

JAMES BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



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James Benjamin Franklin's organically constructed shapes and eclectic textures combine to form a practice that is untethered by limits of the traditional canvas. Pushing the boundaries between painting and sculpture, Franklin expands on the objectness of painting through the use of common industrial materials. The works are created on the floor then the wall and back again, maneuvering his signature irregular supports in their ability to house an array of mediums.

Using a collage of rugs and blankets as his foundation, Franklin's work references the domestic as a leaping-off point. He mines his imagination through memories and psychological interior spaces intuitively searching for meaning, courting surprise and potential disaster.

James Benjamin Franklin received his BFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA in 1999 and his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI in 2017. Recent exhibitions include Cranbrook Museum of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI; KMAC, Louisville, KY; FRONT International, The Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, OH; Broadway, New York, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI; Reyes | Finn, Detroit, MI; and Proyectos Monclova, Mexico City.

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EDUCATION & RESIDENCIES

- 2019** The Lighthouse Works Residency, Fishers Island, NY
- 2017** MFA Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 1999** BFA Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
- 1995** New York Studio School of Painting and Sculpture, New York, NY
- 1994** Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024** *Skipping Stones*, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI
Something In Mind, Proyectos Monclova, CDMX, Mexico
- 2023** *WHILE AWAY*, Broadway Gallery, New York, NY
- 2022** *Full Circle*, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Practice, Reyes | Finn, Detroit, MI
- 2021** *Framed In Memory*, Proyectos Monclova, CDMX, Mexico
A Layered Approach, KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY
- 2019** *Whole In The Dust*, Reyes | Finn, Detroit, MI
- 2017** *Suspect Sentence*, Reyes Projects, Birmingham, MI
- 2013** *On the Other Hand*, COOP Gallery, Nashville, TN
- 2010** *Getting There From Here*, KRETS, Malmö, Sweden

Library Street Collective

- 2008** *Sub-Tippy*, Clementine, New York, NY
- 2007** *New Paintings*, Mogadishni International Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2006** *Ignoring the Signs*, Clementine, New York, NY
New Paintings, Acuna-Hansen, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004** *Plants and Animals*, Acuna-Hansen, Los Angeles, CA
General Store, Milwaukee, WI

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024** *Warp and Weft: Technologies Within Textiles*, the Shepherd, Detroit, MI
How We Make the Planet Move: The Detroit Collection Part I, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
The Armory Show, Proyectos Monclova, New York, NY
The Armory Show, Broadway Gallery, New York, NY
Untitled Art Miami Beach, Laney Contemporary, Miami Beach, FL
Art Basel Miami Beach, Broadway Gallery, Miami Beach, FL
EXPO Chicago, Library Street Collective, Chicago, IL
Moreover: 50 Paintings, pt 1, curated by Michelle Grabner, The Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
Zona Maco, Proyectos Monclova, CDMX, Mexico
- 2023** NADA Miami, Broadway Gallery, New York, NY
Felix Art Fair, Reyes | Finn, Los Angeles, CA
Rounding the Circle: The Mary and Al Shands Collection, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY
Get Together, Reyes | Finn, Detroit, MI
Dallas Art Fair, Proyectos Monclova, Dallas, TX
Search and Rescue, KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY
- 2022** Art Basel Miami Beach, Proyectos Monclova, Miami Beach, FL
The Armory Show, Proyectos Monclova, New York, NY
It Takes a Village, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI
Beyond the Black Hole, The Pit, Palm Springs, CA
Thrift Store Find, curated by Melissa Brown, Andrew Rafacz, Chicago, IL
Independent Art Fair, Reyes | Finn, New York, NY
Dallas Art Fair, Broadway Gallery, Dallas, TX
SALON redux, David Klein Gallery, Detroit, MI

Library Street Collective

Zona Maco, Proyectos Monclova, Mexico City, Mexico

Felix Art Fair, Broadway Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2021 *Grouper*, Broadway Gallery, New York, NY

With Eyes Opened: Cranbrook Academy of Art Since 1932, Cranbrook Art Museum,
Bloomfield Hills, MI

The Armory Show, Proyectos Monclova, New York, NY

Art Basel Miami Beach, Proyectos Monclova, Miami Beach, FL

2020 *Mapped Out*, NADA Miami VR, Reyes | Finn, Detroit, MI

Show Me the Signs, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA

Independent Art Fair, Reyes | Finn, New York, NY

2019 *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue*, Proyectos Monclova, CDMX, Mexico

Useless Utility, curated by Jova Lynne, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI

Independent Art Fair, Reyes | Finn, New York, NY

2018 *HOMEMADE*, curated by McArthur Binion, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI

Seven Samurai, curated by Phil and Sue Knoll, Platform Project Space, Brooklyn, NY

