Martine Syms **Biography**

1988 Born in Los Angeles CA, USA
2007 BFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL, USA
2017 MFA, Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson NY, USA
Lives and works in Los Angeles CA, USA

Solo Exhibitions

2026 *Knot Eye*, Sadie Coles HQ, Kingly Street, London, England
Collection in Focus: Martine Syms, The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN, USA
Dominica Publishing, a temporary boutique, Sprüth Magers, Berlin, Germany
*Soliloquy, S*aint Louis Art Museum, St Louis MO, USA
2024 *Total*, Lafayette Foundation, Paris, France
2023 *Present Goo*, Sadie Coles HQ, Davies Street, London, England
Loser Back Home, Sprüth Magers, Los Angeles CA, USA
Ugly Plymouths, Carré d'Art – Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nîmes, France
2022 *SHE MAD S1:E4,* MCA Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL, USA (touring)
Grio College, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson NY, USA
Neural Swamp, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia PA, USA, (touring)
with Arthur Jafa, *We Are Not Aliens: Arthur Jafa, Martine Syms, and Afro-Futurism 2.0*, as part of *Beyond the End of the World: Approaches in Contemporary Art Seminar*, Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery, UC University California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA, USA
2021 *She Mad: Season One,* Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway
Neural Swamp, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy
Loot Sweets, Bridget Donahue Gallery, New York NY, USA
Aphrodite's Beasts, Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany
SHE MAD S1:E4, part of Glasgow International, Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland
*HOMEWORK #*8, Sadie Coles HQ online
SOFT, Sadie Coles HQ, Bury Street, London, England
2020 *Ugly Plymouths*, Sadie Coles HQ off-site: 24 Cork Street, London, England
New Media Series, SLAM | St Louis Art Museum, St. Louis MO, USA
Ugly Plymouths, 5239 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA, USA, presented by Bridget Donahue Gallery and Sadie Coles HQ, London
2019 *Boon*, Secession, Vienna, Austria
Shame Space, Institute of Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond VA, USA
2018 *Incense Sweaters & Ice*, Graham Foundation, Chicago IL, USA
Big Surprise, Bridget Donahue Gallery, New York NY, USA
SHE MAD: Laughing Gas, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL, USA
Grand Calme, Sadie Coles HQ, London, England

FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland OH, USA

Contemporary Projects: Martine Syms, Serralves Foundation, Porto, Portugal

2017 *Projects 106: Martine Syms*, MoMA Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA

VNXXCAS: Martine Syms, Camden Arts Centre, Londonn England

The Easy Demands, CONDO: Bridget Donahue hosted by Sadie Coles HQ, London, England

2016 *Borrowed Lady,* Audain Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

Fact & Trouble, ICA Institute of Contemporary Art, London, England

COM PORT MENT, Karma International, Beverly Hills CA, USA

Black Box, Human Resources, Los Angeles CA, USA

2015 *Art on the Move: Martine Syms* curated by Franklin Sirmans, Locust Projects, Miami FL, USA

Notes On Gesture, Machine Project, Los Angeles CA, USA

Vertical Elevated Oblique, Bridget Donahue Gallery, New York NY, USA

White Flag Projects, St. Louis MO, USA

2014 *The Queen's English*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena CA, USA

Group Exhibitions

2026 *In My Head*, Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany

Character Development, KADIST, Paris, France

Nerveträde, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

Worldbuilding, CANYON, New York NY, USA

10 Years LA!, Sprüth Magers, Los Angeles CA, USA

2025 *Seriously...*, Sprüth Magers, London, England

Long Story Short, Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany

Paradigm Shift, 180 The Strand, London, England

It Smells Like Girl, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles CA, USA

Resonance, Anthony Gallery, Chicago IL, USA

This is a shot, Works from the Serralves Collection, Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal

Code switch: Distributing Blackness, Reprogramming Internet Art, MOCAD Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit MI, USA

Ode to 'Dena: Artistic Legacies of Altadena, CAAM California African American Museum, Los Angeles CA, USA

*Alice Coltrane***,** *Monumental Eternal,* Hammer Museum, Los Angeles CA, USA

2024 *Vital Signs: Artists and the Body*, MoMA The Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA

Come One, Come All, Anthony Gallery, Chicago IL, USA

Launching a New Era: Body and Language as Manifesto, Yuan Art Museum, Beijing, China

Digital Diaries, Julia Stoschek Foundation, Düsseldorf, Germany

Coming Soon, Lafayette Foundation, Paris, France

2023 *After Laughter Comes Tears,* MUDAM The Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Stranger in the Village, Racism in the Mirror by James Baldwin, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau, Switzerland
AmericanGurl, presented by Womxn in Windows, Hauser & With, Los Angeles CA, USA
Kunsthal Charlottenborg Biennale, Copenhagen, Denmark
A Study in Form, James Fuentes Gallery, New York NY, USA
Signals: How Video Transformed the World, MoMA, The Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA
Tell Me What You Want, Bel Ami, Los Angeles LA, USA
Mis/Communication: Language and Power in Contemporary Art, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia NY, USA
Future Shock, Lisson Gallery, New York NY, USA

2022 *Catechism*, Bridget Donahue, New York NY, USA
International Exhibition of Visual Arts, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York NY, USA
Post-Capital: Art and the Economics of the Digital Age, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark (touring)

2021 *Post-Capital: Art and the Economics of the Digital Age*, MUDAM Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
Palai, Sadie Coles HQ off-site: Palazzo Tamborino Cezzi, Lecce, Italy
Love in Bright Landscapes, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth, Australia
Inaugural Group Exhibition, Champ Lacombe, Biarritz, France
Underexposed: Women Photographers From The Collection, High Museum of Art, Atlanta GA, USA
The Stomach and The Port, Liverpool Biennial at the Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, England

2020 *For Real This Time*, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, State Art Museum of Florida, Sarasota FL, USA
The Body Electric, MDC MOAD Miami Dade College Museum of Art and Design, Miami FL, USA
Hello? God Is The Space Between Us, anonymous gallery, New York NY, USA and Mexico City, Mexico
Sammlung, TOWERMMK, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany
Self Maintenance Resource Center 2020, The Luminary online, St. Louis MO, USA [online]
No Space, Just a Place. Eterotopia, Gucci x Daelim Museum, Seoul, South Korea
Uncanny Valley: Being Human in the Age of AI, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco | de Young Legion of Honor, San Francisco CA, USA
Honestly Speaking: The Word, the Body and the Internet, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
William Greaves, Sondra Perry, Martine Syms, organized by Martine Syms, Princeton University, Princeton NJ, USA
Colored People Time: Mundane Futures, Quotidian Pasts, Banal Presents, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge MA, USA

2019 *Manual Override*, The Shed, New York NY, USA
In Production: Art and the Studio System, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China
In The Absence of Light: Gesture, Humor and Resistance in The Black Aesthetic, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago IL, USA
On Fire, *Vulnerable Footage*, SALTS Birsfelden, Switzerland
Chairs Beyond Right & Wrong, R & Company, New York NY, USA
The Body Electric, YBCA Yerba Buena Center For The Arts, San Francisco CA, USA
It's Urgent! – Part II, Luma Westbau, Zurich, Switzerland
Dry Land, Gladstone Gallery, Gladstone 64, New York NY, USA
Celebration of Our Enemies: Selections from the Hammer Contemporary Collection, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles CA, USA
The Foundation of the Museum: MOCA's Collection, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA, USA
Whitney Biennial 2019, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY, USA
Straying from the Line, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin, Germany
Hypertimes, FuturDome, Milan, Italy
Palimpsest, Lismore Castle Arts, Waterford, Ireland
The Body Electric, Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis MN, USA
Colored People Time: Mundane Futures, ICA Institute of Contemporary Art at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, USA

