

# Alison Saar

Alison Saar was born in Los Angeles in 1956 to a ceramist and art restorer father and an artist mother, Betye Saar. She is a graduate of Scripps College in Claremont, California and the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, where she lives and works.

Over the last forty years, she has built up a rich body of work that is still little known in Europe, made up of sculptures and installations at the crossroads of various cultural influences (Afro-American culture, Caribbean folklore and spirituality, mythology and art brut) and centred essentially on the identity of black women in the United States.

Saar has also developed a unique printmaking practice, experimenting with woodcut, silkscreen, linocut and lithography. Echoing her sculptural practice, which incorporates numerous found objects, her prints are sometimes printed on different media – jute sacks, old handkerchiefs and tea towels, etc. – and enriched by collage and chine collé techniques, revealing a surprising material intensity.

Saar's work has been exhibited in prestigious American museums, and can be found in the collections of MoMA (New York), the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles), the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), the Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington) and the National Gallery of Australia (Canberra).

Several of her sculptures have been installed in public spaces in the United States, and in 2024 the work *Salon* was inaugurated in the Aznavour garden in Paris to coincide with the Olympic Games.

## Solo shows (selection)

2025

*Sweet Life*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2023

*Uproot*, L.A. Louver, Venice, United States

2022

*Backwater Blues*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

*Alison Saar: Works from the Permanent Collection*, Appleton Museum, College of Central, Ocala, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2021

*Mirror, Mirror: The Prints of Alison Saar*, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art WSU, Washington, United States

2020

*Alison Saar: Of Aether and Earthe*, Benton Museum of Art, Pomona College, Claremont, United States

*Chaos in the Kitchen*, Frieze Los Angeles, Paramount Pictures Studio, Los Angeles, United States

*Syncoption*, L.A. Louver, Los Angeles, United States

2019

*Alison Saar, Printmaker*, Tandem Press Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, United States

*Mirror Mirror: The Prints and Sculpture of Alison Saar*, University of North Texas, Denton, United States

2018

*Topsy Turvy*, L.A. Louver, Venice, United States

2017

*Alison Saar: The Nature of Us*, Harvey B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, United States

*Alison Saar: Work on Paper*, David Klein Gallery, Detroit, United States

*Crepuscular Blue: Prints and Sculpture by Alison*, Pacific Northwest College of Art, Center for Contemporary Art and Culture, Portland, United States

2016

*Alison Saar in Print*, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, United States

*Alison Saar: Breach*, Lafayette College, Easton, United States

*Silt, Soot and Smut*, L.A. Louver, Venice, United States

2015

*Alison Saar*, Tuttle Gallery, McDonogh School, Owings Mills, United States

*Bearing*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

*Thistle and Twitch*, Sonoma County Museum, Santa Rosa, United States

2014

*Hothouse*, Watts Towers Art Center, Watts, United States

*Winter*, The Fields Sculpture Park, OMI International Arts Center, Ghent, United States

2013

*Slough*, L.A. Louver, Venice, United States

2012

*Still...*, Ben Maltz Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

2011

*Alison Saar*, Lux Art Institute, Encinitas, United States

*Feallan and Fallow*, Madison Square Park, New York, United States

2010

*Bound for Glory*, Hoffman Gallery, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, United States

*Foison and Fallow*, L.A. Louver, Venice, United States

2009

*Alison Saar*, Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara, United States

2008

*Alison Saar, presented by Deborah Ronnen Fine Art*, Rochester Contemporary Art Center,  
Rochester, United States

*Hither*, L.A. Louver, Venice, United States

2007

*Duped: Prints by Alison Saar*, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, United  
States

*Whither*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, United States

2006

*Coup*, L.A. Louver, Venice, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2005

*Alison Saar*, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, United States

2003

*Alison Saar: Artist in Residence*, Jaffe-Friede & Strauss Galleries, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover, United States

*Bittersweet*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

*Lost/Found*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, United States

*Tête à Tête*, Springfield Art Museum, Springfield, United States

*Topsy Turvy: Sculpture by Alison Saar*, ASU Art Museum, Tempe, United States

2001

*Diggin*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

*(Post)Teriors*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, United States

