

Stephen Towns | CV

EDUCATION

McMaster College, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, BFA Studio Art

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Art + Practice, Los Angeles, CA
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland
Boise Museum of Art, Boise ID
City of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina
Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan
Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington, WV
National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC
National Portrait Gallery
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
Petrucchi Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, Asbury, NJ
The Rockwell Museum, Corning, NY
Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA
Wichita Museum of Art, Wichita, KS

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 Loud as the Rolling Sea, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA
2024 Private Paradise: A Figurative Exploration of Black Rest and Recreation, The Rockwell Museum, Corning, NY
2023 Stephen Towns, Declaration & Resistance, Reynolda House, Winston-Salem, NC
2022 Stephen Towns, Glimpses of Americana, De Buck Gallery, New York, NY
2022 Stephen Towns, Declaration & Resistance, Boise Art Museum, Boise, ID
2022 Stephen Towns, Declaration & Resistance, Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA
2020 A Songbook Remembered, De Buck Gallery, New York, NY
2019 Rumination and a Reckoning, Art + Practice, Los Angeles, CA
2019 The Night Light Fell from the Sky, De Buck Gallery, New York, NY
2019 A Path Between Two Continents, York College, York PA
2018 Rumination and a Reckoning, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
2017 A Migration, Goucher College, Baltimore, MD
2016 Take Me Away to the Stars, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
2014 CoPatriot, Gallery CA, Baltimore MD

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 Baltimore to Boston: Neo Contemporary Art, curated by Kirk Shannon-Butts, LaiSun Keane, Boston, MA
2024 ALL STARS: A Constellation of 10 Resident Artists, ALMA | LEWIS, Pittsburgh, PA
2024 (im)permanent, The Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS
2023 Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures, NMAAHC, Washington, DC

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LaiSun Keane

- 2022 Flora Fauna Fiber: Textiles in Contemporary Art, The Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center, Newport News, VA
- 2022 Activating the Renaissance, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
- 2021 Reckoning: Protest. Defiance. Resilience., NMAAHC, Washington, DC
- 2021 The Social Fabric: Black Artistry in Fiber Arts, An Homage to Viki Craig, Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ
- 2019 [Un] Common Collections, David C. Driskell Center, College Park, MD
- 2019 Conjuring Wholeness in the Wake of Rupture, De Buck Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 Every Day: Selections from the Collection, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2018 Parking on Pavement, Jack Shainman: The School Gallery, Kinderhook, NY
- 2018 Familiar Boundaries, August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2018 Myths, Archetypes, and Folklore, The Art Barn, Gaithersburg, MD
- 2017 Censored, The Motor House, Baltimore, MD (Curated by Leslie King-Hammond)
- 2017 Two Lane Stories, Gallery CA, Baltimore, MD
- 2017 INTERDISCIPLINARIUM, AAC: Arlington Arts Center, Arlington, VA
- 2016 To Be Black in White America, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
- 2016 All American House, Carroll Mansion, Baltimore, MD
- 2016 Consumption, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
- 2016 Untitled, Busboys and Poets, Washington, DC
- 2016 Narrative in Black Identity, Montpelier Arts Center, Laurel, MD

LECTURES & PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2025 Loud as the Rolling Sea Artist Lecture, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA
- 2024 Creating Connections Lecture Series: Art Inspired by uncovered histories, Corning NY
- 2023 Keynote Speaker for the Maryland Region Scholastic Art & Writing Awards., Baltimore MD
- 2022 Alexander Smalls & Stephen Towns Declaration & Resistance Dinner, Greensburg, PA
- 2022 An Evening with Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Greensburg, PA
- 2022 Artist Talk, Virtual In Conversation: Stephen Towns and Kilolo Luckett, Online
- 2021 Artist Talk, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA
- 2021 Artist Talk-PRIZM, Miami, FL
- 2021 Artist Talk-Fallingwater, Mill Run, Pennsylvania
- 2021 Artist Talk, Space for Creative Black Imagination, MICA, Baltimore, MD
- 2020 Artist Talk with Larry Ossei-Mensah Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, Baltimore, MD
- 2020 In Conversation with Larry Ossei-Mensah, DeBuck Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 Guest Lecturer, York College, York, PA
- 2019 Guest Lecturer, PCAD, Lancaster, PA
- 2018 Artist Talk, August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2018 VOICES Series: Baltimore Portrait Artists Amy Sherald and Stephen Towns in Conversation, Baltimore, MD
- 2018 Mark Bradford in Conversation with Stephen Towns, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD

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LaiSun Keane

- 2017 Guest Lecturer, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, Towson University, Towson, MD
- 2016 Faculty, Maryland Institute of Art, Course: Art and Activism, Baltimore, MD

