



Lonnie Holley

Born in 1950

Lives and works in Atlanta, GA, US

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 All Rendered Truth, Camden Art Centre, London, UK
Never the Same Song, Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL, US
- 2023 The Eyes Were Always On Us, UTA Artist Space, Atlanta, GA, US
Lonnie Holley, UT Downtown Gallery, Knoxville, TN, US
If You Really Knew, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, North Miami, FL, US
- 2022 What Have They Done with America, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA, US
Coming From the Earth, curated by Peter Doroshenko, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, TX, US
The Growth of Communication, Edel Assanti, London, UK
- 2021 The Influence of Images, Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, OR, US
Tangled Up in de Kooning's Fence, South Etna, Montauk, NY, US
Everything That Wasn't White, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY, US
- 2019 Somewhere in a Dream I Got Lost: Works by Lonnie Holley, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, US
- 2017 The Weight of Everything, James Fuentes, New York, NY, US
Lonnie Holley: I Snuck Off the Slave Ship, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA, US
Lonnie Holley: Which Do We Drop First, the Baby or the Bomb? James Fuentes, New York, NY, US
- 2015 Something to Take My Place - The Art of Lonnie Holley, Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art; Charleston, SC, US
Supported by the Power - Lonnie Holley, John Hope Franklin Center, Duke University, Durham, NC, US
Lonnie Holley, It's Like Coming Home, Cash-Rojas Projects, Atlanta, GA, US
- 2013 Keeping You Out Of Harms Way, James Fuentes, New York, NY, US
- 2010 Assemblages and Drawings, Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, NY, US
- 2005 Recent Works, Monty Stabler Gallery, Birmingham, AL, US
- 2004 Lonnie Holley: A Twenty-Five Year Survey, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, US

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- 2003 Do We Think Too Much? I Don't Think We Can Ever Stop, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK
 Lonnie Holley: Perspectives 8, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, US
 1994 Sculpture, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY, US
 1991 Cultural Recycling: The Work of Lonnie Holley, Gasperi Gallery, New Orleans, LA, US
 1986 Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, AL, US
 1984 Little House Galleries, Birmingham, AL, US

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Unsettled Things: Art from an African American South, International African American Museum, Charleston, SC, US
 Shifting Landscapes, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY, US
 Edges of Ailey, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY, US
 Flight into Egypt: Black Artists and Ancient Egypt, 1876–Now, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, US
 Strike Fast, Dance Lightly, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL, US
 The Stars Fell on Alabama: Southern Black Renaissance, Edel Assanti, London, UK
- 2023 Zurich Biennial, Kunsthalle Zurich, Switzerland
 Intimate Confession Is a Project, Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, TX, US
 By Any Means Necessary, Curated by Lonnie Holley, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA, US
 RE-PAIR, Tennessee Triennial for Contemporary Art, Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN, US
 Souls Grown Deep like the Rivers: Black Artists from the American South, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
 Deep Horizons, Middlesbrough Institute of Art, Middlesbrough, UK
- 2022 Storied Strings: The Guitar in American Art, curated by Dr. Leo Mazow, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA, US
 At The Rose House: Green River Project LLC and Object & Thing, Ridgewood, NJ, US
 Called to Create: Black Artists of the American South, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., US
 The Relevance of Your Data, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ, US
 The Art of Assemblage, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL, US
 Living Legacies: Art of the African American South, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, US
- 2021 Now Is The Time: Recent Acquisitions to the Contemporary Collection, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD, US
 Another Tradition: Drawings by Black Artists from the American South, The Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY, US
 American South, The Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY, US
 From the Limitations of Now, Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK, US
 Trauma and Loss, Reflection and Hope: Selections from the Collection, curated by Alison Amick, Intuit, Chicago, IL, US
- 2020 We Will Walk – Art and Resistance in the American South, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
 Forms of Life, Morán Morán, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 My Head is a Haunted House, Curated by Charlie Fox, Sadie Coles, London, UK
- 2018 Difference Engine, Curated by Cory Arcangel and Tina Kukielski, Lisson Gallery, New York, NY, US
 History Refused to Die: Highlights from the Souls Grown Deep Foundation Gift, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, US
- 2018 Outliers and American Vanguard Art, The National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, US
- 2017 Strange Attractors: the Anthology of Interplanetary Folk Art Vol.1 Life on Earth, Curated by Bob Nickas, Redling Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA, US
 Thumbs Up for the Mother Ship (Lonnie Holley and Dawn DeDeaux), MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA, US
 Revelations: Art from the African American South, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (de Young Museum), San Francisco, CA, US
 Museum), San Francisco, CA, US
 Animal Farm, curated by Sadie Laska, The Brant Foundation, Greenwich, CT, US
- 2016 Post Black Folk Art in America, 1930- 1980-2016, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL, US
- 2015 When the Curtain Never Comes Down, The American Folk Museum, New York, NY, US
- 2014 The Body Metonymic, curated by Dick Goody, at Oakland University Art Gallery, Rochester, MI, US
 When the Stars Begin to Fall: Imagination and the American South, Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, NY, US
 Prospect 2 Biennial, New Orleans, LA, US
- 2013 Come Together: Surviving Sandy, Industry City, Brooklyn, NY, US
- 2012 Pitch, Lonnie Holley, Fabienne Lasserre, Halsey Rodman, Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, NY, US
- 2009 Also On View: Lonnie Holley / Drawings and Sculpture, Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, NY, US
- 2006 Mary Lee Bendolph, Gee's Bend Quilts and Beyond, Austin Museum of Art, Austin, TX, US
- 2005 Coming Home: Self-Taught Artists, the Bible and the American South, American Bible Museum, New York, NY, US
- 2007 The Whole World is Rotten: Free Radicals and the Gold Coast Slave Castles of Paa Joe, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY, US
- 2004 Dopes, Dupes and Demagogues: Viewed by Outsiders, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY, US
 Gathering, The Dalton Gallery, Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, GA, US
 Coming Home, Self-Taught Artists, the Bible, and the American South, Art Museum of the University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, US

