

**JOHNSON
LOWE** GALLERY

RICHARD DIAL

b.1955, Bessemer, Alabama

764 Miami Circle NE, Suite 210, Atlanta, GA 30324

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BIOGRAPHY

Richard Dial (b. 1955) is an American artist known for turning metal furniture into anthropomorphic sculptures. Trained as a machinist, he founded Dial Metal Patterns in Alabama in 1984, where he and his father, Thornton Dial and brother, Thornton Dial Jr., made wrought-iron furniture. Using these skills, he began creating art from industrial materials. Dial's sculptures often look like chairs but are not meant for comfort. Instead, they present figuratively dynamic constructions that explore themes of power, history, family, and African American experience. Inspired by traditions where chairs symbolize authority, he transformed them into figures that question leadership, religion, social systems and the ideals of the American Dream.

Richard Dial has exhibited at the Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, Ohio), the Michael C. Carlos Museum (Atlanta, GA), the High Museum of Art (Atlanta, GA), the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (Kalamazoo, MI), MARCH (New York, NY), Maus Contemporary (Birmingham, AL), the Museum of Art (Tallahassee, FL), and the Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, OH), among others. His work resides in the collections of the American Folk Art Museum (New York, NY), the Birmingham Museum of Art (Birmingham, AL) the High Museum of Art (Atlanta, GA), the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Houston, TX) and the Souls Grown Deep Foundation (Atlanta, GA).

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SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *American Idols*, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
2025 *Wise Spirit*, March Gallery, New York, New York
Seated in Memory: The Sculptures of Richard Dial, Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art, Talladega, Alabama
2024 *Everyday Love*, Institute 193, Lexington, Kentucky

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *CHR*, curated by Ebony L. Haynes, The Armory Show, New York, NY
2024 *Carpenter's Gothic*, SOMEDAY, New York, NY
The Stars Fell on Alabama, Edel Assanti, London, UK
2022 *Living Legacies: Art of the African American South*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
Circa 1989, MARCH, New York, NY
Anyone Can Move a Mountain, Maus Contemporary, Birmingham, AL
2021 *The Marzio Years: Transforming the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1982–2010*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
2020 *Trip to the Mountaintop: Recent Acquisitions from the Souls Grown Deep Foundation*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
2009 *Folk Art Revealed*, The American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
2004 *African-American Art in the Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
1996 *Souls Grown Deep: African American Vernacular Art of the South*, Michael C. Carlos Museum at City Hall East, Atlanta, GA

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Karen Wilkin, Horace Randall Williams, Sharon Holland, *History Refused To Die: The Enduring Legacy Of The African American Art Of Alabama*, Tinwood Books, 2016.
Souls Grown Deep: African American Vernacular Art of the South, Vol. II, Edited by William Arnett and Paul Arnett: Tinwood Books, 2001

COLLECTIONS

American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX
Souls Grown Deep Foundation Atlanta, GA

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