

# MARTIN PURYEAR

## BIOGRAPHY

- 1941 Born May, Washington, DC
- 1963 Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, B.A. in Art
- 1964-1966 Traveled to Sierra Leone, West Africa, with the Peace Corps
- 1966-1968 Attended Swedish Royal Academy of Art, Stockholm
- 1969-1971 Yale University, School of Art and Architecture, New Haven, CT,  
M.F.A in Sculpture
- 1973-1977 Opened studio in Brooklyn, NY
- 1976-1977 Received CAPS Grant in Sculpture, New York Creative Artists  
Public Service Program
- 1977 Completes first major outdoor sculpture commission for  
Artpark, Lewiston, NY  
Fire damaged the Brooklyn studio and destroys many works of  
sculpture  
Received Change, Inc., Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Grant
- 1977-1978 Received National Endowment for the Arts, Individual Artist  
Fellowship
- 1978 Moves to Chicago
- 1982 Bodark Art, a major outdoor sculpture commission for the Na  
than Manilow Sculpture Park, Governors State University,  
University Park, IL
- 1983 Traveled to Japan on a John S. Guggenheim Memorial  
Foundation Fellowship
- 1988 Received the Francis J. Greenburger Foundation Award
- 1989 Awarded Grand Prize at the 1989 Sao Paulo Bienal, Brazil  
Received the John and Catherine MacArthur Grant
- 1990 Moved to New York State  
Received the Skowhegan Award
- 1992 Elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and  
Letters
- 1992-1993 Worked at the Calder Atelier, Saché, France, at the invitation of  
the French Government
- 1994 Received Honorary Degree, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 1997 Residency at the American Academy in Rome, Italy
- 2006 Honored at Sculpture Center Gala, Long Island City, NY
- 2007 Gold Medal for Sculpture, American Academy of Arts and  
Letters, New York

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1968 Grona Palletten Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1972 Fisk University Gallery, Nashville, TN  
Henri Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1973 Henri Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1977 The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- 1978 Protetch-McIntosh Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1980 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago  
Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE  
Young-Hoffman Gallery, Chicago
- 1981 Delahunty Gallery, Dallas, TX  
and/or Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 1982 McIntosh-Drysdale Gallery, Washington, DC  
Young-Hoffman Gallery, Chicago
- 1983 Donald Young Gallery, Chicago
- 1984 Martin Puryear, University Gallery, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst; traveled to Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA; The  
New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; The La Jolla  
Museum of Contemporary Art, CA
- 1985 University Art Museum, Matrix Program, Berkeley, CA  
Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles  
Donald Young Gallery, Chicago
- 1987 Martin Puryear: Public and Personal, Chicago Public Library, IL  
Martin Puryear: Sculpture & Works on Paper, Carnegie Mellon  
University Art Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1987 David McKee Gallery, New York  
Donald Young Gallery, Chicago
- 1988 New Wall Sculpture, McIntosh/Drysdale Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1989 The 20th International Sao Paulo Bienal, Representing the  
United States, Brazil (Winner of Grand Prize)  
Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles
- 1990 Connections: Martin Puryear, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- 1991-1992 Martin Puryear, Art Institute of Chicago, traveled to: Hirshhorn  
Museum, Washington, DC; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los  
Angeles; Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA
- 1993-1994 Martin Puryear, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, OH
- 1995 McKee Gallery, New York

- 1997 Martin Puryear, Fundacio La Caixa, Madrid  
Donald Young Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 1997-1998 Forma Lignea, American Academy in Rome
- 1999 Martin Puryear: Drawing into Sculpture, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH
- 2000 Martin Puryear: The Cane Project, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
- 2002 Martin Puryear: New Sculpture, McKee Gallery, New York, second place for best show in a commercial gallery, International Association of Art Critics
- 2001-2002 Martin Puryear, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA: traveled to Miami Art Museum, FL; University of California, Berkeley Art Museum; Des Moines Art Center, IA
- 2003-2004 Martin Puryear: New Work, Baltic, Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, England; traveled to Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
- 2005 Donald Young Gallery, Chicago
- 2007-2009 Martin Puryear: Sculpture Retrospective, Museum of Modern Art, New York, travels to: Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; National Gallery of Art, Washington DC

#### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 1962 Annual Exhibition, Baltimore Museum of Art, MD  
Puryear, Raymond, Termini, Adams-Morgan Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1965 Group Show, U.S.I.S. Gallery, Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Annual Exhibition, Swedish Academy of Art, Stockholm, Sweden  
Stockholm Biennial Exhibition, Liljevalchs Konsthall, Sweden
- 1968 Annual Exhibition, Swedish Academy of Art, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1969 Group Show, Lunn Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1971 Prints and Paintings by Black Artists, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 1974 New Talent at Maryland, University of Maryland, College Park
- 1974-1978 National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, DC

- 1977 The Material Dominant, Pennsylvania State University,  
University Park
- 1978 Young American Artists, Exxon National Exhibition, Solomon R.  
Guggenheim Museum, New York  
The Presence of Nature, Whitney Museum of American Art,  
New York
- 1979 Art and Architecture, Space and Structure, Protetch McIntosh  
Gallery, Washington, DC  
Whitney Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art,  
New York  
Custom and Culture, organized by Creative Time at the U.S.  
Customs House, Bowling Green, NY  
Wave Hill: The Artist's View, Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY
- 1980 Black Circle, Montgomery Ward Gallery, University of Illinois,  
Chicago  
Chicago, Chicago, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH  
Afro-American Abstraction, P.S.1, Long Island City, NY
- 1981 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
City Sculpture, The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center  
Instruction Drawings, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Artists' Parks and Gardens, Museum of Contemporary Art,  
Chicago
- 1981-1982 The New Spiritualism: Transcendent Images in Painting and  
Sculpture: traveled to Oscarsson Hood Gallery, New York;  
Jorgensen Gallery, University of Connecticut; Robert Hull  
Fleming Museum, University of Vermont
- 1982 Works in Wood, Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles  
Invitational Exhibition, Bell Gallery, Brown University,  
Providence, RI  
Form and Function: Proposals for Public Art in Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia  
N. A.M.E. Gallery in Pittsburgh, Hewlett Gallery, Carnegie Mellon  
University, Pittsburgh  
The 74th American Exhibition, The Art Institute of Chicago  
American Abstraction Now, The Virginia Museum of Art,  
Richmond
- 1983 Five Artists / NOAA Collaboration, Seattle Art Museum Pavilion  
Invitational Exhibition, Grace Borgenicht Gallery, New York

Beyond the Monument, Documentation of Public Art Projects and Proposals, Hayden Corridor Gallery, MIT, Cambridge, MA

1982-1984 Afro-American Abstraction, organized by the Art Museum Association: traveled to P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY; Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery; Oakland Museum, CA; Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, Memphis, TN; Art Center, South Bend, IA; Toledo Museum of Art, OH; Bellevue Art Museum, WA; Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, TX

1984 An International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture, Museum of Modern Art, New York

American Sculpture, Donald Young Gallery, Chicago

Collaborating: The Power of the Artist and Architect Co-Designing Parks, Plazas, Public Places from New York to Seattle, McIntosh-Drysdale Gallery, Houston, TX

Proposals and Projects: World Fairs, Waterfronts, Parks and Plazas, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago

American Sculpture, Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles

Primitivism in 20th Century Art: Affinity of the Tribal and Modern, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Transformation of the Minimal Style, The Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY

1985 Chicago Sculpture International / MILE 4, State Street Mall, Chicago

Sculpture Overview 1985, Evanston Art Center, IL

Basically Wood, Thomas Segal Gallery, Boston

Choosing: An Exhibit of Changing Perspectives in Modern Art and Art Criticism by Black Americans, 1925-1985: traveled to Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago; Chicago State University; Portsmouth Museum, Portsmouth, VA; Howard University, Washington, DC

The Artist as Social Designer, Aspects of Public Urban Art Today, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA

Black Creativity, Generations in Transition: 80 Years of Black American Expression, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago

Anniottanta, Invitational, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, Italy

Transformations in Sculpture: Four Decades in American and European Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