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2025 Inaugural Gillies Artist - In - Residence, Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK
- 2024 Mary Sawyers Baker Prize & Mary Sawyers Imboden Prize, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 ALMA | LEWIS Artist-In-Residence, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2023 Reynolda House Artist-In-Residence, Winston Salem, NC
- 2021 Fallingwater Institute Artist-In-Residence, Mill Run, PA
- 2021 Maryland State Arts Council's Individual Artist Award, Baltimore, MD
- 2019 National Parks Arts Foundation Artist Residency at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA
- 2019 Sondheim Prize Semi-finalist, Baltimore Office for the Promotion and Arts, Baltimore MD
- 2018 Sondheim Prize finalist, Baltimore Office for the Promotion and Arts, Baltimore MD
- 2018 Maryland State Arts Council's Individual Artist Award in craft
- 2018 Semifinalist Bethesda Painting Awards, Bethesda, MD
- 2017 Semifinalist Bethesda Painting Awards, Bethesda, MD
- 2015 First Annual Municipal Art Society of Baltimore City Artist Travel Prize, The Municipal Art Society of Baltimore City & the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, Baltimore MD
- 2015 Rubys Artist Grant, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, Baltimore MD

SELECTED DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

- Mothes, Kate. In Paintings and Quilts, Stephen Towns Spotlights Black Leisure in the Jim Crow South, January 2, 2025
- Thomas, Taliesen. 10 Exhibitions to See in Upstate New York This December, HYPERALLERGIC, December 2, 2024
- Laster, Paul. Stephen Towns, Storytelling Through Art, Whitehot Magazine, November 12, 2022
- Lanay, Jessica. This Little Light of Mine (I Am Gonna Let It –): Stephen Towns Interviewed by Jessica Lanay, Bomb Magazine, April 25, 2022.
- Flake, Ebony. A new art exhibit reflects the role of African American labor in building the US economy, INSIDER, March 25, 2022
- Scott, Chadd. Stephen Towns Spotlights Workers At Bottom Of America's Economic Ladder, Forbes, February 6, 2022
- McMarlin, Shirley. Westmoreland Museum Exhibition Delves into African American Dream, Trib Live, Jan 28, 2022.
- Urist, Jacoba. Six Discoveries to Make at Miami's Untitled Art Fair 2021, Cultured, December 3, 2021.
- Villa, Angelica. Emerging Artists Reign Amid Absence of Mega-Galleries in Expo Chicago's Online Fair. Art News, April 12, 2021.
- Kamp, Justin. The 10 Best Booths at EXPO Chicago's Online Edition, Artsy, April 9, 2021.
- Lesser, Casey. Inside My Collection: Carla Shen, Artsy, Mar 22, 2021.

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Henderson, Teri. Triumph in the Face of Terror: African-American Spirituals and Stephen Towns, BMore Art, November 27, 2020.

Helligar, Jeremy. 11 Amazing Black Artists Who Have Been Flying Under the Radar, Readers Digest, October 8, 2020.

Shurvell, Joanne. 154 Contemporary African Art Fair, The Only International Art Fair To Open In London This Autumn, Forbes, October 9, 2020.

SELECTED PRINT PUBLICATIONS

Luckett, Kilolo. Stephen Towns: Declaration & Resistance Catalog. Westmoreland Museum of American Art. 2023.

Cruz, Kleaver. The Black Joy Project. 2023.

Akers, Tyler. Stephen Towns. Gayletter Issue 18, 2023.

O'Hern, John. Stephen Towns: Declaration & Resistance. American Art Collection, February 2022.

Lutz, Glenn. There's Light: Artworks & Conversations Examining Black Masculinity, Identity & Mental Well-being, 2022.

Scarborough, Klare & Boothe, Berrisford. Shifting Time: African American Artists 2020-2021, 2022

Sherald, Amy. The Artist's Artists: International group of Artists to select a single exhibition or event that most memorably captured their eye in 2018. Artforum, The Year In Review, December 2018.

Staff. Shows to See: August / September 2018. American Craft Council Magazine, August / September 2018.

McCauley, Mary Carole. Two of Baltimore's hottest artists – Amy Sherald and Stephen Towns – to host public talk about their work, Baltimore Sun, March 14, 2018.

Heinrich, Will. Art: Story Quilts by Stephen Towns, New York Times, March 3, 2018.

Wilkinson, Michelle Joan. For Whom It Stands: The Flag and The American People. Reginald F. Lewis Museum, 2016, 94- 95.

Hampton, Christine and Rosalee Washington. The History of Lincolnton, South Carolina. BookSurge, LLC. 2007. 119-120.

FILM

The Pieces I Am, Directed by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, Magnolia Pictures, 2019