Kiki Smith

The American artist Kiki Smith was born Chiara Smith in Germany in 1954. Her mother, Jane Lawrence, was an opera singer and actress, and her father was the Minimalist sculptor, Tony Smith. In 1976, Kiki Smith moved to New York, and began frequenting the rock music and artistic circles. Since the 1980s, she has been known for her multidisciplinary art work incorporating sculpture, etching, photography, drawing, books, tapestries and a variety of objects. One of the characteristics of her work is the representation of the human body, and particularly the anatomy and outline of the female body. This outline is sometimes shown at a disturbing angle, or is altered or fragmented.

Kiki Smith has been the subject of a number of exhibitions around the world. In 2003, the exhibition “Prints, Books and Things”, held at the MoMA in New York, played an important role in her career. Between 2005 and 2007, a travelling exhibition, “Kiki Smith: A Gathering”, was presented successively at the MOMA in San Francisco, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston and the Whitney Museum in New York. In 2019, she was the focus of a number of solo shows: at the Monnaie in Paris, at the Sara Hilden Art Museum in Tampere, at the Belvedere Museum in Vienna, the Palazzo Pitti in Florence, the Modern Art Oxford and the Centre de la gravure in La Louvière. Her work has been presented at five Venice Biennales. Galerie Lelong has exhibited the work of Kiki Smith since 2000.

Kiki Smith was commissioned by Obama Foundation to create a specific work for the Obama Presidential Center to open in Chicago in 2026. An important retrospective of her work will be held at the MO.CO. in Montpellier (France) until October 11th.

Solo shows (selection)

2026

Être ici | Maintenant | Partout, MO.CO., Montpellier, France

Flight, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2025

Woven Words, Moderna Museet, Malmö, Sweden

The Moon Watches the Earth, Pace Gallery, New York, United States

2024

Kiki Smith. Woven Worlds, Arp Museum Rolandseck, Remagen, Germany

Woven Words, Petrović Castle, Podgorica, Montenegro

2023

Empathy, Diözesanmuseum Freising, Freising, Germany

From my Heart, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany

2022

Free Fall, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul

Inner Bodies, Fondation Thalie, Brussels, Belgium

Kiki Smith, Pace Gallery - NY, New York, United States

Kiki Smith: From the Creek, Albuquerque Museum, New Mexico, United States

2021

From Inside, Galerie Lelong , Paris, France

2020

Hearing You with My Eyes, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland

River Light, Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, United States

2019

Procession, Belvedere, Vienna , Austria

Entre chien et loup, Centre de la gravure et de l'image imprimée, La Louvière, Belgium

Procession, Sarah Hilden Art Museum, Tampere, Finland

Homecoming, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Kiki Smith, Monnaie de Paris, Paris, France

Touch. Prints by Kiki Smith, Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich, Germany

Kiki Smith: Memory, Deste Foundation for Contemporary Art, Athens, Greece

What I saw on the road, Palazzo Pitti, Florence, Italy

Kiki Smith: I am a Wanderer, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

Murmur, Pace Gallery - NY, New York, United States

2018

Procession, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany

Reflection, Barbara Gross Galerie, Munich, Germany

Below the Horizon: Kiki Smith at Eldridge, Museum at Eldridge Street, New York, United States

Frequency, Krakow Witkin Gallery, Boston, United States

2017

Shelter, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Quest, Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan, Italy

Breath, Palau de la Música Catalana, Barcelona, Spain

From the Creek, Thomas Cole National Historic Site, Catskill, New York, United States

Mortal, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, United States

Selections from the Jacquard Tapestry Series, Robischon Gallery, Denver, United States

2016

Woven Tales, Peters Projects, Santa Fe, United States

2015

Arena, Mike Karstens, Münster, Germany

Kiki Smith, St Petri in Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany

2013

Meravigliosa Creatura, Fondazione Merz, Turin, Italy

Mortal, Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, Rochester, United States

2012

Catching Shadows, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

I Myself Have Seen It: Photography and Kiki Smith, SMoCA, Scottsdale, United States

Visionary Sugar: Works By Kiki Smith, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, United States

2011

I Myself Have Seen It: Photography and Kiki Smith, Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art, Evanston, United States

2010

Mortal, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Color Still, Colle di Val d'Elsa, Italy

Sojourn, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, United States

2009

Her memory, Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, Spain

Kiki Smith, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

2008

Her Home, Museen Haus Lange / Haus Esters, Krefeld, Germany

Neue Arbeiten, Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nuremberg, Germany

Touch of the Eye/Look of the Hand, Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, United States

2007

Wellspring, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Constellation, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, United States

2006

A Gathering 1980 - 2005, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, United States

A Gathering 1980 - 2005, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, United States

Kiki Smith, Contemporary Art Museum Houston (CAMH), Houston, United States

2005

Prints & Things, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Homespum Tales. Stories of home occupation, Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice, Italy

A Cautionary Tale, Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, United States

A Gathering, 1980-2005, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), San Francisco, United States

