



**TILTON**  
GALLERY

## SIMONE LEIGH

Born in Chicago to Jamaican parents, 1968  
Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York

### Education

1990 BA in Art, minor in Philosophy, Earlham College, Richmond, IN

### Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2015 *Moulting*, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY  
*Crop Rotation*, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY
- 2014 *Free People's Medical Clinic*, commissioned by Creative Time, Stuyvesant Mansion, Brooklyn, NY  
*Gone South*, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, organized by Stuart Horodner, Atlanta, GA  
*Simone Leigh and Wolfgang Paalen*, Gallery Wendi Norris, San Francisco, CA
- 2013 *I Always Face You Even When It Seems Otherwise*, Tiwani Contemporary, organized by Bisi Silva, with catalogue, London, UK
- 2012 *What's Her Face*, Gavlak Gallery, West Palm Beach, FL  
*jam packed and jelly tight*, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY  
*You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been*, The Kitchen, New York, NY, curated by Rashida Bumbray
- 2010 *Divine Horsemen*, with Chitra Ganesh, Mason Gross Galleries, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, curated by Latoya Ruby Frazier
- 2009 *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, for *In Practice*, Sculpture Center, Queens, NY  
*Queen Bee*, G Fine Art Project Room, Washington, D.C.
- 2008 Rush Arts Gallery Project Space, New York, NY
- 2005 Momenta Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

**Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2014 *As We Were Saying*, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY, with catalog  
*The Shape of Things*, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY  
*but that joke isn't funny anymore...*, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY  
Dak'art 2014: The 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Contemporary African Art organized by Elise Atangana, Abdelkader Damani and Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi, Dakar Senegal  
*Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Hard Edges/Soft Curves, January 25, 2013 – March 23, 2014*, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, Houston, TX
- 2013 *Double Fortune, Double Trouble: Art for Twins among the Yoruba*, Fowler Museum at UCLA, organized by Marla Berns and Henry Drewal, curator, Los Angeles, CA  
*approximately infinite universe*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, organized by Jill Dawsey, La Jolla, CA  
*Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art*, Contemporary Art Museum in Houston, Houston, TX, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, and The Walker Art Center, organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, with catalogue  
*FUN HOUSE*, Richard Gray Gallery, New York, NY  
*March On!* Brooklyn Academy of Music, organized by Dexter Wimberly, New York, NY
- 2012 *Cleopatra's Family Jewels*, Family Business, New York, NY  
*Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art*, The Contemporary Art Museum in Houston, Houston, TX organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver  
*Pose/Re-Pose: Figurative Works Then and Now*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia, organized by Isolde Brielmaier and Melissa Messina  
*The Whitney Biennial*, special screening of digital video "Breakdown," The Whitney Museum, New York, NY  
*Unevenness*, The National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe, curated by Raphael Chikukwa  
*Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art*, The Contemporary Art Museum in Houston, Houston TX, curated by Valerie Cassel Oliver  
*In the Making*, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 *The Bearden Project*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
*Evidence of Accumilation, AIR exhibition*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
*15 x 15*, Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY  
*SPACE. About a Dream*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, curated by Catherine Hug  
*The February Show*, Ogilvy & Mather, New York, curated by Jun Lee and Heather Hart
- 2010 *Else*, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, curated by Derrick Adams  
*Digression*, Hendershot Gallery, New York  
*Wide Sargasso Sea*, Deutsche Bank, curated by Kimberli Gant  
*Comedy and Tragedy*, Marvelli Gallery, curated by David Hunt  
*Bunny Redux*, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA, curated by Eric Shiner  
*Hair Tactics*, Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ, curated by Rocio Aranda, Alvarado  
*ves-sel*, Brennan Gallery, Jersey City, NJ, curated by Kenya (Robinson)
- 2009 *30 seconds off an inch*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, curated by Naomi Beckwith

*Rockstone and Bootheel: Contemporary West Indian Art*, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT, curated by Kristina Newman-Scott and Yona Backer  
*Herd Thinner*, Charest-Weinberg Gallery, Miami, FL  
*The Pleasure of Hating*, Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York NY, curated by David Hunt  
*AIM 29*, Bronx Museum, Bronx, NY, curated by Micaela Giovannotti  
*Locus*, MCLA Gallery 51, North Adams, MA curated by Lauren Wolk  
*Pulse*, Taller Boricua, New York NY, curated by Curated by Fernando Salicrup and Christine Licata

