

Leonardo Drew

Leonardo Drew was born in 1961 in Tallahassee, Florida. He lives and works in New York.

Leonardo Drew is known for creating contemplative, abstract sculptural works, playing upon a tension between order and chaos. At once monumental and intimate in scale, his work recalls post-Minimalist sculpture alluding to America's industrial past. He transforms accumulations of raw materials, such as wood, scrap metal, and cotton, to articulate overlapping themes with emotional gravitas, from the cyclical nature of life and decay to the erosion of time.

Drew's mid-career survey, "Existed", premiered in 2009 at the Blaffer Gallery at the University of Houston, and travelled to the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Massachusetts. In summer 2019, he was commissioned to create a new outdoor sculpture for Madison Square Park; this marked the Madison Square Park Conservancy's 38th public commission and the artist's first major public art project. Recent solo exhibitions include ones at the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson (2020); North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh (2020); De Young Museum – Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, California (2017); Palazzo Delle Papesse, Centro Arte Contemporanea, Siena (2006); Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (2000).

Leonardo Drew's works are present in numerous public collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; Tate, London.

Solo shows (selection)

2025

Ubiquity II, South London Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Galerie Lelong

2024

Ubiquity, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Leonardo Drew, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2022

Leonardo Drew: Cycles, Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw, United States

2021

Leonardo Drew, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Leonardo Drew, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

Leonardo Drew, Pace Prints, New York, United States

2020

City in the Grass, The Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, United States

Cycles, From the Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation, Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art, Bloomington, United States

Making Chaos Legible, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, United States

2019

Leonardo Drew, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Hammer Projects: Leonardo Drew, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, United States

Leonardo Drew, Anthony Meier Fine Arts, San Francisco, United States

Leonardo Drew, Galerie Lelong, New York City, United States

Leonardo Drew: Cycles, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, United States

2017

Leonardo Drew, CAM, Raleigh, United States

Leonardo Drew, Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas, United States

Number 197, de Young Museum, San Francisco, United States

2016

Eleven Etchings, Crown Point Press, San Francisco, United States

Galerie Lelong

Leonardo Drew, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, United States

2015

Leonardo Drew, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong

Leonardo Drew, Pace Prints, New York, United States

2014

Leonardo Drew, Anthony Meier Fine Arts, San Francisco, United States

2013

Leonardo Drew, Vigo Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Exhumation/Small Works, Canzani Center Gallery at Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, United States

Selected Works, SCAD Museum of Art at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, United States

2012

Leonardo Drew, Pace Prints, New York City, United States

Leonardo Drew, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, United States

2011

Leonardo Drew, Galleria Napolinobilissima, Naples, Italy

Leonardo Drew, Vigo, London, United Kingdom

Leonardo drew, Anthony Meier Fine Arts, San Francisco, United States

2010

Leonardo Drew, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, United States

Window Works: Leonardo Drew, Artpace, San Antonio, United States

2009

Leonardo Drew, Fine Art Society, London, United Kingdom

Existed: Leonardo Drew, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, United States

Existed: Leonardo Drew, the Art Museum of the University, Houston, United States

Galerie Lelong

Existed: Leonardo Drew, Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, United States

2007

Leonardo Drew, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, United States

2006

Leonardo Drew, Palazzo Delle Papesse, Centro Arte Contemporanea, Siena, Italy

2002

Leonardo Drew: New Work, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, United States

2001

Leonardo Drew, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland

Leonardo Drew, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, United States

2000

Leonardo Drew, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, United States

Leonardo Drew, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, United States

1999

Leonardo Drew, Madison Art Center, Madison, United States

1997

Leonardo Drew, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Gainesville, United States

1996

Currents: Leonardo Drew, Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, United States

Leonardo Drew, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, United States

1995

Ground Level Overlay, Merce Cunningham Dance Company Collaboration, New York City, United States

Leonardo Drew, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, United States

Leonardo Drew, The Pace Roberts Foundation for Contemporary Art, San Antonio, United States

Galerie Lelong

1994

Leonardo Drew, San Francisco Art Institute, Walter/Mc Bean Gallery, San Francisco, United States

1992

Leonardo Drew, Thread Waxing Space, New York City, United States

Group shows (selection)