Artists and Architects, Challenges in Collaboration

- Inaugural Exhibition, Tyler Gallery, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
- 1986 After Nature, Germans Van Eck Gallery, New York (curated by Steven H. Madoff)
- Sculpture on Stetson: 1986, Chicago
- Three Artists/Three Visions, Charlotte Crosby Kempner Gallery, Kansas City Art Institute, MO
- Installations and Sculpture, Donald Young Gallery, Chicago
- Natural Forms and Forces: Abstract Images in American Sculpture, Hayden Gallery, List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Bank of Boston
- Individuals: A Selected History of Contemporary Art, 1945-1986, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art
- 1987 Structure to Resemblance: Work by Eight American Sculptors, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- Fifty Years of Collecting: An Anniversary Selection of Sculpture of the Modern Era, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
- Emerging Artists 1978-1986: Selection from the Exxon Series, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
- 1988 From the Southern Cross: A View of World Art c. 1940-1988, Australian Biennale, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1988 Private Works for Public Spaces: Drawings, Maquettes and Documentation for Unrealized Public Artworks, R.C. Erpf Gallery, New York
- Spectrum: Mary Beth Edelson, Martin Puryear, Italo Scanga, Robert Stackhouse, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- The World of Art Today, Milwaukee Art Museum, WI
- Innovations in Sculpture, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT
- SKULPTUR Material + Abstraktion: 2 x 5 Positionen, Aargauer Kunsthaus Aarau Switzerland; and Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Enclosing the Void, Whitney Museum of American Art at Equitable Center, New York
- New Sculpture/Six Artists, Saint Louis Art Museum, MO
- Vital Signs: Organic Abstraction from the Permanent Collection, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

- Brooklyn Museum, New York (Installation of 2 large pieces in lobby)
- Sculpture Inside Out, Walker Art Center, MN (traveling exhibition)
- 1989 Sculpture, Material and Abstraction, Swiss Institute & City Gallery, New York
- Art in Place: 15 Years of Acquisitions, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- Traditions in Transformation - Contemporary Afro-American Artists, Bronx Museum, NY
- Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- Introspectives: Contemporary Art by American and Brazilians of African Descent, The California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles
- New Sculpture: Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Martin Puryear, Susana Solano, Donald Young Gallery, Chicago
- 1990 Objects of Potential: Five American Sculptors from the Anderson Collection, Wiegand Gallery, College of Notre Dame, Belmont, CA
- The Decade Show, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
- Selected Artists from the First 20 Years, Max Protetch Gallery, New York
- Black USA, Museum Overholland, Amsterdam, Holland
- 1991 Small Scale Sculpture, Sewell Art Gallery, Rice University, Houston, TX
- Reprise: The Vera List Collection, David Winton Bell Gallery, List Art Center, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 1991-1992 Devil on the Stairs: Looking Back at the Eighties, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA; Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA
- 1992 Allegories of Modernism: Contemporary Drawing, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- Process to Presence: Issues in Sculpture 1960 to 1990, in conjunction with the 14th International Sculpture Conference, Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- Donald Young Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 1993 Collective Pursuits: Mount. Holyoke Investigates Modernism, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, MA

- Yale Collects Yale, New Haven, CT
- American Art in the 20th Century: Painting and Sculpture, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin: traveled to the Royal Academy of Art, London
- Drawing the Line Against Aids, 45th Venice Biennale, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection
- 1993-1994 Visual Arts Encounter: African Americans and Europe, Salle Clemenceau, Palais du Luxembourg, Paris, France
- 1994 Western Artists / African Art, The Museum for African Art, New York
- Landscape as Metaphor: Visions of America in the Late Twentieth Century, The Denver Art Museum, CO;
- Columbus Museum, OH
- Putting Things Together: Recent Sculpture from the Anderson Collection, The Art Museum of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz, CA
- Donald Young Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 1995-1996 The Material Imagination, Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York
- 1995 Twentieth Century American Sculpture at The White House, First Ladies' Garden, The White House, Washington, DC
- 1996 Abstraction in the Twentieth Century: Total Risk, Freedom, Discipline, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, curated by Mark Rosenthal
- 1997 A Century of Sculpture: The Nasher Collection, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, curated by Carmen Gimenez
- American Stories: Amidst Displacement and Transformation, Setagaya Art Museum, Japan: traveled to Chiba City Museum of Art; Fukui Fine Arts Museum; Kurashiki City Art Museum; Akita Prefectural Integrated Life Cultural Hall
- 1998 The Edward R. Broida Collection, Orlando Museum of Art, FL
- 1999 The American Century Art & Culture 1900-2000, Part II, 1950-2000, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 2000 NEW works, McKee Gallery, New York
- 2000-2001 Celebrating Modern Art: The Anderson Collection, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA
- 2001 Draughtsman's Colors, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York



