

## Arthur Jafa

## Biography

- 1960 Born Tupelo MS, USA  
 1983 Howard University, Washington DC, USA  
 Lives and works in Los Angeles CA, USA

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 *Helter Skelter: Arthur Jafa and Richard Prince*, Fondazione Prada, Venice, Italy
- 2025 *Less Is Morbid*, MoMA Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA  
*GLAS NEGUS SUPREME*, Sadie Coles HQ, Kingly Street, London, England  
*HARDCORE / LOVE*, Conditions, London, England  
*Love Is The Message, The Message Is Death*, E-Werk, Luckenwalde, Germany  
*Love Is The Message, The Message Is Death*, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, New York NY, USA
- 2024 *Part 2*, Champ Lacombe, Biarritz, France  
*nativemanson*, Sprüth Magers, Los Angeles CA, USA  
*Part 1*, Champ Lacombe, Biarritz, France  
*Works from the MCA Collection*, MCA Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL, USA  
*BLACK POWER TOOL AND DIE TRYNIG*, 52 Walker, New York NY, USA  
 \*\*\*\*, Gladstone Gallery, New York NY, USA
- 2023 *Unrest*, Fiona and Sidney Myer Gallery, University of Melbourne, Australia
- 2022 *RHAMESJAFACOSEYJAFADRAYTON*, OGR Torino, Italy  
*The White Album*, 5 West 127th Street, New York NY, USA  
*Live Evil*, LUMA Foundation, Arles, France  
*Love Is The Message, the Message Is Death*, Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria, Australia
- 2021 *AGHDRA*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York NY, USA  
 Glenstone, Potomac MD, USA  
 Gladstone 64, Gladstone Gallery, New York NY, USA  
*MAGNUMB*, The Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk, Denmark  
*Dinosaur Fried Chicken Man*, Cahiers d'Art, Paris, France
- 2020 *A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions*, Fundação de Serralves, Porto, Portugal  
*Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Canada
- 2019 *Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, Palazzo Madama, Turin, Italy  
*A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden  
*A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions*, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2018 *The White Album*, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley CA, USA  
*Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, Luma Westbau, Zurich, Switzerland  
*air above mountains, unknown pleasures*, Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York NY, USA

- Arthur Jafa – APEX*, LUMA Arles, France  
*Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, Gavin Brown's enterprise, Sant' Andrea de Scaphis, Rome, Italy  
*Love is The Message, The Message is Death*, MCA The Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver CO, USA  
*Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, Davidson College Art Museum, Davidson NC, USA  
*A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions*, Julia Stoschek Foundation, Berlin, Germany  
*Love is The Message, The Message is Death*, ICA Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston MA, USA  
 2017 *Love is The Message, The Message is Death*, The Vinyl Factory, Store Studios, London, England  
 MOCAD Detroit Offsite, 1086 Bellevue Street, Detroit MI, USA  
*Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, LUMA Foundation, Arles, France  
*A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions*, Serpentine Gallery, London, England  
*Love is The Message, The Message is Death*, MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA, USA  
 2016 *Love is The Message, The Message is Death*, Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York NY, USA

### Group Exhibitions

- 2026 *AURA*, AMA Venezia, Venice, Italy  
*Freedom Dreams*, Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia PA, USA  
*Chase a Crooked Shadow: Film Noir as Contemporary Mirror*, The Warehouse Dallas, Dallas TX, USA  
*What a Wonderful World: an Audiovisual Poem*, Variety Arts Theatre, Los Angeles CA, USA  
*In Character*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah GA, USA  
 2025 *Deep Water*, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Lousiana's New Works*, Louisiana Museum of Art, Humlebæk, Denmark  
*Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys*, VMFA Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond VA, USA  
*Paradigm Shift*, 180 Studios, London, England  
 Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
*Corps et âme*, The Bourse de Commerce – Pinault Collection, Paris, France  
 2024 *Days of Re-Entry*, CAC Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania  
*The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati CO, USA  
 Summer Show, curated by Philippe Parreno, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen, Switzerland  
*Come One, Come All*, Anthony Gallery, Chicago IL, USA  
*If not now, when?*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague, The Netherlands  
*Surrealism and Us: Caribbean and African Diasporic Artists since 1940*, The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth TX, USA  
*Improbable Anagrams: Works from the Serralves Collection*, Museu Fundação Serralves, Porto, Portugal

