*, Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

2020 *Take Care*, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, IL  
*The Long Dream*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, IL  
*Nine Lives*, The Renaissance Society, Chicago, IL  
*WORDS*, Simon Lee Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA  
*From Pandemic to Protests: Visualizing Social Isolation and Social Injustices Through the  
Davidson College Art Collection*, William H. Van Every, Jr. and Edward M. Smith Galleries,  
Davison College, NC  
*Countermythologies*, NXTHVN, New Haven, CT

2019 *Direct Message*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, IL  
*Politics of Rhetoric*, The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA  
*Great Force*, Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond  
*Solidary & Solitary*, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, IL  
*What We Make*, Richard M. Ross Art Museum, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware  
*Parallels And Peripheries*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, MI

2018 *Parallels And Peripheries*, Art Center/South Florida, Miami  
*In the Eyes of the Beholder*, Tarble Arts Center, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston  
*Out of Easy Reach*, DePaul Art Museum, DePaul University, Chicago, IL; Grunwald Gallery of Art,  
Indiana University, Bloomington

2017 *Traduttore, Traditore*, Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago  
*Another Country*, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing  
*Victory Over the Sun: The Poetics and Politics of Eclipse*, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft,  
Louisville  
*Beyond Boundaries: Feminine Forms*, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia  
*Gray Matters*, Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University, Columbus  
*Excerpt*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

2016 *S/Election: Democracy, Citizenship, Freedom*, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, CA  
*Africa Forecast: Fashioning Contemporary Life*, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art,  
Atlanta, GA

*Strange Oscillations and Vibrations of Sympathy*, University Galleries of Illinois State University, Normal

*Chicago Invites Chicago*, Galerie Lelong, New York, NY

*Prix Canson*, The Drawing Center, New York, NY

*Lines of Flight*, Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY

*Art AIDS America*, Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw State University, GA

2015    *To Be Young, Gifted & Black*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
          *Venturing Out of the Heart of Darkness*, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture, Charlotte, NC

2014    *Material Histories*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
          *Retreat*, curated by Theaster Gates, Valerie Carberry Gallery & Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL  
          *See Through Walls*, Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw State University, GA

2013    *Drawing Inside the Perimeter*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

2010    *Southern Art?*, Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery, Georgia State University, Atlanta

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA  
Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
Baltimore Museum of Art, MD  
Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw State University, GA  
Birmingham Museum of Art, AL  
Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL  
Bryn Mawr College, PA  
Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Illinois State University Special Collections Department, Normal  
Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond, VA  
Kalamazoo Institute of Contemporary Art, MO  
Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, NY  
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, AL  
Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY  
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, IL  
Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA  
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Museum, Philadelphia  
Philadelphia Art Museum, PA  
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA  
Saint Louis Art Museum, MO  
Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, IL  
Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY  
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

University Galleries, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts, Illinois State University, Normal  
University of Chicago, IL  
University of Virginia Special Collections Library, Charlottesville  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN  
William H. Van Every, Jr. and Edward M. Smith Galleries, Davidson College, NC  
Yale University Library, New Haven, CT

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

2024 3Arts Next Level Visual Arts Award, Chicago, IL  
Pardon Prize, Pardon Collection, Denver, CO

2023 Gwendolyn Knight & Jacob Lawrence Prize, Seattle Art Museum, WA

2022 Joan Mitchell Fellowship

2019 Lucas Artist Fellowship, Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA  
Artadia Award, Chicago, IL  
Artist Fellowship Award, Illinois Arts Council Agency, Chicago

2018 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, New York, NY  
Efroymson Contemporary Arts Fellowship, Central Indiana Community Foundation, Indianapolis

2017 Make A Wave Grant, 3Arts, Chicago, IL

2015 MacDowell Colony Fellowship, Peterborough, NH  
Hudgens Prize, Hudgens Center for the Arts, Duluth, GA  
The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, NY

2014 Artadia Award, Atlanta, GA

2012 Walthall Artist Fellowship, WonderRoot Arts Center, Atlanta, GA

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Adams, Amanda Dalla Villa. "Critics Pick: Bethany Collins." *Artforum*, September 18, 2017.

"Auburn art museum exhibits new and recent works by artist Bethany Collins." *Auburn University Wire*, April 2, 2024.

Beegan, Gerry and Donna Gustafson, eds. *Angela Davis – Seize the Time*. Exh. Cat. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2020.

Bradley, Adam. "The Black Female Artists Redefining Minimalism." *The New York Time Style Magazine*, May 10, 2024.

Burd, Sara Lee. "Bethany Collins at the First Art Museum." *Burnaway*, July 8, 2021.

