

PAULA HENDERSON

Atlanta, Georgia



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The overriding impetus for Henderson's work is social engagement. To this end her strategy over decades has been to explore systems of representations of both race and gender which, in her interrogation of race and professional sports obfuscate social inequities; and in the case of commercial representations of women's bodies, perpetuate their objectification.

Her strategy is to envelop these issues within paintings and works on paper that utilize formal aesthetics to additionally work as moments of reflection on our relationships to pervasive media imagery that shape and limit our views of ourselves and others.

Henderson balanced her work in the studio as an educator in Chicago neighborhood arts programs. After receiving her MFA from the University of Chicago (2004), she taught Critical Inquiry Seminars in Art History at the School of the Art Institute, Chicago for 13 years with a focus on social context.

Her work has been widely exhibited and held in private and institutional collections including the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago where she had a solo exhibition in 2008. Awards have included a NEA fellowship; project grants from the Illinois Arts Council; residencies in Catwalk, NY and Munich Germany; and a public commission for the Chicago Transit System. She was represented for years in Chicago by Linda Warren Projects. Her work has been reviewed in The Wall Street Journal, Art LTD, New City Chicago, Time Out, The Huffington Post, The Chicago Tribune, and The Reader.

She returned to metro Atlanta in 2019 where she is at work on new iterations of work that probe the complexity of our daily negotiation with the ubiquity of commercial beauty prototypes in the construction of self. In 2021 she was selected for a group exhibit at Miles McEnery Gallery in NY with earlier work that was included in the recently published book, Common Practice, about artists whose work has addressed the subject of basketball and race.

ARTIST STATEMENT



EDUCATION

2004 M.FA. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

1972 B.FA. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020	Ukrainian institute of modern art, Chicago, December, two person exhibition. February
2019	Social regard, northwestern university, Dittmar gallery, evanston, il, January
2018	Groundworks and regard, Linda warren projects, chicago, September
	Social fabrics, Waubonsee community college, visiting artists program, February
2017	Riverside art center, riverside, il, September
	621 gallery, florida stste university, Tallahassee, fl, february
2014	Looking for you in the mirror, (catalogue) Linda warren projects, chicago, dec-Jan
2011	Linda warren projects, Chicago, may
2010	Union league club Chicago, curator; elizabeth whiting, December
Constellation, installation, black market caviar, Chicago, august	
2009	
Linda warren projects, Chicago, il, may	
2008	
Ubs 12 x 12: new artists/new work, museum of contemporary art, Chicago, curator lynne warren, January 2007	

Social fabrics: ballpark figures, Linda warren gallery, chicago, il, April

2005

Schematic patterns, Linda warren gallery, chicago, il, march

2004

Inter play, MFA thesis exhibition, midway studios, university of Chicago

2003

Illinois Wesleyan university, bloomington, may

2001

Hot house - Chicago, february

1997

Satori gallery, Chicago, il, january

1994

Seton gallery, Chicago, il, december 1994

1992

Dittmar memorial gallery, northwestern university, sept

1990

University of Illinois at chicago, april 1990

Dittmar memorial gallery, northwestern university, June

1987

Chicago cultural center, Chicago, il, march

1985

Monique's, Chicago, illinois, april

1984

Spelman college, Atlanta, ga.

The crystal Britton gallery, atlanta, ga

1982

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

The crystal Britton gallery, Atlanta, ga

The studio of the arts alliance, Atlanta,

1980

The crystal Britton gallery, Atlanta, ga

1978

The Boston center for the arts, Boston, ma

Selected group exhibitions:

2024

Invisible Forces, Johnson Lowe gallery, Atlanta, ga, July

Works on paper, Long Beach Island Foundation of the arts/sciences, NJ, June

2023

Alma gallery, Chicago, il November

2022

Heat wave, free market gallery, Atlanta, ga, august

Masur Museum, 59th annual, Monroe, Ia, April

2021

Common Practice, miles McEnery gallery, NY, august

Camouflage, bailey contemporary arts, Pompano Beach, FL, July

Bridge program, Hyde Park art center, Chicago, October

2020

Abstraction, arc gallery, Chicago, il

2017

Go figure, Linda warren projects, Chicago, September

Bailey contemporary arts, gritty in pink, Pompano Beach, Florida, June

Northeastern Illinois university, art in response to violence, October

2016

La art core, the brewery annex, Los Angeles, ca, July

Springfield museum of art, Springfield Mo, June

Indianapolis art center, art from the heartland, June

Alumni exhibition, university of Chicago, June

2015

Arc gallery, I Can't Breathe, Chicago, il, November

Robert Morris university, Chicago, il January

2013

Chicago center for green technology, October

Space womb, group show, long island city, ny, may

Artwork 6, Sullivan center, school of the art institute Chicago, Feb

2012

Sideshow, Linda warren projects, Chicago, September

Rockford midwestern, Rockford art museum, curated by Lisa stone/roger brown collection saic, may