- 2008 *The Future As Disruption*, The Kitchen, New York NY, curated by Rashida Bumbray and Matthew Lyons  
*Intransit*, Moti Hasson Gallery, curated by Omar Lopez-Chadoud  
*The B-Sides*, ALIRA a Center for Contemporary Art, curated by Edwin Ramoran  
*Archeologies of Wonder*, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT, curated by Kristina Newman-Scott  
*Ethnographies of the Future Remixed*, Tides Foundation, New York, NY, curated by Sara Reisman  
*Scratching The Surface VOL 1*, L'appartement22, Rabat, Morocco and AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa, curated by Gabi Ngcobo and Mwenya Kabwe  
*Ethnographies of the Future*, Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY curated by Sara Reisman
- 2007 *Material Culture*, Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, Bronx, NY, curated by Juanita Lonzos  
*Red Badge of Courage*, Newark Council for the Arts, Newark, NY, curated by Omar Lopez-Chahoud  
*Done by the Forces of Nature*, City of College of New York, New York, NY curated by Roberto Visani  
*Visual Jury*, Fine Art Work Center, Provincetown, MA  
*Defensive Mechanisms (part of INTERSECTIONS)*, Henry Street Settlement, Abrons Art Center, New York, NY curated by Martin Dust
- 2006 *Wild Girls*, EXIT ART, curated by Jodi Hanel, , Sarah Ryhanen, and Juana Gallo.  
Henry Street Settlement, Abrons Art Center, New York, NY, AIR exhibition  
*Brooklyn Divas*, Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn, New York  
*Figures of Thinking: Convergences in Contemporary Cultures*, curated by Vicky Clark and Sandhini Poddar, various venues including The Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL, Richard E. Peeler Art Center, De Pauw University, Greencastle, IN Western Gallery, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, The Mc Dounough Museum of Art, Youngstown, OH, Tufts University Gallery, Medford MA and the Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, Univeristy of Richmond, Richmond, VA, (with catalog)
- 2005 "From the Studio: Wish You Were Here..." Co-dependent: Artists, Artist/Curators, & Curators Select Artists @ The Living Room, Miami, FL, curated by Franklin Sirmans  
*Remnants and Relics: Reinterpretations in African American Art*, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, Queens, NY (with catalog) curated by Heng-Gil Han  
The Cathedral of St. John the Divine and LeRoy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY, curated by Bruce W. Ferguson and Milena Honigsberg  
James E Lewis Museum of Art, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD)  
Watershed Kiln Gods, Gallery 1448, Baltimore, MD) (with catalog)
- 2004 *Art Downtown: Connecting Collections*, for the Deutsche Bank, New York, NY  
Steuben Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY  
Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore MD
- 2003 Skylight gallery, Bedford Styvesant Restoration Corporation, Brooklyn, NY and The Nathan Cummings Foundation, New York, NY

- 2002 The Center for African American Art and NOEL gallery, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2001 *Unspeakable*, Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY, curated by Lea K. Green
- 2000 *SMIRK, Women, Art and Humor*, Firehouse Gallery, Hempstead, NY, curated by Debra Wacks (with catalog)

**Awards/Residencies/Internships/Grants**

- 2013 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Award  
Asiko Art School, Dakar, Senegal
- 2012 The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Michael Richards award for Visual Arts  
The Creative Capital Grant  
The International Art Programme, Center for Contemporary Art Lagos, Nigeria
- 2011 The Joan Mitchell Foundation grant for painters and sculptors  
The Worth Residency in Bovina, NY
- 2010 – 11 Artist in Residence, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 2009 New York Foundation of the Arts fellowship in Sculpture  
Art Matters Grant  
Bronx Museum AIM program
- 2008 - 09 Artist in Residence, Hunter College, New York, NY
- 2007 - 08 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace grant  
Visiting Artist, School of Visual Arts Computer Art MFA program
- 2007 Astraea Foundation Visual Arts grant
- 2006 Artist In Residence, Henry Street Settlement, New York, NY
- 2005 Wheeler Foundation grant  
Artist in Residence, Greenwich House Pottery, New York, NY
- 2001 Kiln God fellowship, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, Watershed, ME
- 2000 Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME

**Bibliography**

Kramer, Elizabeth. "African, Personal History Infuses Artist's Work," *The Courier-Journal*, February 16, 2015.