- The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- Cinema Galleggiante (Floating Cinema) festival, Palazzo Grassi, Pinault Collection, Venice, Italy
- Post Human*, Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA
- Yours Truly*, Nahmad Contemporary, New York NY, USA
- cover me softly*, Beta 2024 Biennial, Timisoara, Romania
- Sacred Dreams of the Promised Land*, Queen Rose Art House, Tulsa OK, USA
- 2023 *Musical Thinking: New Video Artists in the Collection*, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC, USA
- Glitch. Die Kunst der Störung*, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany
- Message from America*, Nassima Landau Art Foundation, Tel Aviv, Israel
- SLOPEX*, LUMA Westbau, Zurich, Switzerland
- Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage*, Frist Art Museum, Nashville
- BACK*, Peter Freeman Gallery, New York NY, USA
- I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen*, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth TX, USA
- Deutsche Börse Photo Prize, The Photographer's Gallery, London, England
- NOT FOR SALE, NXTHVN*, New Haven CT, USA
- The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore MD, USA
- Soft and Weak Like Water*, 14th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
- Arthur Jafa: akingdoncomethas*, TONO Festival, Alameda Art Laboratory, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2022 *Real Corporeal*, curated by Ben Broome, 439 West 127th Street, New York NY, USA
- Techno, Berlin und die große Freiheit*, Julia Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf, Germany
- Mimicries*, curated by Jeffrey Stucker and Jan Tumlir, Ben Hunter Gallery, London, England
- America: Between Dreams and Realities*, Selections from the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Musée national des beaux-arts, Québec, Canada
- Future Bodies from a Recent Past - Skulptur, Technologie, Körper seit den 1950er-Jahren*, Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany
- Museum Brandhorst Globalisto. A Philosophy in flux*, curated by Mo Laudi, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain Saint-Étienne, France
- Mountain/Time*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen CO, USA
- Drawing Together*, Museum Bellpark, Kriens, Switzerland
- Unweaving the binary code – Hannah Ryggen Triennale*, Kunsthall Trondheim, Norway
- The Tender, Fragile Thing*, The School, Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, New York NY, USA
- Just Futures: Black Quantum Futurism*, Sesnon Art Gallery, Santa Cruz CA, USA
- CHAOS: CALM*, Bangkok Art Biennale, Thailand
- 2021 *Family: Visions of a Share Humanity* curated by Franklin Sirmans, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

- Black American Portraits*, LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles CA, USA  
*The Sun Machine is Coming Down International Congress Centre*, Berlin, Germany  
*Image Processors: Artists in the Medium – A Short History 1968-2020*, Adam Art Gallery,  
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand  
*The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse*, Virginia Museum  
of Fine Arts, Richmond VA, USA  
*The Slipstream: Reflection, Resilience, and Resistance in the Art of Our Time*, Brooklyn  
Museum, New York NY, USA  
*I CARE BECAUSE YOU DO*, The Mass, Tokyo  
*A Million Roses for Angela Davis*, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Germany  
*A Fire in My Belly*, Julia Stoschek Collection, Berlin, Germany  
*Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America*, New Museum, New York NY, USA  
*Virgil Abloh: Figures of Speech*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston MA, USA  
2020 *Living Just Enough*, Goodman Gallery, London, England  
Wesleyan University Centre for the Arts, Middletown, Connecticut CT, USA  
*Nirin Naarm*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia  
*The White Album*, 22nd Biennale of Sydney Punta della Dogana, curated by Muna El Fituri,  
Thomas Houseago, and Caroline Bourgeois, Venice, Italy  
2019 *Paul Pfeiffer / Washington: D.C*, Exodus, Bortolami Gallery, Watergate Office Building,  
Washington DC, USA  
*Tell me about yesterday tomorrow*, Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National  
Socialism, Munich, Germany  
*Ebsploitation*, Martos Gallery, New York NY, USA  
*Surrounds: 11 Installations*, Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA  
*Forever Young; 10 Years Museum Brandhorst*, Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany  
*May You Live In Interesting Times*, 58<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, curated by Ralph Rugoff, Venice, Italy  
*Medicine for a Nightmare*, Kunstneres Hus, Oslo, Norway  
*Dreamweavers*, curated by Nicola Vassell, UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles CA, USA  
*HYPHER! A JOURNEY INTO ART AND MUSIC*, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg  
*Prisoner of Love*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago IL, USA  
2018 *Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, Perez Art Museum, Miami FL, USA  
*Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, High Museum, Atlanta True Luxury, Stedelijk  
Museum Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Nothing Stable under Heaven*, SFMOMA Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco CA, USA  
*The Pain of Others*, Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA  
*There's nothing new under the sun, but there are new suns*, Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht,  
The Netherlands  
2017 *Truth: 24 Frames Per Second*, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas TX, USA  
*The Message*, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC, USA  
*Picture Industry*, Hessel Museum, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson NY, USA  
*The Body Politic: Video from the Met Collection*, Met Breuer, New York NY, USA

