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Culture Type

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by Victoria L. Valentine

For Your Summer Agenda, 49 U.S. Exhibitions Featuring Works by Black Artists



This summer, artists including (clockwise from left) Nari Ward, Simone Leigh, Fred Wilson, Chakaia Booker, and John Akomfrah, are presenting solo exhibitions.

THIS SUMMER 2016, incredible exhibitions featuring artists of African descent are on view across the United States. From Los Angeles, to Chicago, Atlanta, and New York, museums and galleries and public spaces are presenting solo exhibitions, group shows, film installations, special projects and outdoor sculptures.

The selection includes major solo museum exhibitions such as Kerry James Marshall at MCA Chicago; Simone Leigh at the New Museum in New York; Norman Lewis at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas; John Outterbridge at the Aspen

Art Museum in Colorado; Kehinde Wiley at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond; Nari Ward at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia; and Alma Thomas at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Galleries in New York are presenting some of the most innovative shows of the season. "For Freedoms" at Jack Shainman Gallery in New York responds directly to the election season and social justice issues in the heightened political climate. At Pace Gallery, the group show "Blackness in Abstraction" is curated by Adrienne Edwards. Lisson Gallery is presenting the first major U.S. exhibition of John Akomfrah, the Ghanaian-born, British artist and filmmaker. And, highlighting the breadth of artistic talent in Chicago, Galerie Lelong is featuring McArthur Binion, Samuel Levi Jones, Tony Lewis John Phillips, Bethany Collins, and Nate Young.

Beyond major art centers, important presentations are on view, including Senga Nengudi at the University of Washington, Seattle; Fred Wilson at Oberlin College in Ohio; Mark Bradford's "Receive Calls On Your Cell Phone From Jail" in St. Louis, Mo.; and the group show "30 Americans" in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Installation view of Chicago Meets Chicago at Galerie Lelong, New York. Foreground: TONY LEWIS, "Untitled 7," 2016 (graphite powder, paint, and tape on paper, dimensions variable). | © Tony Lewis. Courtesy Galerie Lelong, New York

Finally, Chakaia Booker, who is known for her tire sculptures, is the first African American artist to have her work on view in Millennium Park in Chicago. The site is a part of the larger Grant Park where President Barack Obama gave his victory speech when he was elected the first black president of the United States on Nov. 4, 2008. CT

5. "Chicago Invites Chicago" (MCARTHUR BINION, SAMUEL LEVI, and TONY LEWIS invite JOHN PHILLIPS, BETHANY COLLINS, and NATE YOUNG) @ Galerie Lelong, New York, N.Y. | June 30-July 29, 2016