2018 *Art in the Age of the Internet, 1989 To Today*, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor MI, USA (touring)
Per_forming a collection. The Show Must Go_ON, Madre Museo d'arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples, Italy
An Evening of Queen White, FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial For Contemporary Art, Toby Devan Lewis Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, Cleveland OH, USA
The 12th Gwangju Biennale Exhibition: Imagined Borders, Gwangju, South Korea
Out of Easy Reach, Grunwald Gallery, School of Art, Architecture + Design, Bloomington IN, USA
Succession Sounds, Kunstverein, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Eckhaus Latta: Possessed, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY, USA
Radically Ordinary: Scenes form Black Life in America Since 1968, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin OH, USA
Unlimited, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
The Gallery, Michael's, Santa Monica CA, USA
Out of Easy Reach, Gallery 400 and DePaul Art Museum, Chicago IL, USA
This is Utopia, to Some, Kadist Foundation, Paris, France
A Lone, installed adjacent to Capitol Hill Link rail station within city-wide project, Seattle WA, USA
A Page from My Intimate Journal (Part 1), Gordon Robichaux, New York NY, USA

Mapping the Invisible, Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Visions 2018, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

Art in the Age of the Internet, 1989 to Today, ICA Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Boston MA, USA (touring)

2017 *.COM/.CN*, presented by K11 Art Foundation and and Klaus Biesenbach and Peter Eleey, K11 Art Foundation pop-up space, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Electronic Superhighway (2016-1966), Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon, Portugal

Speech/Acts, ICA Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA, USA

The Public Body, Artspace, Sydney, Australia

Analog Currency, The Mistake Room, Los Angeles CA, USA

At This Stage, Chateau Shatto, Los Angeles CA, USA

Future Generation Art Prize @ Venice 2017, organised by the Victor Pinchuk Foundation, Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Venice, Italy

That I am reading backwards and into for a purpose, to go on:, The Kitchen, New York NY, USA

What does one do with such a clairvoyant image?, Trinity Square Video, Toronto, Canada

56 Artillery Lane, Raven Row, London, England

Our Words Return in Patterns (Part 1), Galerie PCP, Paris, France

Whitney Biennal, as part of the John Riepenhoff installation, Whitney Museum, New York NY, USA

Los Angeles - A Fiction, Musée d'art Contemporain de Lyon, Lyon, France (touring)

Exhibition of 21 Artists Shortlisted for the Future Generation Art Prize 2017, Pinchuk Art Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine

Commercial Break, Public Art Fund, New York NY, USA

I Am the Organizer of My Own Archive, Dazibao, Montreal, Canada

The Love Object (organized by Tom Brewer), Team Gallery, New York NY, USA

2016 *Potentially Yours,* The Coming Community, Artspace NZ, Auckland, New Zealand

Los Angeles - A Fiction, Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway (touring)

Umwelt Inversion, Galerie Conradi, Hamburg, Germany

Down To Write You This Poem Sat, Oakville Galleries, Oakville, Canada

Cool Memories, Occidental Temporary, Paris, France

Public, Private, Secret, International Center of Photography, New York NY, USA

Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles CA, USA

It Can Howl, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta GA, USA

Imitation of Life: Melodrama and Race in the 21st Century, HOME, Manchester, England

Electronic Superhighway (2016-1966), Whitechapel Gallery, London, England

Autobiography, Index Stockholm- The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, Stockholm, Sweden

Cut-Up: Contemporary Collage and Cut-Up Histories through a Feminist Lens, Franklin Street Works, Stamford CT, USA

2015 *How We Work,* Project Row Houses, Houston TX, USA
Open House, Todd Madigan Gallery, California State University, Bakersfield CA, USA
Tele-novela, ACRE TV, acretv.org
Candice Lin/Martine Syms, Chan Gallery, Pomona College, Claremont CA, USA
Artists' Film Club: Avant-Noir, Volume 2, ICA Institute of Contemporary Art London, London
The Daily Show, Bureau, New York NY, USA
Intangibles, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN, USA
2015 Triennial: Surround Audience, New Museum, New York NY, USA

2014 *Rhetoric,* Aran Cravey, Los Angeles CA, USA
Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet and Contemporary Art, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York NY, USA
First Look: Martine Syms: Reading Trayvon Martin, New Museum, New York NY, USA
Another Cats Show, 356 Mission, Los Angeles CA, USA
Small New Films, REDCAT, Los Angeles CA, USA
Black Radical Imagination, Cooper Union, New York NY, USA