2003

Near, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

Prints, Books, and Things, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, United States

2002

Homework, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, United States

2001

Kiki Smith, Galerie M + R Fricke, Düsseldorf, Germany

Photographs - A Looking at Native American Beadwork and Baskets, Fisher Landau Center For Art, New York, United States

Telling Tales, International Center of Photography (ICP), New York, United States

2000

Kiki Smith, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, Republic of Korea

REALM, Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, United States

1999

Zetwenden—Rubblick und Ausblick, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna , Austria

Zetwenden—Rubblick und Ausblick, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Germany

Kiki Smith, Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA), Indianapolis, United States

Recent Photographic Work, List Visual Arts Center (LVAC), Cambridge, United States

Works with Paper by Kiki Smith, Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, United States

1998

all creatures great and small, Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover, Germany

Photographs 1997-98, Galerie M + R Fricke, Berlin, Germany

Convergence, Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin, Ireland

Directions–Kiki Smith - Night, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, United States

1997

Kiki Smith, The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, United States

1996

Kiki Smith, The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada

1995

Untitled, Galerie M + R Fricke, Düsseldorf, Germany

1994

Über-Leben, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany

1993

Kiki Smith, Galerie M + R Fricke, Düsseldorf, Germany

1992

Kiki Smith, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany

Kiki Smith, Moderna Museet, Stockolm, Sweden

The Body Electric: Zizi Raymond and Kiki Smith, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, United States

Unfolding the Body, The Rose Art Museum, Waltham, United States

1991

Kiki Smith / MATRIX 142, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA), Berkeley, United States

Projects 24: Kiki Smith, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, United States

1986

Kiki Smith, MoMA PS1, New York, United States

Group shows (selection)

2025

Animal!?, Fonds Hélène & Édouard Leclerc pour la culture, Landerneau, France

Apocalypse. Hier et demain, BnF, Paris, France

Dessins sans limite. Chefs-d'œuvre de la collection du Centre Pompidou, Grand Palais, Paris, France

Sorcières (1860-1920) : fantasmes, savoirs, liberté, Musée de Pont-Aven, Pont-Aven, France

The Ark, The Church, Sag Harbor, United States

2024

Sorcières : de l'ombre à la lumière, Pointe-à-Caillère, Montréal , Canada

Faire corps, Villa Datris, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France

2023

L'île intérieure, Fondation Carmignac, Île de Porquerolles, France

2022

The Ability To Dream, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, San Gimignano, Italy

Feminine Power: the Divine to the Demonic, The British Museum, London, United Kingdom

Recent Acquisitions, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, United States

2021

Trees for memories, Fondation Boghossian, Brussels, Belgium

Convergent Evolutions: The Conscious of Body Work, Pace Gallery, New York, United States

2020

On Everyone's Lips. From Pieter Bruegel to Cindy Sherman, Kunstmuseum, Wolfsburg, Germany

TRANSFORMACIONES - Mujeres artistas entre dos siglos, Fundación CajaCanarias, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

2019

Jaume Plensa - Kiki Smith - Barthélémy Toguo, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2018

Die Kraft der Alters, Belvedere, Vienna, Austria

J'♥ Avignon The artists and the Collection Lambert, Collection Lambert, Avignon, France

250th Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Art, London, United Kingdom

2017

LOOK! New Acqusitions/Neuerwerbungen., Albertina, Vienna, Austria

2016

Everybody is crazy, but me, Maison Particulière, Brussels, Belgium

Flying over the Abyss, Thessaloniki Centre of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece

Quand fondra la neige, où ira le blanc, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy

The Natural Order of Things, Museo Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico

Medicine in Art, Museum of Contemporary Art in Kraków (MOCAK), Krakow, Poland

Art Aids America, Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw, United States

Embracing the Contemporary: The Keith L. and Katherine Sachs Collection, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, United States

The Other: Nurturing A New Ecology In Printmaking, Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville (MOCA), Jacksonville, United States

2015

Vienna for art's Sake, Belvedere, Vienna, Austria

A Secret Affair, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, United States

Destination Unknown, Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas, United States

River Crossings: Contemporary Art Comes Home, The Olana Partnership, Hudson, United States

2014

Trio, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

450° Michelangelo Mindcraft, Chiesa e Convento di Sant'Agostino, Pietrasanta, Italy

Lens-Based Sculpture, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, Liechtenstein

2013

Les Papesses, Collection Lambert, Avignon, France

Kiki Smith. Seton Smith. Tony Smith, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, Liechtenstein

Witches & Wicked Bodies, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

2012

La commande contemporaine à la chalcographie du Louvre, Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

2011

Femininity 0.1, Maison Particulière Art Center, Brussels, Belgium

elles@centrepompidou, artistes femmes dans les collections du Centre Pompidou, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

As Long As It Lasts…, Arratia Beer, Berlin, Germany

El intervalo luminoso: The D.Daskalopoulos Collection, Museo Guggenheim de Arte Moderno y Contemporáneo, Bilbao, Spain