Cotter, Holland. "Time-Traveling to a Corner of the African-American Past: 'Funk, God, Jazz & Medicine,' Black Heritage in Brooklyn," *The New York Times*, October 7 2014.

Bass, Chloe. "Funk, Medicine, and Questions of the Future," *Hyperallergic*, October 6, 2014.

Rhodes-Pitts, Sharifa, "Freed but not Free," *Creative Time*, October 2014.

Chamblin, Victoria. "Simone Leigh, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center," *Artforum*, May 2014

- Lax, Thomas, "Simone Leigh – Gone South," *The Studio Museum in Harlem Magazine*, 2014
- Hellman, Amanda H. "ASIKO IN DAKAR, A History – and a Future – for Alternative Arts Education in Africa," *ART PAPERS*, May/June 2014
- Berlangero, Tom. "Simone Leigh's Metaphors of Interiority at the ACAC," *BURNAWAY*, April 2014
- Gaines, Malik. "Simone Leigh," *Bomb Magazine*, Spring 2014
- Raoli, Martha. "Present Tense Future Perfect," *The Miami Rail*, Spring 2014
- Watson, Elizabeth A. "Approximately Infinite Universe," *International Review of African American Art*, February 2014
- Brooks, Kalia. "Simone Leigh: Quiet As Its Kept," *ARC Magazine*, Issue 08, November 2013
- Brooks, Katherine. "'Radical Presence' Surveys Black Performance Artists from the 1960's to Today," *Huffington Post*, October 9, 2013
- McKinley, Catherine. "It's All About The Cow," *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Fall 2013
- Tedford, Matthew Harrison. "Visiting Artist Profile: Simone Leigh," *Art Practical*, April 21, 2013
- Schwendener, Martha, ed. "Everyone Wants To Be Sunaltern," by Simone Leigh, *Brooklyn Rail*, February 2013
- Frater, Sally. "Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art," Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, *Artforum*, December 2012
- Benway, Nova. "Chitra Ganesh, Simone Leigh," *Modern Painters*, September 2012
- "Simone Leigh," Goings On About Town: Art, *The New Yorker*, February 27th, 2012
- A. Cross, Una-Kariim. "The Surrealist Art of Simone Leigh," *EBONY Magazine*, March 5, 2012
- Kley, Elisabeth. "Simone Leigh: Mouthing Off," *artnet*, January 27, 2012
- Caruth, Nicole. "Simone Leigh and the Fruits of Her Labor," *Art21*, January 20, 2012
- "You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been," *TimeOut*, February 23-March 7, 2012
- McClure, Diane. "You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been," *Highsnobette*, February 1, 2012
- "The Whitney Biennial Catalog," Whitney Museum of American Art, 2012
- Cotter, Holland. "A Griot for a Global Village," *The New York Times*, December 8, 2011
- "Going on about Town: Studio Museum in Harlem," *The New Yorker*, September 12, 2011
- Catton, Pia. "Uptown, Turning Over a New Motif," *the Wall Street Journal*, July 12, 2011
- Nasab, Homa. "Chitra Ganesh & Simone Leigh on 'Divine Horsemen,'" *ArtINFO*, January 6, 2011