2013 *gURLs,* Transfer Gallery, Brooklyn NY, USA

2012 *Act II: The Props,* Public Fiction, Los Angeles CA, USA
First Among Equals, ICA Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA, USA
How to Download a Boyfriend, Badlands Unlimited, Apple iTunes
The Didactic Possibilities of Film Titles, Acid Rain TV, New York NY, USA
Mise-En-Scéne, Young Art, Los Angeles CA, USA

2011 *Museum as Hub: Alpha's Bet Is Not Over Yet,* New Museum, New York NY, USA
We Are Here: Art & Design Out of Context, MCA Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago IL, USA
Three Card Monte, The Green Gallery, Milwaukee WI, USA

Residencies

2019 The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, New York NY, USA

Film screenings

2026 *RW-LO*, The BFI London Film Festival, London, England, October 18
RW-LO, The 64th New York Film Festival, New York NY, USA, September 27 and 29

2025 *The African Desperate*, Academy Museum of Motion Picture, Los Angeles CA, USA, 01 August

2023 *The African Desperate*, e-flux screening room, Brooklyn NY, USA, 21 March
The African Desperate, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA, 16 March

2022 *The African Desperate*, ICA Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, England, 17 October
The African Desperate, British Film Institute, London, England, 11 - 12 October
The African Desperate, Curzon, London, England, 05 May

2021 *SHE MAD: Laughing Gas, Incense Sweaters & Ice,* Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, 21 November

Memory Palace in *For a Dreamer of Houses*, DMA Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas TX, USA, 01 May

Incense Sweaters & Ice, Le Cinéma Club, (online) February – March

2019 *Sunset Kino*, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria, 24 July – 21 August

Incense Sweaters & Ice, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, 28 February

2018 *Incense, Sweaters & Ice*, MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, Cleveland OH, USA, 13 July

In the (Commercial) Break / Screening and Conversation with Martine Syms, École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Kadist, Paris, 21 June

X-tra Presents Artist Writes #3: Incense, Sweaters & Ice, screening and conversation, 356 Mission Road, Los Angeles CA, USA, 29 April

Martine Syms: Incense, Sweaters & Ice, Tramway, Glasgow Film Festival, Glasgow, Scotland, 23 February

2017 *Artists' Film Club: Incense Sweaters & Ice,* ICA Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, England, 02 – 05 November

2016 *A Pilot for a Show About Nowhere* screening in *Wild Sounds*, Flaherty NYC series, Anthology Film Archives, New York NY, USA, 03 October

My Only Idol Is Reality screening in *Truth or Dare? Experimental Cinema and the Documentary Turn,* 1984 - 2016, Indigo Festival, City Museum of Ljublijana, Slovenia, 08 September

Martine Syms and Khalil Joseph, *Memory Palace* screening online in *Open Window*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA, USA ongoing

https://www.moca.org/stream/post/martine-syms-kahlil-joseph-memory-palace

From Mouth to Hand, Magic Lantern Cinema, Brown University, Providence RI, USA, 19 May

A Pilot for a Show About Nowhere online with Vdrome, #94, 17 – 20 April

Martine Syms and Khalil Joseph, *Memory Palace,* screening in *Intimacies,* Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago IL, USA, 22 February

2015 *Artists' Film Club: Avant-Noir, Volume 2*, ICA Institute of Contemporary Art London, London, England, 08 July

Enter/Exit, a group screening and lecture by Steven Cairns, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Germany, 29 November

Martine Syms: The Unreliable Narrator, screening in *Conversations at the Edge Fall 2015,* Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago IL, USA, 12 November

2014 *Small New Films*, REDCAT, Los Angeles CA, USA, 21 April

Lectures and conferences

2021 *Mirror with a Memory*, podcast series within The Hillman Photography Initiative, hosted by Martine Syms, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh PA, USA, 01 February

2020 *William Greaves: Psychodrama, Interruption, and Circulation*, Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton University, Princeton NJ, co-organized with Fia Backström, 21 February

2018 with Colin Self, Sadie Coles HQ, London, England, 01 October

March Meeting 2018: Active Forms, Sharjah Art Foundation, Shuwaihen, Sharjah, UAE, 17 – 19 March

Experience It: Martine Syms, A conversation with Martine Syms, Sharon Hayes and Jon Rafman, The Lab with California College of the Arts, San Francisco CA, USA, 26 February