Ways of making: painting, governor's state university, university park il, curator, Dolores mercado, National museum of Mexican art, march

Momentum, women's caucus for art, juror; Rita Gonzalez, associate curator LACMA, gallery 85, Los Angeles, ca,

February

2011

Celebrating 125 years of collecting, union league club Chicago, August

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

2010

Selected works from the museum of contemporary art Chicago collection; focus UBS 12x12,

Twos, (curator's selections), Dominican university, river forest, il, September

Patterns (installation), betty dare gallery, Chicago, October

Art responding to violence, northeastern Illinois university, September

Ver(a)rt gallery, vera project, Seattle, WA, April

Art Chicago, Linda warren gallery, April

2009

Paint, climate gallery, long island city, queens, NY, November

The hairy who and imagist legacy in contemporary art, art Chicago

The renaissance society (u of c), annual benefit-glo(ball), exquisite corpse, lwg

Paint present, Ial, Lexington, Kentucky, March

Art Chicago, Linda warren projects, may

2008

Art work 5, gallery ii, school of the art institute Chicago, January

Art Chicago, Linda warren projects

2007

Mapping the self, museum of contemporary art, Chicago, November 2007-8

Unseriously serious, Linda warren gallery, Chicago, November

2006

Museum of contemporary art Chicago, benefit auction, October

Art expo la, Linda Warren projects, January

2005

Archi-type, Gallery Romain, Chicago, September

2004

Pitch, gallery 312, MFA exhibit, university of Chicago, June

2003

Linda warren gallery, inaugural Chicago, 2003

Linda warren gallery, public domain, Chicago, November

Gallery 37 center for the arts, faculty show, Chicago, il

2000

Linda warren fine art, -palm springs, ca, art expo, March 2000

1999

Earthworks gallery, 500 n. Michigan, Chicago - November

Watermark gallery, Oakley street, Chicago - October

Artwork-art institute-Chicago, staff of museum and school, February

1998

The state line vicinity exhibition, Rockford art museum, august

Artists of the Midwest/NEA recipients, art museum, northern Michigan univ

1997

Satori gallery, blood, sweat, tears: gallery artists,

Dittmar memorial gallery, northwestern university, February

1995

Inside art, Chicago, September

1994

Long island university, Brooklyn, NY, September

Greenview art center, Chicago

1990

New horizons in art, curated by Benny Andrews, north shore art league, Skokie, il

1989

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Chicago school of professional psychology

1982

Columbia museum, Columbia, s.c.

1974

National prints/drawing competition, mt. Holyoke college, ma

The alpha gallery, Boston, ma

The Worcester art museum, sales gallery, Worcester, ma

1973

Annual fine arts exhibit, Wadsworth athenaeum, Hartford, CT

Recent awards/ recognition:

2024 interview, shoutout Atlanta

2022 juror public art, sandy Springs arts council, sandy springs, ga

2016 award watercolor USA, Springfield museum of art, Springfield mo, June

2015 public art commission: Chicago transit authority, permanent installation for 35th/white sox cta station

2014 residency, design fabrication, Frans Mayer, Munich, Germany

Nomination 3-arts award

2011 visiting artist, teacher institute in contemporary art, saic, NEA

2010 grant: artist project in visual arts, Illinois arts council

2009 new at the museum of contemporary art (collection), Chicago

the drawing center viewing program, curated artist registry, NY

2008 catwalk, ny artist residency, school of the art institute Chicago

2004 post- mfa fellowship, visiting lecturer, university of Chicago

1998 honorable mention award/state line exhibition/Rockford museum, Illinois

1996/1997 arts Midwest/regional NEA visual artist fellowship award (painting)

1990 Illinois arts council: special assistance grant/northwestern university exhibit

1987 Illinois arts council: special assistance grant/Chicago cultural center exhibit

Selected institutional collections:

