

John Bankston

Born

1963 Benton Harbor, MI

Education

1990 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, MFA, Painting
1989 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture
1985 University of Chicago, AB, Biology

Awards

2002 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant Program Award
Recipient, New York, NY
Fleishhacker Foundation Eureka Fellowship, San Francisco, CA
Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art (SECA) Award, San Francisco
Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
2001 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, New York, NY
Art Council Grant, San Francisco, CA
1993 Outstanding Ford Foundation Fellow, New York, NY
1988-1990 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Trustees Fellowship, Chicago, IL

Solo Exhibitions

2023 *The Companion*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2021 *John Bankston: Painting As Storytelling*, Coulter Art Gallery, Stanford University,
Stanford, CA
2020 *Escape*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2018 *The Sky Above Us*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2015 *Sundry Stories*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
John Bankston: The Explorer, Rena Bransten Projects, San Francisco, CA
Dream to Dream: the Art of John Bankston, Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph, MI
catalog
2013 *New Work*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2012 *Magic at Hand*, Pictoris Gallery, Birmingham, AL
2011-12 *Smoke and Mirrors*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2011 *The Changing Machine*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2010 *Abstracticator*, Beta Pictoris Gallery, Birmingham, AL (catalog)
John Bankston, Paintings and Sculptures, James Harris Gallery, Seattle, WA
John Bankston, New Work, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 *Imaginary Friends*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Fabulist's Colored Life, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
University of Alabama, Visual Arts Gallery, Birmingham, AL
2007 *John Bankston, New Paintings*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Through the Woods with Mr. M, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
2006 *John Bankston, New Work*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
John Bankston: Locating Desire, de Young, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco,
CA (brochure)
A Place in the Woods, Vacio 9, Madrid, Spain
2005 *John Bankston*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Solo Exhibitions (continued)

- 2004 *John Bankston*, Marella Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
Man's Country, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
- 2003 *Wild West*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2002 SECA Art Award, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA (catalogue)
A Chance Romance, Galerie Zink & Gegner, Munich, Germany
The Capture and Escape of Mr. M, Chapter 2, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
- 2002 *John Bankston: Temptation and Desire*, Atlanta College of Art Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2001 *John Bankston: Lovers*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
The Capture and Escape of Mr. M, Chapter 1, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 1999 *John Bankston, Recent Work*, Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *In the Groove: Persistence and Endurance*, 15 Year Anniversary Exhibition, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019-2020 *30 Americans*, Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 *30 Americans*, Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
Plant Life, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Queerest of the Queer, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *COSMIC TRAFFIC JAM*, Zevitas Marcus, Los Angeles, CA
In This Together, Embracing Diversity, curated by Sagi Refael and Brenda G. Williams, Castelli Art Space, Los Angeles, CA
30 Americans, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX
- 2016-17 *30 Americans*, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA
- 2016 *A Star Is Born: Ten Years Later*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
30 Americans, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
- 2015-2016 *30 Americans*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
- 2015 *30 Americans*, Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR
- 2014 *30 Americans*, Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, LA
- 2013-2014 *30 Americans*, The Frist Museum, Nashville, TN
- 2013 *California Pacific Triennial*, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA
30 Americans, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI
Rehearsals: The Practice and Influence of Sound and Movement, Savannah College of Art and Design Museum of Art, Savannah, GA
- 2012 *Figure Studies: Recent Representational Works on Paper*, Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, MO. Artists include Ida Applebroog, Jennifer Bornstein, Alejandro Cardenas, Djordje Ozbolt and Tom Reed
The Bearden Project, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 2011-12 *Fifty Years of Bay Area Art*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 *30 Americans*, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC
- 2010 *Identity Based Vertigo*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Showroom B261, Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood, CA
Fuckheads, Curated by Angela Dufresne, Kinkead Contemporary, Culver City, CA
- 2009 *A Delicate Touch: Watercolors from the Permanent Collection*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Political Draw, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2009 *Collected, Propositions on the Permanent Collection*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Connections, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA and New York, NY
New Works/Old Story: 80 Artists at the Passover Table, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 2008-2009 *30 Americans*, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL (traveling)
- 2008 *Black: A Celebration of African American Art in Sacramento-Area Collections*, 40 Acres Art Gallery Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper, Center for Contemporary Art Sacramento, Sacramento, CA
Creature Feature, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 *Pacific Light: California Watercolor Refracted, 1907-2007*, San Francisco State University Fine Arts Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 *As Good As Your Next Gig*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Lag-Time Line-Up, Mumbo Jumbo Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *African Queen*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
The Anniversary Show, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Seeing Double: Encounters with Warhol, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA
Celebrating Heritage: Art and the Chris Webber Collection, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA (four person exhibition with Mike Henderson, David Huffman and Dominique Moody)
Spice Boxes an Invitational: Scents of Purpose, Artists Interpret the Spice Box, The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA
Eureka Fellowship 2002-2004, University of California, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA
- 2004 *Comics Stripped*, Off the Preserve! Gallery, di Rosa Preserve: Art and Nature, Napa, CA
East of the Sun and West of the Moon, White Columns, New York, NY
- 2003 *Scenery*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Comic Release, Negotiating Identity for a New Generation, The Regina Gouger Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburg, PA
Splat, Boom, Pow, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX
American Art Today: Faces & Figures, Art Museum at Florida International University, Miami, FL
- 2002 *Tribe*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Fantasyland, D'Amelio Terras Gallery, New York, NY
- 2001 *Freestyle*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY. Traveled to Santa Monica Museum, Santa Monica, CA
Starry Night, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
- 2001 *Comic Relief*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Breathless, Lombard Freid Fine Art, New York, NY
- 2000 *A Big Picture Show*, Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1999-2000 *Bay Area Now 2*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 *Countdown*, Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1998 *Insomnia*, Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1997 *Fellows Invitational*, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA
Group Show, Linetzky Molinero Fine Art, San Francisco, CA
- 1996 *Don Baum Says Chicago Has Famous Artists*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 1994 *Just Good Art*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
Illinois Center (curated by Struve Gallery), Chicago, IL
D.B.'s Grab Bag, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 1994 *Emerging Talent: African-American Artists in California*, Skyline College, San Bruno, CA
- 1993 *Emerging Chicago Abstraction*, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, IL
- 1991 *Abstraction, 1991*, Struve Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1990 *Abstraction - New Talent*, Struve Gallery, Chicago, IL
Five Friend, Fifty Fingers, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
Artist from Outline, MWMWM Gallery, Chicago, IL
 Skowhegan Group Show, Hokin-Kaufman Gallery, Chicago, IL
 Illinois Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 1990 *MFA Thesis Exhibition*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL
John Bankston and Jake Webster, Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI
- 1989 *A Part of the Whole*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL

Public Collections

Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA
 Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
 City of Chicago, Harold Washington Memorial Library Center, IL
 de Young Museum, Fine Arts Museums, San Francisco, California
 di Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA
 Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
 Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI
 Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
 Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA
 Progressive Corporation, Mayfield Village, OH
 Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL
 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA
 Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA
 The Studio Museum, Harlem, NY
 University of Illinois, Chicago Circle
 Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT

Teaching Experience

- 2021 Holt Visiting Artist, Stanford University
- 2002 Visiting Artist, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 1998 INSTRUCTOR, Basic Drawing,
 California College of Arts and Crafts, San Francisco, CA
- 1990 INSTRUCTOR, Beginning Painting,
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 1990- TEACHING ASSISTANT, Multilevel Painting
- 1989 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Lectures

- 2002 Guest Lecture, The Atlanta College of Art
- 2001 *Artist's Voice*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 1992 Guest Lecture New Group of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago
 Guest Lecture, Post-baccalaureate Seminar, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 1991 Guest Lecture, Graduate Painting Seminar, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Publications

- Abstracticator*, In conjunction with an exhibition at Beta Pictoris Gallery, Birmingham, Alabama, Published October 2010
30 Americans Rubell Family Collection, Distributed Art Publishers (DAP) Inc., Published 2008
New American Painting, Number 55, The Open Studios Press, Juried Exhibition-in-Print, Published January 2005

Selected Bibliography

- "John Bankston: *The Sky above Us*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Culver City, Through June 30," Shana Nys Dambrot, *Art and Cake*, June 14, 2018
"John Bankston's surreal storytelling on parade at Walter Maciel Gallery," Sharon Mizota, *Los Angeles Times*, December 12, 2015
"Shape-shifter emerges in John Bankston works at Walter Maciel," Sharon Mizota, *Los Angeles Times*, October 17, 2014
New American Paintings (cover image), edition 109, 2013
"John Bankston," Renny Pritikin, *Art Papers*, March/April 2011
"Artist John Bankston's sketchy characters are vehicles for the tough topics of the day," Linlee Allen, *Vmagazine.com*, February 24, 2009
"Art: Mastery's on the line," Victoria Dalkey, *The Sacramento Bee*, September 19, 2008
The Georgia Review, Summer Issue, 2007, John Bankston, Through the Woods with Mr. M, pp 372-380
7x7 Magazine, 2006, Graphic Content, Artist John Bankston Makes the Connection, Rachel Swaby, p. 66
Juxtpoz Magazine, May 2006, Showstoppers, PP 62-63
"John Bankston," Clark Buckner, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, April 27, 2005, P 79
Comic Release: Negotiating Identity for a New Generation, Vicky A. Clark, Barbara Bloemink with Ana Merino and Rick Gribenas, Exhibition catalog, The Regina Gouger Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University, published by D.A.P.
American Art Today: Faces & Figures, Exhibition Catalog, The Art Museum At Florida International University, 2003
"John Bankston at Jack Shainman," Faye Hirsch, *Review of Exhibitions, Art in America*, April, 2003
"Temptation and Desire" (Atlanta College of Art Gallery), John Bankston, Southeast reviews, Susan E Richmond, *Art Papers*, July/August 2002
"Fantasyland," Michael Kimmelman, *Art in Review*, *The New York Times*, June 14, 2002
"John Bankston," David Spalding, *Artext #76* (Spring 2002)
"First Take: Hamza Walker on John Bankston", Hamza Walker, *Artforum*, January 2002
"Coloring Well Outside the Lines," David Bonetti, *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 13, 2001
"Breaking Away," Peter Schjeldahl, *The New Yorker*, June 11, 2001
Freestyle, Exhibition Catalog, The Studio Museum in Harlem, 2001
" Satyrs, Slaves and Monsters in the Colors of Childhood," Leslie Camhi, *The New York Times*, March 18, 2001
"Material and Matter, John Bankston," Holland Cotter, *Art in Review*, *The New York Times*, March 9, 2001
"Bay Area Now: MFA's in Toyland," Tessa DeCarlo, *Wall Street Journal*, January 27, 2000
"Local Heroes," Kenneth Baker, *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 20, 1999
Bay Area Now 2, Exhibition Catalog, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 1999