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 *Love is the Message, The Message is Death*, The Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk VA, USA
I Am Tony, New Museum, New York NY, USA
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 *RHAMESJAFACOSEYJAFADRAYTO*N, 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 *10 Years LA!,* Sprüth Magers, Los Angeles CA, USA
AURA, AMA Venezia, Venice, Italy
Everything Must Change, Radical Intelligence, Saloniki 9, Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece
Space is the Place: Selections from the Hammer Contemporary Collection, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles CA, USA
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 modern 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 Bienniale, 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
Ebsploitatian, 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, 58th Venice Biennale, curated by Ralph Rugoff, Venice, Italy
Medicine for a Nightmare, Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo, Norway
Dreamweavers, curated by Nicola Vassell, UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles CA, USA
HYPER! 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*, Kunsthal 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 Younge*
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, Kunstnernes 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)