Cachia, Amanda. "Critic's Pick: S/Election: Democracy, Citizenship, Freedom." *Artforum*, December 16, 2016.

Callahan, Michael. "In a New Museum Show, Alice Coltrane Steps Into the Light." *W Magazine*, February 12, 2025.

Cardoza, Kerry. "Art 50 2020: Chicago's Artists' Artists." *Newcity Art*, September 3, 2020.

Carrigan, Margaret. "O say can you see, what 100 versions of the Star-Spangled Banner reveal about America." *The Art Newspaper*, June 8, 2021.

Christovale, Erin ed. *Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal*. Exh. cat. Los Angeles, New York: Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center, University of California; DelMonico Books, 2025, pp. 50-51, 182.

Cotter, Holland. "At Frieze New York 2023, One-Person Shows That Shine." *The New York Times*, May 19, 2023, section C, p. 12.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Stuff of Life, Urgently Altered." *The New York Times*, August 29, 2014.

Crawford, Romi ed. *Fleeting Monuments for the Wall of Respect*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021.

Crow, Kelly. "Collector's Eye: They Built a World-Class Collection of Black Artists' Work. Who Are They Acquiring Now?" *The Wall Street Journal*, July 15, 2020.

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Durón, Maximiliano. "Four Gallery Shows to See in the Windy City During Expo Chicago." *ArtNews*, April 7, 2022.

Erdos, Elleree, Jennifer L. Roberts, and David Toop Hard. *Visual Record: The Materiality of Sound in Print*. Exh. cat. New York: Print Center New York, 2022.

Fitzsimmons, Rebecca. "Many versions of America in music textbooks and an artist's book." *Illinois State University*, January 7, 2025.

Gettinger, Aaron. "At the Smart, 'Solidary & Solitary' Shows Individuals Progressing Black Art." *Hyde Park Herald*, February 25, 2019.

Gipson, Amarie. "Bethany Collins: Undersong//Patron Gallery." *THE SEEN*, November 29, 2018.

Goldstein, Caroline. "Artist Jacob Lawrence's 'Struggle Series' Offers a Poignant Reminder of Past Challenges America Has Endured." *ArtNet News*, March 20, 2020.

Gomez-Doyle, Lucas. "With "Dusk" at Patron Gallery, Bethany Collins Is Nothing but Dawn." *Newcity Art*, October 9, 2025.

Kenney, Nancy. "Jacob Lawrence's epic series depicting America's early struggles sets off on US tour." *The Art Newspaper*, January 17, 2020.

Lampe, Lilly. "Critic's Pick." *Artforum*, October 9, 2015.

Leahy, Brian T. "Brian T. Leahy on Bethany Collins." *Artforum*, December 1, 2018.

Lemley, John. "Talking Art, Race & Identity with Bethany Collins." *NPR's WABE*, September 10, 2013.

Mitter, Siddhartha. "Alice Coltrane: Artist's Muse and Sonic Healer." *The New York Times*, February 7, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_. "How a Museum Show Honoring Breonna Taylor Is Trying to 'Get It Right'." *The New York Times*, March 11, 2021.

Moffitt, Evan. "What Can't Be Read." *Frieze Magazine*, December 18, 2017.

Moreira-Brown, Caira. "Interrogating Language: A Review of Bethany Collins at Patron." *Newcity Art*, April 13, 2022.

"Obscuring and Revealing: Janet Dees and Bethany Collins in Conversation at Auburn Forum for Southern Art and Culture." *Stories from the Block: News from the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University*, February 13, 2024.

Olsen, Annikka. "Breakthrough Artist Bethany Collins Mines the Poetic Potential of Paper." *Artnet News*, November 8, 2023.

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Ross, Claudia. "On the power of saying no." *The Creative Independent*, April 24, 2025.

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Sargent, Antwaun. "Kara Walker, Juliana Huxtable, and More Challenge False White Recordings of Black History." *The Creators Project*, March 19, 2017.

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Schreiber, Barbara. "Think about power in a new way at 'Seeing|Saying'." *Charlotte Observer*, November 18, 2016.

Sharp, Sara Rose. "Artists Embrace the Grayscale." *Hyperallergic*, July 20, 2017.

Sheets, Hilarie M. "Lost, and Now Found, Art From the Civil Rights Era." *The New York Times*, March 10, 2020.

Spector, Buzz. "Eight Questions for Bethany Collins." *ART PAPERS*, May 6, 2016.

Thomas, Taliesen. "10 Exhibitions to See in Upstate New York This May." *Hyperallergic*. April 29, 2024.

Willis-Blair, Courtney. "In Absentia: An Artist Performs Historical Erasure." *Modern Painters*, December 15, 2015.

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