2024

Materials and Objects collection display, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom

2023

Exercises in Imagination, National Academy of Design, New York, United States

Seeing Stars: Works From The Fischer/shull Collection Of Contemporary Art, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-America Arts and Culture, Charlotte, United States

2022

Black Abstractionists: From Then 'Til Now, Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, United States

Strange Weather, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History , Santa Cruz , United States

Strange Weather: From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, Santa Cruz, United States

2020

Riffs and Relations : African American Artists and the European Modernist Tradition, The Phillips Collection, Washington, United States

Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, United States

Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, Pérez Art Museum, Miami, United States

2019

30 Americans, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, United States

Legends and Legacy: Revolutions in Hand Papermaking, Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, Philadelphia, United States

Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, United States

Galerie Lelong

2018

Talisman in the Age of Difference, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, United States

Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, Snite Museum of Art, Notre Dame, United States

2017

Materialised Condition, Pearl Lam Galleries, Singapore

New at NOMA: Recent Acquisitions in Modern and Contemporary Art, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, United States

Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, United States

2016

Structures of Recollection, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong

Haptic, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, United States

2015

Black: Color, Material, Concept, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, United States

Showing Off: Recent Modern and Contemporary Acquisitions, Denver Art Museum, Denver, United States

Unsuspected Possibilities, SITE, Santa Fe, United States

2014

Summer Group Show, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Sweden

2013

Material World, Denver Art Museum, Denver, United States

2012

Against the Grain – Wood in Contemporary Art, Craft and Design, Mint Museum, Charlotte, United States

San Antonio Collects Contemporary, San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, United States

Galerie Lelong

2011

The Bearden Project, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, United States

Toward the Third Dimension, David Floria Gallery, Aspen, United States

2010

Collected. Reflections on the Permanent Collection, Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, United States

From then to Now: Masterworks of Contemporary African American Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, United States

Lost and Found: Selections from the MCA Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, United States

2009

Your Golden Teeth II, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, United States

2006

Black Alphabet: Contexts of Contemporary African American Art, Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland

Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery, The New York Historical Society, New York, United States

2005

Between Image and Concept: Recent Acquisitions in African-American Art, Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, United States

2004

Material Pleasures, Green on Red Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

2001

Brooklyn!, Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art, Lake Worth, United States

2000

Vanitas: Meditations on Life and Death in Contemporary Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, United States

Galerie Lelong

1998

Bill Jenson/Leonardo Drew, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, United States

1997

New Work: Words & Images, Miami Art Museum, Miami, United States

1996

Leonardo Drew/Mark Francis/Oliver Herring, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, United States

1995

1995 Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, United States

About Place: Recent Art of the Americas, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, United States

1994

Promising Suspects, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, United States

1993

Markets of Resistance, White Columns, New York, United States

1992

Three Sculptors: Leonardo Drew, Lisa Hoke, Brad Kahlhamer, Thread Waxing Space, New York, United States

1991

From the Studio: Artists in Residence, 1990-91, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, United States

Installations (selection)

2023

Number 235T, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, United States

Number 360, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, United States

Number 381, Miami University, Oxford, United States

2021

City in the Grass, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, United States

Galerie Lelong

2020

City in the Grass, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, United States

2019

City in the Grass, Madison Square Park, New York City, United States

Public collections (selection)

Caldic Collectie, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Sorigue Foundation Collection, Lleida, Spain

Tate, London, United Kingdom

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, United States

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York City, United States

Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami, United States

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, United States

Denver Art Museum, Denver, United States

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, United States

Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, United States

Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, United States

Hallmark Art Collection, Kansas City, United States

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, United States

Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, United States

Linda Pace Foundation, San Antonio, United States

McNay Museum of Art, San Antonio, United States

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, United States

Mott-Warsh Collection, Flint, United States

Galerie Lelong

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, United States

National Gallery of Art, Washington, United States

New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana, United States

Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, United States

Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, United States

Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, United States

Progressive Art Collection, Mayfield Village, United States

What's Going On, Rubell Museum DC, Washington, United States

Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, Chicago, United States

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City, United States

St Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, United States

Studio Museum in Harlem, New York City, United States

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, United States

Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, United States

West Collection, Oaks, United States