- 2001-2002 New to the Modern: Recent Acquisitions from the Department of Drawings, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 2002 Gifts in Honor of the 125th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA
- 2002-2003 110 Years: The Permanent Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
- 2003 New Prints, Berthot, Celmins, Puryear, McKee Gallery, New York Drawings, Donald Young Gallery, Chicago
- 2003-2004 Breathless, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York
- 2004 Contemporary Art and Furniture Design in Dialogue, Senior & Shopmaker Gallery, New York  
Love/Hate: From Magritte to Cattelan, Masterpieces from the Collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Villa Manin, Italy
- 2005 Sculpture: An Intuitive View, McKee Gallery, New York
- 2006 Against the Grain: Contemporary Art from the Edward R. Broida Collection, The Museum of Modern Art, New York  
Selections from the Collection of Edward R. Broida, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC
- 2007 Early Signs: Celmins, Puryear, Youngblood, McKee Gallery, New York
- 2008 Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture Part II, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco

#### **SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago  
 Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.  
 Des Moines Art Center, IA  
 Dallas Museum of Art, TX  
 FNAC, Paris, France  
 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York  
 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.  
 Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE  
 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
 Milwaukee Art Museum, WI  
 Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago,

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York  
National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.  
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO  
Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA  
San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla, CA  
Seattle Art Museum, WA  
Sheldon Memorial Gallery and Sculpture Garden, Lincoln, NE  
The Tokyo International Forum, Japan  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

#### **SELECTED PUBLIC COMMISSIONS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Box and Pole, Installation at Artpark, Lewiston, NY. (Temporary), 1977  
Macomb Community College, Warren, MI, 1978  
Equivalents, Wave Hill Environmental Center and Sculpture Gardens,  
Bronx, NY, 1979  
Proposal for Duncan Plaza, New Orleans, LA, 1980  
Pavilion-in-the-Trees, Clivendon Park, Philadelphia, PA, Fairmount Park Art  
Association Dedicated October 26, 1993  
Bodark Arc, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, Governors State University,  
University Park, IL, 1982  
Sentinel, mortared fields tone, Gettysburg College, PA, 1982  
Knoll for NOAA, National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration,  
Western Regional Center, Seattle, WA, 1983  
River Road Ring, Chicago O'Hare Transit Line, City of Chicago, 1984  
York College, The City University of New York, Queens, 1984  
Chevy Chase Garden Plaza, MD, 1984  
Ampersand, granite, commissioned by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis,  
MN, 1987-1988  
Griot New York, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York. Set and costume  
designs in a collaboration with Garth Fagan, Wynton Marsalis, and the  
Garth Fagan Dance Company, 1991  
Documenta 1992, Kassel, Germany, 1992  
North Cove Pylons, Battery Park City, NY (on Hudson River opposite

Statue of Liberty)

Steven Oliver Art Center, San Francisco

Everything that Rises, University of Washington Public Art Commission,  
Seattle, WA

Meditation in a Beech Wood, Stiftelsen Wanas Utställningar, Wanas Foun-  
dation, Knislinge, Sweden, 1996

Bearing Witness, Reagan Building, Federal Triangle, Washington, DC, 1997

Courtyard for the New School for Social Research, New York, 1997

This Mortal Coil, Eglise Salpetrière, Festival d'Automne, Paris, France (Tem-  
porary), 1999

That Profile, steel, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, 1999-2000

Guardian, stone, Mori Art Museum, Roppongi Hills, Tokyo, Japan, commis-  
sion for TV Asahi Art:21 Art in the Twenty-First Century, Time, (Emmy-  
Nominated Series), Season Two, PBS, September 15, 2003. [www.pbs.org/  
art21](http://www.pbs.org/art21)

Installed Public Art at the Mori Arts Center, Roppongi Hills in conjunction  
with Happiness: A Survival Guide for Art and Life (Harmony), The Mori  
Art Museum, Tokyo

Gyroscope series, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington  
DC, 2004

Meet the Artist, "Martin Puryear," inaugurating the 30th anniversary Hirsh-  
horn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washing-  
ton DC, 2004