

Lezley Saar

Born

1953 Los Angeles, CA

Education

1978 B.A., California State University at Northridge, Northridge, CA

1976 San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

1972 L'Institut Francais de Photographie, Paris, France

Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 *Color Me Baddd*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2024-25 *Saudade*, Various Small Fires, Dallas, TX
- 2022 Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 *Black Garden*, Various Small Fires, Seoul, Korea
- 2020 *A Conjuring of Conjurers*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 *Gender Renaissance*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Salon des Refusés, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 *Monad*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 *Madwoman in the Attic*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 *Autist's Fables*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 *Tooth Hut*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar, Palmer Art Museum, University Park, PA
- 2006-07 *Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
- 2006 *Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, CA
- 2005-06 *Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, NC (traveling)
- 2004 *Recent Work*, Kravets/Wehby Gallery, New York, NY
The Secret Self, Sawhill Gallery, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
- 2003 *Mulatto Nation*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Mulatto Nation, List Gallery, Swarthmore College, PA
- 2001 *Africans, Rap Thugs-n-Dimes*, Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO
Encyclopedia Exotica, David Beitzel Gallery, New York, NY

Solo Exhibitions Continued

- 2000 *Anomalies*, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
Paradox of the Unexpected Hanging, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Africans, Rap Thugs-n-Dimes, The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH, traveled to St. Louis, MO
Africans, Tragic Mulattos, Anomalies and Rap, David Beitzel Gallery, New York, NY
Works by Alison and Leslie Saar, Williamson Gallery, Scripps College, Claremont, CA
- 1999 *So Called Books*, San Francisco Center for the Book, CA
Anomalies, Fresno Museum of Art, Fresno, CA
- 1998 *The Artist as Collector: The Collection of Francine Bishop Good and David Horvitz*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL
The Tip of the Iceberg, Dorfman Projects, New York, NY
- 1997 David Beitzel Gallery, New York, NY
- 1996 *Repetitive Ritual*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1994 Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Athenaeum II" Mesa College, San Diego, CA
- 1993 *The Athenaeum*" Koplín Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 1991 *Altar(ed) Books*, Koplín Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 1990 *Altered Books*, Art Works, Los Angeles, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *With the Moon under Our Feet*, Philosophical Research Society, Los Angeles, CA
Red, White and Blue, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Craft, curated by Andi Campognone, KP Projects, Los Angeles, CA
Fellows of Contemporary Art (FOCA) Fellowship Award, curated by Ziyang Duan, Fellows of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
FU@K OFF, curated by Walter Maciel and Monica Lundy, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2024 *Faces/Places/Traces*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
A Cadence to Wandering, curated by Dean Monogenis, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
MASTER CLASS: John Witherspoon and Angela Robinson Witherspoon Art Collection, Band of Vices, Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 *Pump Up the Volume*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 *Cantos of the Sibylline Sisterhood*, Art Center College of Design, DTLA Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 *Black American Portraits*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA

**Selected Group Exhibitions
Continued**

- 2021 *Art and Hope at the End of the Tunnel*, curated by Edward Goldman, USC Fisher Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Legends from Los Angeles: Betye, Alison and Lezley Saar, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
Black Beauty, curated by Tim Francis, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
Then and Now, Telluride Gallery of Fine Art, Telluride, CO
Paper Cuts, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Legends from Los Angeles; Betye, Lezley, and Alison Saar in the Crocker, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
In the Groove: Persistence and Endurance, 15 Year Anniversary Exhibition, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Otherwise/Revival, Bridge Projects, Los Angeles, CA
Ambiguities of Blackness, California Black Voices, curated exhibition by Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins in conjunction with Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 *Wonder Women*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Mojo Rising, curated by Jill Moniz, Ronald H. Silverman Fine Art Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles
- 2019-2020 *The Medea Insurrection: Radical Women Artists Behind the Iron Curtain*, The Wende Museum, Culver City, CA
- 2019 *To Reflect Us*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Get Up, Stand Up Now, Sommerset House, London, England
Queerest of the Queer, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Transamerica/n: Gender, Identity, Appearance Today, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX
Personal Truth, El Camino College Art Gallery, Torrance, CA
Unfrozen, Curated by Randi Matushevitz, Substrate Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 2018 *Betye, Alison and Lezley Saar*, Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA
Care and Feeding: The Art of Parenthood, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA
In This Together, Embracing Diversity, curated by Sagi Refael and Brenda G. Williams, Castelli Art Space, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 *I.D., Please!*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 *A Star Is Born: Ten Years Later*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Art and Spirit, Art Division at Church, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 *How Many Miles to Babylon*, c24 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 *Cross Fade*", Curated by Brenda G. Williams, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