- 2003 Recycled/Remade: Contemporary Folk Art From the Collection of the Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, US
- 2002 Testimony: Vernacular Art of the African-American South - Selections from the Collection of Ronald and June Shelp, AXA Gallery, New York, NY, US
Street Savvy, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, Jamaica, NY, US
- 2001 Testimony: Vernacular Art of the African-American South, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC, US
Singular Visions, University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville, VA, US
WET!, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY, US
- 2000 Ogun Meets Vulcan: Birmingham's African American Men of Metal, Ruth Hall Hodges Art Gallery, Morris Brown University, Atlanta, GA, US
- 1999 Uncommon Bonds: Expressing African-American Identity, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, US
- 1998 Winter Group, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY, US
Self-Taught Artists of the 20th Century: An American Anthology, Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, TX
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA (traveling exhibition), US
- 1997 Material Dialogues - Contemporary Arts: The New Jersey Context, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ, US
Bearing Witness: African-American Vernacular Art of the South, Schomburg Center, New York, NY, US
Drawing on the Spirit of 9: Drawings and Paintings on Paper by Contemporary African-American Self-Taught Artists, Atrium Gallery, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, US
Obsession With Line, Archer Locke Gallery, Atlanta, GA, US
Bill Traylor and Thornton Dial, Minnie Evans, Lonnie Holley, Louis Monza, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY, US
Tragic Wake: The Legacy of Slavery and the African Diaspora in Contemporary American Art, Spirit Square Center for the Arts, Charlotte, NC, US
Let It Shine: Self-Taught Art from the T. Marshall Hahn Collection, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, US
Souls Grown Deep, Emory University, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Atlanta, GA, US
- 1995 Civil Rights Now, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA), Winston-Salem, NC, US
Contemporary Folk Art: A View from the Outside, Nathan D. Rosen Museum Gallery, Boca Raton, FL, US
Dust Tracks on a Road: Four Southern Artists, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, US
- 1994 Outsider Art by Southern Folks, Hunterdon Art Center, Clinton, NJ, US
- 1993 ASHE: Improvisation and Recycling in African American Visionary Art, Diggs Gallery at Winston Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC, US
Figurines, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY, US
Passionate Visions of the American South: Self-Taught Artists from 1940 to the Present, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA, US (traveling exhibition)
Collector's Show, Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR, US
Dream Singers, Storytellers: An African-American Presence, Fukui Fine Arts Museum, Fukui, Japan and Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ, US (traveling exhibition)
Not by Luck: Self-Taught Artists in the American South, Hunterdon Art Center, Clinton, NJ, US
Whose Broad Stripes and Bright Stars: Death, Reverence and the Struggle for Equality in America, Betty Rymer Gallery at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, US
- 1992 Give Me a Louder Word Up: African American Art, Metropolitan State College Center for the Visual Arts, Denver, CO
Montgomery Biennial, Montgomery Museum of Art, Montgomery, AL, US
- 1991 The Legacy of Africa in the New World, Waterloo Museum of Art, Waterloo, IA, US
- 1990 The Next Generation: The Southern Black Aesthetic, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA), Winston-Salem, NC, US
Another Face of the Diamond: Pathways Through the Black Atlantic South, INTAR Latin American Gallery, New York, NY
Southern Outsider Art II, American Primitive, New York, NY, US
- 1989 The Figure Redefined, Primitivo, San Francisco, CA
Art from the African Diaspora, Aljira, A Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ
Outside the Mainstream: Folk Art in Our Time, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, US
- 1987 Voices in the Wilderness, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
The Bloodline, Howard University, Washington, DC, US
- 1981 More Than Land and Sky: Art from Appalachia, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, US (traveling exhibition)