- 2016 *Made in L.A. 2016*, The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles CA, USA
- 2014 *Ruffneck Constructivists*, curated by Kara Walker, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia PA, USA
- 2002 *Social Formal*, Westfälischer Kunstveren, Münster, Germany  
*My Black Death*, ARTPACE, San Antonio TX, USA
- 2001 *Mirror's Edge*, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Denmark  
*Mirror's Edge*, Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland  
*Bitstreams*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY, USA  
*A Small Museum and a Large Library of Contemporary Art: Parkett Collaborations & Editions since 1984*, Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA  
*Economie de moyens*, Musee d'Art Contemporain, Marseille, France  
*Jheronimus Bosch*, Musee d'art moderne et contemporain, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2000 *Mirror's Edge*, Castello di Rivoli, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli, Italy  
Whitney Biennial 2000, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY, USA  
*Mirror's Edge*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
*Media City*, Seoul, Korea  
*Black Box*, CCAC Institute, Oakland CA, USA
- 1999 *Mirror's Edge*, Bildmusseet, Umeå, Sweden  
*Dexter Buell, Arthur Jafa, Judy Stevens*, Artists Space, New York NY, USA  
Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland  
Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada

**Directed Films**

- 2024 *LOML (52 Walker Version)*  
*BG*
- 2022 *SloPEX*  
*LOML*
- 2021 *AGHDRA*  
*Dirty Tesla*
- 2020 *Wash Us in the Blood*
- 2018 *akingdoncomethas*  
*The White Album*
- 2017 *JAY-Z 4:44*  
*Crystal and Nick Siegfried*  
*Ms.Hillsonga*  
*Cassowary: Mechanics of Empathy*
- 2016 *Love is the Message, The Message is Death*
- 2015 *Sharifa Walks*
- 2014 *Adrian Young*
- 2013 *Dreams are Colder than Death*

*APEX*

- 2009 *Deshotten 1.0*  
2001 *Tree*  
2000 *Black Millenium Corner*  
*Corner*  
1999 *Yellow Jacket*  
1996 *Smile*  
1995 *Slowly This*  
1982 *Considerations*

**Cinematography**

- 2018 *Happy Birthday, Marsha!*  
2017 *Cranes in the Sky*  
*Don't Touch My Hair*  
2014 *In the Morning*  
*Florida Water*  
2013 *Head and Hands: My Black Angel*  
*Nine for IX*  
2012 *Roomieloverfriends*  
*Shadows of Liberty*  
2009 *William Lynch: Bible Stories*  
*Meet the Eye*  
2007 *AfterLife*  
2004 *Conakry Kas*  
2003 *Bamako Sigi-Kan*  
2002 *I Am Ali*  
1991 *American Experience*  
1999 *Eyes Wide Shut*  
1996 *American Masters*  
*W.E.B. DuBois: A Biography in Four Voices*  
1995 *Rouch in Reverse*  
*A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde*  
1994 *Crooklyn*  
*The Darker Side of Black*  
1993 *Seven Songs for Malcolm X*  
1991 *Daughters of the Dust*

**Screenings**

- 2024 *Dreams are Colder than Death*, The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute at Williams  
College, Williamstown MA, USA