**Selected Group Exhibitions
Continued**

- 2012 *Self-Possessed*, Koplin Del Rio, Los Angeles, CA
Breaking in Two, Arena 1 Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 2011 *Group Exhibition*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
In Context, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 *Group Exhibition 2010*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
I feel Different, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE),
Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 *Laugh It Off*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Collected. Propositions on the Permanent Collection, Studio
Museum of Harlem, New York, NY
Southern Exposure, Manhattan Beach Creative Arts Center, CA
Political Draw, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 *20 Years Ago Today*, Japanese American National Museum, Los
Angeles, CA
A View from Here: A Group Exhibition of Contemporary Landscape,
The Judson Studios, Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 *Between Two Worlds*, Californian African American Museum, Los
Angeles, CA. and Hamilton Bermuda
New Images of Identity, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA
The Feminist Figure, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
Multiple Vantage Points, LA Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 *Lag-time Line-up*, Mumbo Jumbo Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Ladies with Figures*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 *Fade, African American Artists in Los Angeles*, Craft & Folk Art
Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2003 *Whiteness, a Wayward Construction*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna
Beach, CA
- 2001 *Identities: Contemporary Portraiture*, New Jersey Center for Visual
Arts, Summit, NJ
Talking to Myself: Culture Fantasy & the Domestic Condition,
Porter Troupe Gallery, San Diego, CA
- 2000 *The Next Wave: New Painting in Southern California*, California
Center for the Arts, Escondido, CA
Facing the Millennium: Portraits and Self Portraits, Jan Baum
Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1999 *Re:Assemble*, Todd Madigan Gallery, Bakersfield, CA
*Re/Righting History: Counternarratives by Contemporary African-
American Artists*, Katonah Museum of Art, New York, NY
Out West, "The Artists Book in California", San Francisco Center
for the Book, San Francisco, CA

**Selected Group Exhibitions
Continued**

- 1998 *Precious*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Artist as Collector, The Collection of Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL
Tip of the Iceberg, Dorfman Projects, New York, NY
- 1997 *Remembrance of Exhibitions Past: 20th Anniversary Celebration*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
My Favorite Femmes, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1996 *Go Getty Go*, Big Sail Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
L.A. Current; The Female Perspective, Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
The Inner Lives of Women: Psyche, Spirit & Soul, Spring Street Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1995 *Muses*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA
Exultations, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA
Works by Betye, Lezley and Alison Saar, Montgomery Glasoe Fine Art, Minneapolis, MN
Inaugural Group Show, Monique Knowlton, New York, NY
Localities of Desire, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
Gallery Group, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
In The Black, Irvine Art Center, Irvine, CA
Relatively Speaking: Mothers and Daughters in Art, Rahr West Museum, Manitowock, WI
Relatively Speaking: Mothers and Daughters in Art, Sweet Briar College Art Gallery, Sweet Briar, VA
- 1994 *Localities of Desire*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
Relatively Speaking: Mothers and Daughters in Art, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Snug Harbor, NY (traveling)
Flora: In Artists Gardens, S.F. Community Arts, CA 400 South Hope Street Associates, Los Angeles, CA
The Sacred and the Profane, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
5th Biennale, Havana, Cuba
The Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany
Trophies, California State University, Los Angeles Fine Arts Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1993 *Beyond the Written Word*, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
The Return of the Cadavre Exquis, originated by The Drawing Center, New York, NY
Book as Art VI, The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
Shaped Structures, Beckstrand Gallery, Palos Verdes, CA
Unification: Cultures in Collision, FHP Hippodrome Gallery, Long Beach, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions Continued