Pictures by Women: A History of Modern Photography, MoMA – Museum of Modern Art, New York, United States

2010

Keeping it Real: An Exhibition in Four Acts: Act 1: The Corporeal, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom

The Artist as Image, Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, United States

2009

Un plan simple 3/3 (Écran), Maison populaire de Montreuil, Montreuil, France

Pulling from History: The Old Masters, The Print Center, Philadelphia, United States

2008

Zerbrechliche Schönheit, Glas im Blick der Kunst, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany

Addicted to Paper, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

A Year in Drawing, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

Medieval to Modern, The National Gallery of Art, Washington, United States

2007

Die Kunst zu Sammeln, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany

Fairy Tale, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall, United Kingdom

Making a Mark: Four Contemporary Artists in Print, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, United States

2006

DEFINING THE CONTEMPORARY, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom

The OJAC Celebrates Rembrandt's 400th Birthday, The Old Jail Art Center, Albany, United States

2004

Nancy Spero and Kiki Smith, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, United Kingdom

2003

Warum! Bilder diesseits und jenseits des Menschen, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany

The Smiths - Tony, Kiki, Seton, The Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art (PBICA), Lake Worth, United States

2002

Cross References: -Celebrating the Stuart Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego - MCASD, La Jolla, United States

2001

Import, Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin, Ireland

2000

Zeitwenden, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig (MUMOK), Vienna, Austria

Zeitwenden - Rückblick und Ausblick, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany

1999

Reality and Desire, Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, Spain

1998

THE PATCHETT COLLECTION, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego - MCASD, La Jolla, United States

1997

AUGENZEUGEN. DIE SAMMLUNG HANCK, Papierarbeiten der 80er und 90er Jahre, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany

1996

Féminin-masculin: Le sexe de l'art, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

1995

Some went mad, some ran away …, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA), Chicago, United States

1994

Some Went Mad, Some Ran Away, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom

1993

Dissent, Difference and the Body Politic, Ben Maltz Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

1992

Désordres, Jeu de Paume, Paris, France

Post Human, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy

More than One Photography: Works since 1980 from the Collection, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, United States

1991

The Body, The Renaissance Society, Chicago, United States

1988

Contemporary Print Acquisitions, 1986–1988, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, United States

Biennials (selection)

2022

23rd Biennale of Sydney: rīvus, Biennale de Sydney, Sydney, Australia

2017

57th Venice Biennale - Viva Arte Viva, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

2008

XIII Biennale Internazionale di Scultura di Carrara, Comune di Carrara, Carrara, Italy

2005

Homespun Tales. Storie di occupazione domestica, Fondazione Querini Stampalia, 51st Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

2003

Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial 2003, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, Niigata-Ken, Japan

2002

La Biennale de Montréal 2002, Biennale de Montréal, Montreal, Canada

Whitney Biennial 2002, Whitney Biennial, New York, United States

1995

46th International Art Exhibition Venice Biennale / Biennale di Venezia, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

1993

Whitney Biennial, Whitney Biennial, New York, United States

Public collections (selection)

Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia

Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée, La Louvière, Belgium

Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France

FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France

Musée Départemental d'Art Contemporain de Rochechouart, Rochechouart, France

ALTANA Kulturstiftung im Sinclair-Haus, Bad Homburg, Germany

Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst (GfZK), Leipzig, Germany

Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany

Städtisches Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach, Germany

The Walther Collection, Neu-Ulm, Germany

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin, Ireland

MAXXI - Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Rome, Italy

Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto (MART), Rovereto, Italy

Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi, Japan

Osten Museum of Drawing, Skopje, Macedonia

Museo Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico

ARTIUM - Basque Museum Center of Contemporary Art, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León (MUSAC), Léon, Spain

Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

UBS Art Collection, Zürich, Switzerland

Cass Sculpture Foundation, Chichester, United Kingdom

Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

Akron Art Museum, Akron, United States

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, United States

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, United States

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, United States

Broad Contemporary Art Museum, Santa Monica, United States

Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, United States

Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, United States

Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, United States

Exit Art, New York, United States

Fisher Landau Center For Art, New York, United States

Fort Wayne Museum of Art (FWMoA), Fort Wayne, United States

Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman, United States

Hessel Museum of Art & Center for Curatorial Studies Galleries at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, United States

Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, United States

Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art, Evanston, United States

Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM), Milwaukee, United States

MOCA Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, United States

Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, United States

Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, United States

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, United States

Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, United States

North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, United States

Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, United States

Portland Art Museum, Portland, United States

Saint Louis University Museum of Art (SLUMA), Saint Louis, United States

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, United States

Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, United States

The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, United States

The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, United States

The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, United States

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, United States

The Newark Museum, Newark, United States

The Obama Presidentiel Center, Chicago, United States

The Rose Art Museum, Waltham, United States

The Warehouse, Dallas, United States

The William Benton Museum of Art, Storrs, United States

Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery, Nashville, United States

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, United States

Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, United States

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, United States

Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, United States