2000

*Body Politics: The Female Image in Luba Art and the Sculpture of Alison Saar*, The UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, United States

1999

*New Works*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, United States

*Recent Work*, Herron Gallery, Indiana University, Indianapolis, United States

*Terra Incognita*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, United States

1998

*Half in Shadow and Half in Light*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

*Sculpture by Alison Saar*, The Trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, Cornish, United States

1997

*Alison Saar*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

*Alison Saar*, Laumier Sculpture Park and Museum, Saint Louis, United States

*Alison Saar*, List Gallery, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

*Hairesies*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, United States

1996

*Strange Fruit*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, United States

*The Woods Within*, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, United States

1994

*Catfish Dreamin'*, Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, United States

*Directions*, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, United States

*Fertile Ground: Art at the Edge*, High Museum, Atlanta, United States

*Myth, Magic, and Ritual: Figurative Work by Alison Saar*, Freedman Gallery, Albright College, Reading, United States

*Sculptural Portraits, Wall Works and Artist's Books*, Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, United States

1993

*Alison Saar: Directions*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, United States

*Myth, Magic, and Figurative Work by Alison Saar*, Freedman Gallery, Albright College, Center for the Arts, Reading, United States

1992

*Inside Looking In*, Neuberger Museum, State University of New York, New York, United States

*Slow Boat*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, United States

## Group shows (selection)

2024

*2023-24 Common Seeing. My*, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, United States

*5: Five Years of Acquisitions*, Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, United States

*(Re) Work It! Women Artists on Women's Labor*, Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, United States

*Shifting Landscapes*, Whitney Museum, New York, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

*The Art of Food From the Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation*, The Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, United States

*The is a Woman in Every Color, Black Women in Art*, Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, United States

*The Rains are Changing Fast*, The Hecksher Museum of Art, Huntington, United States

*The Shape of Power: Stories of Race and American Sculpture*, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, United States

*View from the Studio*, L.A. Louver, Venice, United States

2023

*Afro-Atlantic Histories*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, United States

*American Voices and Visions. Modern and Contemporary Art*, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, United States

*Cycle of Creativity: Alison Saar and the Toni Morrison*, Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, United States

*Monument*, Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, United States

*Resting Our Eyes*, Institute of Contemporary Art, San Francisco, United States

*Rising Sun: Artists in an Uncertain America*, The African American Museum, Philadelphia, United States

*Strange Weather*, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene, United States

*Tender Loving Care*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, United States

*The Sky's the Limit*, The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, United States

2022

*A Site of Struggle: American Art Against Anti-Black Violence*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, United States

*Claiming Space. Refiguring the Body in Landscape*, Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, United States

*Make My Presence Known: Magdalena Abakanowicz, Nick Cave and Alison Saar*, Weatherspoon Museum of Art, Greensboro, United States

*Monuments: Commemoration and Controversy*, New York Historical Society, New York, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

*Social Fabric Textiles and Contemporary Issues*, Newport Art Museum, Newport, United States

*Supernatural America: The Paranormal in American Art*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, United States

2021

*Legends from Los Angeles: Betye, Lezley and Alison Saar in the Crocker Collection*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, United States

*Picturing Motherhood Now*, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, United States

2020

*Tell Me Your Story*, Kunsthall Museum, Rotterdam, Netherlands

2019

*LA Blacksmith*, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, United States

2018

*2018 Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts*, The American Academy of Arts & Letters, New York, United States

*Hopes Springing High: Gifts of Art by African American Artists*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, United States

*Like Life: Sculpture, Color and the Body (1300-now)*, The Met Breuer, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, United States

*Rise Up! Social Justice in Art*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, United States

## Biennials (selection)

2002

*Alison Saar*, Muse Boribana, dakArt Biennial, Dakar, Senegal

## Public collections (selection)

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia

Baltimore Art Museum, Baltimore, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, United States

Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, United States

Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, United States

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, United States

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, United States

MoMA, New York, United States

National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C, United States

Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, United States

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C, United States

Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, United States

The Hecksher Museum of Art, Huntington, United States

Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, United States

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, United States

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, United States