- Cotter, Holland. "Else," *The New York Times*, September 24, 2010
- McMillan, Uri. "Studio Visit." *STUDIO Magazine: The Studio Museum of Harlem*, Fall 2009
- Latimer, Quinn. "Introducing: Simone Leigh," *Modern Painters*, November, 2008
- Gennocchio, Benjamin. "Collective Strangeness in Hartford," *The New York Times*, December 21, 2008
- Rosenberg, Karen. "The Future As Disruption," *The New York Times*, August 1, 2008
- Chamberlain, Colby. "The Future As Disruption," *ARTFORUM.com*, July, 2008
- Barliant, Claire. "New York Summer Group Shows," *Artinfo.com*, July 10 2008
- Halter, Ed. "Futures Exchange," *Rhizome*, July 7, 2008
- "SUPERNATURE," *Small Axe: A Caribbean Platform for Criticism*, Issue 28, February, 2008
- Green, Penelope. "The Artist's Kitchen, Recycled and Curated," *The New York Times*, June 14, 2007
- Sangweni, Yolanda. "SIMONE LEIGH, REBEL SOUL," *TRACE Magazine*, Issue #66, October 2006
- Utter, Douglas Max. "The Thinkers," *ANGLE: A Journal of Arts and Culture*, Issue 29, 2006
- "Wild Girls," *Flavorpill*, issue 327, September 12, 2006
- Risemberg, Rafael. "Women Gone Wild, The Next Generation of Provocative Female Artists," *New York Blade*, July 31, 2006
- New York 1 News interview with Stephanie Simon at Wild Girls exhibit aired on June 23, 2006
- Heyoka Magazine, Volume 4, May 2006
- Willis-Kennedy, Deborah and Carla Williams, ed. "They Called Her Hottentot: The Art, Science and Fiction of Sarah Baartman," February 2006
- "Goings On About Town: Art," *The New Yorker*, January 17, 2005
- Maine, Stephan. "Dateline Brooklyn," *ARTnet Magazine*, 2005
- "In the Realm of the senses: Lisa DiLillo and Simone Leigh," *Flavorpill*, issue 241, January 6, 2005
- Green, Penelope. "Brooklyn Artist Who Prefers To Show Others' Work," *The New York Times*, 2004
- Streifeld, L.P. "Freedom of Exclusion: The Rise of the Female Spirit in Contemporary Art," *NYArts Magazine*, December 2001
- Parks, Steve. "Some Laughing Matters, Women's Art exhibit: More than funny, girl," *Newsday*, March 2001
- Frizzell, Deborah. "Bawdy Burlesque, Raucous Ribaldry," *NYArts Magazine*, April 2001



**Conferences/Panels/Symposia**

- 2014            Public Lecture: San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA
- 2013            Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Columbia University, New York, NY
- “GET READY FOR THE MARVELOUS: BLACK SURREALISM IN DAKAR, FORT-DE-FRANCE, HAVANA, JOHANNESBURG, NEW YORK CITY, PARIS, PORT-AU-PRINCE, 1932-2013” Conference, Performa Institute, New York, NY
- NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development organized by Adrienne Edwards
- 2012            Ancient to Future: Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts and Simone Leigh, a conversation with Claire Barliant, LIVE at the NYPL, New York Public Library
- Radical Freedom: Feminist Collaborations and Hybrid Aesthetics, Simone Leigh and Chitra Ganesh, Center for The Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center
- BREAKDOWN, artist talk and video screening, with Liz Magic Laser, Brooklyn Museum
- Rhode Island School of Design, Visting Artist Lecture, Providence, RI
- New York University, Visiting Artist Lecture, New York, NY
- 2011            Panelist – “In Honor of Monique Wittig,” The Kessler Conversation between Chitra Ganesh, Simone Leigh, and moderated by Dean Daderko
- 2010            Panelist – Venus 2010: They called Her “Hottentot”, An Interdisciplinary Symposium at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, organized by Deborah Willis in conjunction with the publication of Venus 2010
- 2007            Supernatural, artist talk at Fine Art Work Center, Provincetown, Mass  
Mining History, Contemporary Art, The African American Museum in Philadelphia and the Tyler School of Art, moderated by Sophie Sanders
- 2005            Unparalleled salon, with Carrie Yamaoka, curated by Martha Southgate, Stacey D’Erasmus and Bliss Broyard
- 2001            Symposium for the creation of the David Driskell Center on Africa and The Americas, panel on the Art of the African Diaspora, University of Maryland, College Park, moderated by Carla Peterson Women’s Caucus for Art Conference, Chicago, IL, “Body Language: Image and Art”, moderated by Marianne Woods
- 2000            “Slave Markets, Lynched Bodies and Hottentot Vessels: The Black Female Body in 19th and 20th Century Art”, Feminist Art and Art History Conference, Barnard College, New York, NY, moderated by Adrienne Childs