Lounge Talk, *Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Visions*, Tokyo Photographic Museum, Tokyo, Japan, 09 February

2017 *Martine Syms and Rizvana Bradley in conversation*, Raven Row, London, England, 23 April

2016 *Friday Flights at the Getty*, Getty Center, Los Angeles CA, USA, 26 August

Martine Syms, Todd Madigan Gallery & Department of Art at California State University, Bakersfield CA, USA, 16 February

Tip of Her Tongue: Martine Syms 'Misdirected Kiss', The Oculus Hall at The Broad, Los Angeles CA, USA, 21 January

2015 *A Pilot For A Show About Nowhere*, PNCA Mediatheque, Portland OR, USA, 12 May

Seven on Seven, 7th Edition: Empathy & Disgust, Rhizome, New York NY, USA, 02 May

Lessons of the Tradition, California State University at Long Beach, Long Beach CA, USA

Quality Television, Light Industry, New York NY, USA 28 April

Lessons of the Tradition, Pomona College, Claremont CA, USA

Nite Life, O, Miami Poetry Festival, Miami FL, USA

In the Archives, Contemporary Artists Books, Los Angeles CA, USA

2014 *Lessons of the Tradition*, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond VA, USA

Black Radical Imagination II, REDCAT, Los Angeles CA, USA, 14 November

Black Vernacular: Lessons of the Tradition, London College of Communication, London, England, 17 October

Do You Follow? Art in Circulation, Rhizome/ICA Institute of Contemporary Art London, London, England, 15 – 17 October

Black Vernacular: Lessons of the Tradition, Oberlin College & Observatory, Oberlin OH, USA, 29 April

Most Days, Moogfest Biennial, Asheville NC, USA, 26 April

Black Vernacular, Insights 2014 Design Lecture Series, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN, USA, 18 March

Direct Design, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis MN, USA,

Most Days, Arts Incubator, University of Chicago, Chicago IL, USA

Direct Design, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles CA, USA

Becoming Artists: Critique, Originality & Identity - Managing Biography: Negotiating Audience, Yale University, New Haven CT, USA, 08 February

2013 *New Paradigms in Digital Media 'Mainstreaming' a DIY Culture*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore MD, USA, 13 April

Conceptual Entrepreneurism, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore MD, USA

Black Vernacular: Reading New Media, SXSW, Austin TX, USA

Science Fiction & What It Feels Like To (Already) Live In the Future, Actual Size, Los Angeles CA, USA, 11 January

2012 *Real Talk*, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia CA, USA, 05 November
Reading Politics, Summer Forum, Chicago IL, USA
2011 *The Didactic Possibilities of Film Titles*, Houston Museum of African American Art, Houston TX, USA
Artist/Authors, The Gregory School, Houston TX, USA
Implications & Distinctions, Project Row Houses, Houston TX, USA
Future Plan and Program - Lecture by Steffani Jemison and Martine Syms, Prairie View A & M University, Prairie View TX, USA, 19 April

Public collections

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL, USA
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore MD, USA
Carré d'Art, Musée d'art contemporain, Nîmes, France
Guggenheim Museums and Foundation, New York NY, USA / Venice, Italy / Bilbao, Spain / Abu Dhabi, UAE
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles CA, USA
JFABC Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection, Chicago IL, USA
KADIST, Paris and San Francisco CA, USA
LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles CA, USA
Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, England
MCA Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago IL, USA
MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA, USA
MoMA Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA
Museum of Contemporary Art Library, Chicago IL, USA
Museum of Modern Art Library, New York NY, USA
Museum Für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
Perez Art Museum, Miami FL, USA
San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio TX, USA
Serralves Foundation, Porto, Portugal
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York NY, USA
Tate, London, England
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN, USA
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY, USA

Awards and fellowships

2025 American Academy of Arts & Letters
2023 Guggenheim Fellowship
2022 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts
2021 Creative Capital Award
2020 Google Artists + Machine Intelligence Grants

Future Fields Commission in Time-Based Media, awarded by The Philadelphia Museum of Art and Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo
ToftH Artist Fellow, Berggruen Institute
United States Artists Fellowship

2018 Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Chicago IL, USA