Hines development southeast region, Atlanta, ga

Museum of contemporary art Chicago

Sam Houston state university, Texas

Northeastern university, Chicago

Deloitte & Touche, Chicago, il

Kirkland & Ellis law firm, collections- San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago

American telephone and telegraph, Atlanta, ga

King and Spalding, attorneys-at-law, atlanta, ga

Clark atlanta university, atlanta, ga

University of massachusetts, acquisitions rso

Hughes spalding, inc., attorneys-at-law, atlanta, ga

Selected bibliography

2020

Common practice: basketball and contemporary art, peterson, rolon, skira press Exhibition catalogue: ukranian institute of modern art, chicago, external eye

2019

Interview and artworks, voyager chicago, january

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

Cover art, journal of baha'i studies

2018

Wall street international magazine review: solo exhibition regard and groundwork(s), linda warren projects, chicago, il Public artwork, elevated: art and architecture of the chicago transit authority, lopez,

2017

Newcity, review, go figure, group exhibition, linda warren projects, chris miller, october Catalogue group exhibition gritty in pink, bailey contemporary arts, pompano beach,

florida, june

2016

Catalogue cover, watercolor usa 2016, springfield museum of art, springfield mo Cta public art, chicago transit authority, 2nd edition

2015

Catalogue solo exhibition, looking for you in the mirror, linda warren projects

Art Itd magazine, review, james yood, exhibition linda warren projects, march/april

Newcity, review, exhibition linda warren projects, david zarley, january

2014

Top 3 weekend pics, bad at sports, stephanie burke, exhibit linda warren projects, (dec-feb)

2012

Exhibition catalogue, momentum, women's caucus for art (wca), juror; rita gonzalez,

associate curator lacma,

february 2011

Huffington post, paul klein, art letter .com, review, may 20

2009

New american paintings, midwest edition, fall

2008

Flavorpill chicago, exhibition review mca, patricia courson, january, issue 173

New city, exhibition review museum contemporary art chicago, dan gunn, january 10

Chicago sun times, hoop dreams live in henderson abstract paintings, denise i. O'neal, 1/4

Time out chicago, review mca, alicia eler, issue 152, january 24-30

2007

Art x world (blog) mapping the self, museum of contemporary art

2005

Chicago reader/ mapping race relations/ fred camper /review/ exhibit at linda warren gallery

Time out chicago/ bridgette mccullough/ review/ exhibit at linda warren, march 10-17

Chicago tribune /feature/ jenn goddu, schematic patterns at linda warren, 3/04/05

New city/ michael workman/ review/ civic demographic/ exhibition at linda warren, 3/05

Chicago sun times, exhibition review, margaret hawkins, april

Chicago art journal/ statement and art by paula henderson/ spring

2003

The chicago reader, critic's choice /fred camper/ paula henderson at linda warren gallery, 8/22

Chicago sun times, lisa lenoir/ feature/ paula henderson at linda warren gallery

Chicago journal, univ of chicago, january 2001, art work photo featured

2001

Chicago journal, univ of chicago, january, art work photo featured 2000

Arts dialogue, quarterly international publication, art work featured

1998 Cover art - the divine art of revelation, bahá'í publishing trust, wilmette, il

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

1995

· seawanhaka (long island university paper) - review, salena gallery exhibit, ny

1990

At chicago, exhibit review, university of illinois, chicago

1987

Review: chicago sun times - solo exhibition/chicago cultural center

1984

Review: creative loafing review-1984 solo exhibition, crystal britton gallery,

atlanta, ga

1982

Review: the atlanta journal and constitution, solo exhibition, crystal britton gallery

Educator/ presenter

2024

· presenter, an artist's view through the lens of race and gender, association for baha'i studies (abs) conference, atanta, ga, august

2022

Guest artist istem program morehouse college

2020

2006-2020 school of the art institute (saic), assistant professor adjunct liberal arts

Faculty advisor internship program, capx (from 2016-20), saic, chicago il

Artist talk, visiting artists program waubonsee community college, il

2016

Keynote speaker, art responds to violence, northeastern illinois university, chicago

2015

Contemporary practices school of the art institute chicago, il

Presenter, esperanza foundation, woodland, ca

2014

Keynote speaker, wings foundation conference, pensacola, fl

2011

Presenter, national race amity conference, wheelock college, boston, ma

2004

Post mfa fellowship, quest lecturer, dova, univ. Of chicago