Awards and Fellowships

- 2023 American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY, US
Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Maine, ME, US
The Mahler and LeWitt Studios Residency, Spoleto, Italy
- 2022 United States Artists Fellowship
- 2020 Elaine de Kooning House Residency, East Hampton, NY
- 2014 Robert Rauschenberg Residency, Captiva Island, FL, US
- 2006 Joan Mitchell Fellowship

Public Collections

American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY, US
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD, US
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, US
Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY, US
Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap), Paris, France
Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, TX, US
de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA, US
Deji Art Museum, Nanjing, China
Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, CA, US
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, US
Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NH, US
ICA Miami, FL, US
Kadist, Paris, France
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, US
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, US
Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, US
Milwaukee Museum of Art, Milwaukee, WI, US
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN, US
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, US
Museum of Fine Arts, St Petersburg, FL, US
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., US
New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ, US
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA, US
Norton Museum of Art, Miami, FL, US
NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL, US
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA, US
Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ, US
Reece Museum, Johnson City, TN, US
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C., US
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, US
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA, US
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, US

Selected Bibliography

Holiday, Harmony; Beardsley, John, 'Lonnie Holley', Monograph, Rizzoli Electa, NY, USA, in association with BLUM Books, 2025.
O'Hagan, Sean, 'It's Like One Continuous Song Pours Out of Him': Meet the Shaman-like Artist-Musician Lonnie Holley', The Observer, May 1, 2022.
Acheampong, Nicole, 'Looking Back to Fly Forward: 'Another Tradition' at the Morgan Library & Museum', ArtNews.com, January 20, 2022.
Elujoba, Yinka, 'An Artist's Life of Perseverance', The New York Times, May 7, 2021.
Petrusich, Amanda, 'Lonnie Holley's Glorious Improvisations', The New Yorker, October 2018.
Herman, Bernard L.; Rosengarten, Theodore; Umberger, Leslie, 'Something to Take My Place - The Art of Lonnie Holley', Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, January 2016, catalogue, illus.
Binelli, Mark, 'Lonnie Holley, the Insider's Outsider', The New York Times, January 2014
Dietz, Andrew, 'The Last Folk Hero: A True Story of Race and Art, Power and Profit', Atlanta: Ellis Lane Press, April 2006
Holley, Lonnie, 'Do We Think Too Much? I Don't Think We Can Ever Stop', Birmingham Museum of Art, August 2004, catalogue, illus.
Arnett, Paul; Arnett, William, 'Souls grown deep. Vol. 2, Once that river starts to flow: African-American vernacular art of the South', Tinwood Books, 2001.