- 2019 *The White Album*, Purple Garden Cinema, The Underground Museum, Los Angeles CA, 12 July  
*The Hidden Pulse in collaboration with M+*, *Love is the Message, the Message is Death*, The Playhouse Theatre, Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia, 30 May  
*Conversation and Screening in Conjunction with Medicine for a Nightmare*, Kunstneres Hus, Oslo, Norway, 21 March  
*Affective Proximity: Films by Arthur Jafa and Others; Conversation with Arthur Jafa and Greg Tate*, BAMPHA, Berkeley CA, USA, 28 February  
*Dreams Are Colder Than Death; In Conversation with Arthur Jafa and Leigh Raiford*, BAMPHA, Berkeley CA, USA, 27 February
- 2018 *Dreams Are Colder Than Death*, ICA MIAMI, Miami FL, USA, 13 September  
*Dreams Are Colder Than Death*, ICA Boston, Boston MA, USA, 19 August  
*Dreams Are Colder Than Death*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco CA, USA, May 2017  
*Carrie Mae Weems: The Shape of Things*, Park Avenue Armory, New York NY, USA, 17 December  
*AFROGLOSSIA Film Program*, Performa 17, New York NY, USA, 6 November  
*Dreams are Colder than Death*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles LA, USA, 11 May  
*Dreams are Colder than Death, APEX\_scenario, Cassowary: Mechanics of Empathy, Considerations*, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn NY, USA, 28 March
- 2016 *Dreams are Colder than Death*, ICP, New York NY, USA, 26 September  
*Dreams are Colder than Death*, International Center of Photography School, Barnard College, New York NY, USA, 26 September (with Christina Sharpe, Reina Gossett & Tavia Nyong'o)  
*Dreams are Colder than Death*, Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Art, New York NY, USA, 22 August  
*Arthur Jafa and Manohla Dargis: A Screening and Conversation*, SUNY Purchase NY, USA, 28 February
- 2015 *Dreams Are Colder Than Death*, Project Row Houses, Houston TX, USA, 15 November  
*Dreams Are Colder Than Death*, Aurora Picture Show, Houston Cinema Arts Society, Houston, TX, USA, 14 November  
*APEX Redacted, Flux Night 2015: Dream*, Atlanta GA, USA (with Rashida Bumbray, Elissa Blount Moorhead)
- 2014 *bell hooks and Arthur Jafa discuss Transgression in Public Spaces*, The New School, New York NY, USA, 19 October  
*Arthur Jafa on the Making of 'Dreams Are Colder than Death'*, The City College of New York, New York NY, USA, 2 October  
*Dreams Are Colder than Death*, 52nd New York Film Festival, New York NY, USA, 30 September  
*Dreams Are Colder Than Death*, ICA Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA, USA, 19 March
- 2013 *Arthur Jafa, APEX\_TNEG*, MIT, Boston MA, USA, 25 February

**Public Collections**

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York NY, USA  
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York NY, USA  
Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA  
Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York NY, USA  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY, USA  
Hessel Museum, Annandale-On-Hudson NY, USA  
Glenstone Museum, Potomac MD, USA  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston MA, USA  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, USA  
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC, USA  
Detroit Institute of Arts, USA  
Minneapolis Institute of Art, USA  
Pérez Museum, Miami FL, USA  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA, USA  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, USA  
Dallas Museum of Art, USA  
High Museum, Atlanta GA, USA  
Tate, London, England  
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Fondation LVMH, Paris, France  
Pinault Collection, Paris, France  
LUMA Foundation, Arles, France  
Brandhorst Museum, Munich, Germany  
Julia Stoschek Collection, Berlin/Cologne, Germany  
Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy  
Domus Collection, New York/Beijing  
Rennie Museum, Vancouver, Canada

**Awards**

2019 Prix International d'Art Contemporain, Prince Pierre Foundation  
Golden Lion Award, 58th Venice Biennale  
2018 Herb Alpert Award  
2017 Paul Robeson Award, Actor's Equity Association  
2015 Best Documentary, Black Star Film Festival (for Dreams are Colder than Death)  
1992 Cinematography Award, Sundance Film Festival (for Daughters of the Dust)