

## 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

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  
2000 *Anomalies*, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO  
*Paradox of the Unexpected Hanging*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

## Solo Exhibitions Continued

- 2000 *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, 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
- 199 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

- 2021 *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  
*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

## Selected Group Exhibitions Continued

- 2019 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
- 2012 *Self-Possessed*, Koplín Del Río, 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

## Selected Group Exhibitions Continued

- 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
- 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

## Selected Group Exhibitions Continued

- 1994 *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  
*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  
*Sacred Forms Revisited*, Security Pacific Bank, Seattle, WA
- 1991 *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  
*Book Show*, Miami Dade Library, Miami, FL  
*Generations*, Conejo Valley Art Museum, Conejo Valley, CA
- 1984 *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  
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO  
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 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
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 Conjurors*," 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  
 Lovelace, Carey, *Art in America*, "Girls, Girls, Girls", June
- 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

## Bibliography Continued

- 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