

Essence Harden

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate | University of California, Berkeley | African Diaspora Studies | ABD

Master of Arts | University of California, Berkeley | African American Studies | May 2013

Bachelor of Arts | University of California, Berkeley | History (Magna Cum Laude) | May 2011

EXHIBITIONS (curated and organized)

Ecologies | Focus, Frieze Los Angeles | February 2024

A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration | California African American Museum | August 2023

Tatyana Fazlalizadeh: Speaking to Falling Seeds | California African American Museum | August 2023

Helen Cammock: I Will Keep My Soul | Art + Practice | February 2023

Adee Roberson and Azikiwe Mohammed: because I am that | California African American Museum | November 2022

Justen LeRoy: Lay Me Down in Praise | Art + Practice | September 2022

California Biennial: Pacific Gold | Orange County Museum of Art | October 2022

Deborah Roberts: I'M | Art + Practice and California African American Museum | March 2022

a question of vibrancy/earthly sight | Eduardo Secci Contemporary, Florence, Italy | March 2022

Folk Medic II: Panacea | Subliminal Projects | December 2021

blue/s | El Segundo Museum of Art | November 2021

Mothership: Voyage into Afrofuturism | Oakland Museum of California, Consultant | July 2021

On Sites of Memory | UTA Artist Space | February 2021

RIDDIMS: Adee Roberson | Human Resources | July 2019

Mappings | Residency Art Gallery | 2019

Bold Visual Language: Emory Douglas | UCR ARTS | 2019

Plumb Line: Charles White and the Contemporary | California African American Museum (CAAM) | 2019

Womxn on Womxn | The Los Angeles LGBT Center's Advocate and Gochis Galleries | 2018

Second Look Twice | Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) | 2018

Bold Visual Language: Emory Douglas | Southern California Library | 2018

Bold Visual Language: Emory Douglas | Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) | 2018

Refuge: Shinique Smith | California African American Museum (CAAM) | 2018

black is a color | Antenna Gallery | New Orleans | 2018

black is a color | Charlie James Gallery | 2017

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

Annenberg Innovation Lab Civic Media Fellow | 2020-2021

The Creative Capital, Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant | 2018-2019

Dissertation Completion Fellowship | University of California, Berkeley | 2016-2017

Chancellor's Fellowship | University of California, Berkeley | 2011 - 2013

Una Fellowship | University of California, Berkeley | 2011 - 2012

Phi Beta Kappa | University of California, Berkeley | Inducted 2011

ART JUROR

Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) | 2020

LA Metro | 2020

Art Omi | 2019

Artadia, San Francisco Awards | 2019

South Florida Cultural Consortium | 2019

CATALOGUE ESSAYS

Pacific Gold: California Biennial | County Museum of Art | 2023

Made In LA: Acts of Living | Hammer Museum | 2023

Reflective Frequencies: An Interview with David Huffman | AfroHippie | 2021

Wengechi Mutu | Prospect 5: Yesterday, we said tomorrow | 2021

Barbara Chase-Riboud | Prospect 5: Yesterday, we said tomorrow | 2021

Loose Ends - Adee Roberson Now | Brave New Worlds Exhibition Catalog | 2019

MK Guth, "Social Objects" | What Needs to Be Said: Hallie Ford Fellows Exhibition Catalog | 2019

Blair Saxon-Hill, "Persistent Matters" | What Needs to Be Said: Hallie Ford Fellows Exhibition Catalog | 2018

Samantha Wall, "Intonations: 31 Days" | What Needs to Be Said: Hallie Ford Fellows Exhibition Catalog | 2018

Prints | Second Look Twice | Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) | 2018

Introduction | Relations: Black Salt Collective | 2018

FREELANCE WRITING

Contributor | New York Times Magazine | *Fall 2023

Contributor | Frieze Magazine | 2023 - Current

Contributor | Cultured Magazine | 2019 - Current

Contributor | Artsy | 2020 - Current

Contributor | Art21 | 2020 - Current

Contributor | Los Angeles Times Magazine, Image | 2021

Contributor | SSENSE | 2021

Contributor | Contemporary Art Reviews LA (CARLA) | 2019 - 2020

Contributor | Curate LA | 2019 - 2020

Contributor | LALA Magazine | 2019 - 2020

Contributor | Performa Magazine | 2017-2019

Contributor | Amadeus Magazine | 2019

Contributor | Leste Magazine | 2018

Contributor | Acres | 2017

Contributor | Palmss Magazine | 2017

Contributor | San Francisco Arts Quarterly (SFAQ) | 2016 – 2017

Contributor | Riting | 2016

Contributor | Everyday Feminism | 2016

EDITORIAL

Speculative: Black Art Practice of the West | The Creative Capital, Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Blog | 2020 - Current