- 1993 *The Elegant, the Irreverent and the Obsessive: Drawing in Southern California*,
Art Gallery-Visual Arts Center, California State University Fullerton, CA
- 1992 *Under Cover: The Book Becomes Art*, Scottsdale
Cultural Center, Scottsdale, AZ
- 1991 *Sacred Forms Revisited*, Security Pacific Bank, Seattle, WA
California Artists Books, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA
Photographic Book Art in the United States, University of Texas,
San Antonio, San Antonio, TX (traveling exhibition)
- 1989 *A Book in Hand*, Arvada Center for the Arts, Arvada, CO
- 1988 *The Book Show*, Artworks, Los Angeles, CA
- 1986 *Book Art*, The Brand Library, Los Angeles, CA
- 1985 *Bookworks*, Franklin Furnace, New York, NY
- 1984 *The Book as Art*, Art Works, Los Angeles, CA
- 1984 *Book Show*, Miami Dade Library, Miami, FL
Generations, Conejo Valley Art Museum, Conejo Valley, CA
California Book Works, Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of
Design, Los Angeles, CA
- 1981 *Magical Mystery Tour*, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery,
Los Angeles, CA

Public Collections

Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
Museum of Art and History (MOAH), Lancaster, CA
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Petrucci Family Foundation Collection, Asbury Park, NJ
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, OR
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA
Smith College Museum of Art, Southampton, MA
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York NY
Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC

Awards

- 2000 California State Senate Contemporary Art Collection
1996 J. Paul Getty Mid-Career Grant
1995 Seagram's Gin Perspective in African American Art Fellowship

Bibliography

- 2020 Turner, Nancy Kay, "The Shaman's Bride Lifts Her Veil In Lezley Saar's *A Conjuring of Conjurers*," Riot Material, February 12, 2020
Pagel, David, "Review: Yassa, Septime, Burvis. Meet the magical women of Lezley Saar's world," Los Angeles Times, February 5, 2020
Brown, Betty Ann, "Lezley Saar: History, Spiritualism & the Construction of New Narratives," Art and Cake, January 18, 2020
- 2018 Brown, Betty Ann, "ONE WORK: Lezley Saar, "Miss Pearly, The Transcontinental Mind Reader," Art and Cake, February 18, 2018
"Lezley Saar: Salon des Refusés' at the California African American Museum," Blouin Artinfo, January 12, 2018
Rubin, David, "Lezley Saar," Visual Art Source, January 2018
- 2017 Rosenzweig, Leah, "Rejected People Find a Home in the Otherworldly, Highly Personal Paintings of Lezley Saar," LA Weekly, November 17, 2017
Kelley, Sonaiya, "Words and Pictures: In 'Salon des Refuses' mixed-media artist Lezley Saar explores gender and identity through surrealism and symbolism," Los Angeles Times, November 7, 2017
Miranda, Carolina, "A gallery of the refused at CAAM," Los Angeles Times, October 27, 2017
Barrie, Lita, "Lezley Saar's Melancholic Poetics of Identity," Hyperallergic, July 1, 2017
Zellen, Jody, "Lezley Saar's Gender Renaissance," Art and Cake, June 3, 2017
Mizota, Sharon, "Male or female? Black or white? The paintings of Lezley Saar play with labels and expectations," Los Angeles Times, May 27, 2017
Miranda, Carolina, Ongoing Exhibitions," Los Angeles Times, May 25, 2017
- 2017 Stromberg, Matt, "Lezley Saar Explores Gender Fluidity at Walter Maciel Gallery," Hyperallergic, May 10, 2017
- 2014 High Fructose "Monad"
- 2012 High Fructose "Madwoman in the Attic"
Harnish, Tracey, Artweek LA, "Madwoman in the Attic - The Female Gothic"
- 2010 Kussatz, Simone, art ltd. Magazine, "Autist's Fables", November
- 2008 Muchnick, Suzanne, *Los Angeles Times*, "The works get very personal", January
- 2007 Myers, Holly, *Los Angeles Times*, "Lezley Saar at Walter Maciel", November
Buckley, Annie, *Artforum.com*, "Lezley Saar at Walter Maciel, November
Lovell, Carey, *Art in America*, "Girls, Girls, Girls", June

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- 2006 Heartney, Eleanor, *Art in America*, "The Art of Relationships", October
Buckley, Annie, *Artweek*, "Family Legacies", September
Cheng, Scarlet, *Los Angeles Times*, "Mother, daughters, memories", May
Dambrot, Shana, *Lifescapes*, "The Family Business", May
- 2003 Knight, Christopher, *Los Angeles Times*, "Mixed media, mixed race", June 27
Donohue, Victoria, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "MulattoNation recast an old way of viewing artwork", March 9
- 2001 Ollman, Leah, *Art in America*, "Lezley Saar at Jan Baum", February
- 2000 Sirmans, Franklin, *Time Out New York*, "Africans, Tragic Mulattos, Anomalies & Rap", February 3
Ziolkowski, Thad, *Artforum*, April
Krueger, Michael, *New Art Examiner*, "Lezley Saar at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art", June
Key-Turner, Nancy, *Art Scene*, October
Pagel, David, *Los Angeles Times*, October
- 1999 *New American Paintings*, Vol. 24, Open Studio Press, Lowry Sims, juror
Lombardi, D.Dominick, *New York Times* "Black Artists Confront History", May
Brown, Jeremy, *The Record Review* "Black Art in America Takes Stage", April
Hale, David, *Fresno Bee* "Personal Issues," March 7, p. H1, H4
- 1998 Taha, Halima, "Collecting African American Art" *New York: Crown Publishers*
Goodman, Jonathan, *Art in America*, "Lezley Saar", April
Frankel, David, *Artforum*, "Lezley Saar", January p. 97
Turner, Grady, *Artnews*, "Lezley Saar", January, p. 134
- 1997 Johnson, Ken, *New York Times*, "Lezley Saar", September 26, p. E3
Adamson, Loch, *New York Times* "When Creativity Runs in the Family", August
Yazdani, Tarssa, *A Gathering of the Tribes*, "A Fragile and Limber Magic", #7
- 1996 Kandel, Susan, *Los Angeles Times*, "Allegory and Ritual", December
Donohue, Marlena, *The Daily Breeze* "Arranging Her World", November 29
- 1995 Schwendenwien, Jude, *Sculpture Magazine*, April/May p.45
Zimmer, William, *New York Times* "The Ties That Bind Mother and Daughter," January 1
- 1994 Pincus, Robert, *San Diego Union Tribune*, "Lezley Saar's Athenaeum" September
- 1993 Christensen, Judith A., *Visions Art Quarterly*, "Lezley Saar: The Athenaeum"
Kapitanoff, Nancy, *Los Angeles Times*, "Lezley Saar, Finely Made Constructions"
- 1992 Hoffberg, Judith A., *Visions Art Quarterly* "Lezley Saar at Koplín", Fall
- 1991 Bulmer, Marge, *ArtScene*, "Lezley Saar" November
Frank, Peter, *L.A. Weekly*, "Art Pick of the Week," December 15
- 1990 Frank, Peter, *L.A. Weekly*, "Art Pick of the Week," October 18