Editor | The Diaspora: A Biannual Publication | UC Berkeley | 2015 – 2018

black is a color catalog | Antenna Gallery | 2018

black is a color catalog | Charlie James Gallery | 2017

Content Editor | Palmss Magazine | 2016

Assistant Editor of Visual Art | Nineteen Sixty-Nine: An Ethnic Studies Journal | 2015

PANELS

Artist Talk: Penda Diakité in conversation with Essence Harden | UTA Artist Space | 2023

On Thornton Dial: Richard Dial, Essence Harden, and Umar Rashid | Blum and Poe, Los Angeles | 2023

Frieze + Prada panel on the History and Future of Black Cinema with Jacqueline Stewart, Romola Ratnam, Charles Burnett | Frieze, Los Angeles | 2023

In Conversation: Essence Harden, Justen LeRoy, and Kordae Jatafa | Art + Practice | 2022

In Conversation: Essence Harden and Leigh Raiford | Art + Practice | 2022

In Conversation: Blitz Bazawule and Essence Harden | UTA Artist Space | 2021

what is before us a new | Frieze, LA | 2021

We Are Here: Visionaries of Color Transforming the Art World Conversation | Hammer Museum | 2021

Active Cultures: Food Material with Adee Roberson and Essence Harden | 2020

Komuna Live: Gabriella Sanchez and Essence Harden | Zoom | 2020

The Parlor: Ebony G Patterson, Kilolo Lockett, Franklin Sirmans, and Essence Harden | Zoom | 2020

Feminist Perspectives on Julie Mehretu | Los Angeles County Museum of Art | 2020

Art and My City: A Conversation Between Sandy Kim and Essence Harden | Frieze, Los Angeles | 2020

Private Collection Visit: Arthur Lewis in Conversation with Arthur Lewis | Frieze, Los Angeles | 2020

“Positive Space” Panel | The Wing, Los Angeles | 2020

In Conversation: Kohshin Finley and Diedrick Brackens with Essence Harden | California African American Museum | 2019

RIDDIMS: Adee Roberson and Essence Harden in Conversation | Human Resources | 2019

June Edmonds and Essence Harden in Conversation | Luis De Jesus | 2019

Women in the Arts with Liz Goldwyn | Frieze, Los Angeles | 2019

“I am Somebody” Screening + Conversation | Now Instant: Image Hall, Los Angeles | 2019

Black Refractions: Sadie Barnette, Essence Harden, and Emily Kuhlmann In Conversation | Untitled Art Fair, San Francisco | 2019

The Art of the Print: A Conversation with Paulson Fontaine Press and David Huffman | Museum of the African Diaspora | 2018

NOW WHAT! Critical Issues for Art in the Public Realm | California State at Long Beach | 2018

Points of Access: Curators in Conversation | Art + Practice | 2018

Black Prominence: The Vision & Re-vision of Art and Leadership | Art Practical SF at California College of Arts | 2018

LA AIR: Adee Roberson in Conversation with Essence Harden and Keyon Gaskin | Echo Park Film Center | 2018

Mass Incarceration and Visual Art, Response to Ava DuVernay's 13th | Glendale Community College | Spring 2017

'Its Levels to This: Turning Passion Into Profession | UCLA | Spring 2017

Black Abstraction and Liminal Archives: Visions of an Atmospheric Experience | Black Portraitures III | 2016

Society's Views on Black Women's Hair | University of Southern California, Annenberg Media | 2016

Think Tank Member | Creative Eco-Systems: Body Politic | Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) | 2013 -2014

CONSULTANT

Art Consultant | Granderson Des Rochers, LLP | 2022 - 2023

Art Consultant | Our Kind of People, 20th Century Fox | 2021

Curatorial Consultant | Oakland Museum of California | 2018-2022

Sugar Sky Pictures | Los Angeles, CA | 2017-2019

TEACHING - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Senior Thesis Seminar | Spring 2017

Keywords in American Studies: Race | Summer 2016

Race and Representation in US Culture | Summer 2015

Birth of American Consumerism | Spring 2015

American Folklore | Fall 2014

Chicano History | Summer 2014

Race and American Film | Spring 2014

Slavery and African American Life before 1865 | Fall 2013