Paradise, curated by Edgar Bryan and Adrienne Rubenstein, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

FRONT International, curated by Michelle Grabner and Lisa Kurzner, The Cleveland Institute of Art,
Cleveland, OH

McArthur Binion Curates in Detroit, curated by McArthur Binion, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI

NADA, Reyes Projects, New York, NY

Chromalicious, curated by Phil and Sue Knoll, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA

Geometrix, curated by Leah Cohen, Galerie Camille, Detroit, MI

2017 *Brave New Work*, curated by Phil and Sue Knoll, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA

Something Green, Reyes Projects, Birmingham, MI

2016 *Solar Vortex*, curated by Phil and Sue Knoll, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA

Goulding the Lolly, curated by Brian Belott, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, NY

2015 *Remains To Be Seen*, curated by Phil and Sue Knoll, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA

Oysters With Lemon, curated by Michael Zahn, Ventana244, Brooklyn, NY

Melted City, curated by Jordin Isip and Louie Cordero, Blanc Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines

2014 *The Age of Small Things*, curated by Chuck Webster, Dodge Gallery, New York, NY

Library Street Collective

- 2013** *Beach Painting Club*, silent auction to benefit Smallwater, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, NY,
Hosted by Scott and Tyson Reeder, and New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA)
Paperazzi 2, curated by Janet Kurnatowski, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Draw Gym, curated by Brian Belott, 247365 & KnowMoreGames, Brooklyn, NY
Milwaukeeists: 1996-2006, curated by Nicholas Frank, UW-Green Bay Lawton Gallery, Green Bay, WI
- 2012** *Permanent Collection*, curated by Edward del Rosario and Jordin Isip, Nancy Margolis Gallery,
New York, NY
FAKES, Tomato House, Brooklyn, NY
Paperazzi, curated by Janet Kurnatowski, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011** *Coming and Going: Work from the Collection of Peter Kang*, curated by Donald Johnson-Montenegro,
New York Center for Art and Media Studies, New York, NY
Permanent Collection, Regina Rex, Brooklyn, NY
Interior Loot, curated by Peter Barrickman, Tory Folliard Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
Leisureland, Maloney Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA
Summer Salt, curated by Ingrid Dinter, The Proposition, New York, NY
(Darling) You Send Me..., curated by Julie Ryan, b9 galerie, Vienna, Austria
Spaghetti and Beachballs, Studio D'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy
This is Water, Michael Rosenthal Gallery, San Francisco, CA
The Open Daybook, curated by David P. Earle, LACE, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010** *Casheesh Four*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
FIAC Art Fair, Galerie Zürcher Paris, France
Knock Knock, Needles and Pens, San Francisco, CA
Strategic Abstraction, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
Consider The Oyster, curated by Ingrid Dinter, James Graham & Sons, New York, NY
Singles, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
Happily Unhappy, curated by Jordin Isip and Louie Cordero, Blanc Compound, Mandaluyong, Philippines
- 2009** *Mutant Anxiety*, Michael Rosenthal Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Wild Feature II, curated by Brian Belott, Galerie Zürcher, Paris, France
Casheesh Two, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
Wild Feature, curated by Brian Belott, Studio Zürcher, New York, NY
About Face, curated by Chris Acuna, Rio Hondo College Art Gallery, Whittier, CA
- 2008** *Presents*, Rowley Kennerk Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2007** *In Full Cry*, curated by Matt Leines and Taylor McKimens, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, LA
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Library Street Collective

Wu-Tang / Googleplex, curated by Darren Bader, Gavin Brown's Passerby, New York, NY
Phantasmia, curated by Elizabeth Dunbar, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
Poets on Painters, curated by Katie Geha, Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS
Crystal Crunch, curated by Taylor McKimens, Perugi Artecontemporanea, Padova, Italy

2006 *Go Figure*, Mogadishni International Contemporary Art, Aarhus, Denmark

2005 *Mystery Meat*, curated by Jordin Isip, Future Prospects Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines
Let The Players Play, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
Move #13, curated by Rich Jacobs, Clementine, New York, NY
Can't See The Forest, Sixspace, Los Angeles, CA

2004 *Under the Influence*, Junc Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Taste Like Chicken, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
EXPO Chicago, Acuna-Hansen, Chicago, IL
Stray Show Art Fair, General Store, Chicago, IL
Drunk vs. Stoned, curated by General Store, Gavin Brown's enterprise at Passerby, New York, NY
Fresh Squeezed, Acuna-Hansen Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2003 *Scope*, Acuna-Hansen, Miami, FL
Stray Show Art Fair, Mihaus, Chicago, IL
Paintingshow, Austrian Art Studio, Chicago, IL

2002 *Stray Show Art Fair*, Daniel Reich, Chicago, IL
Milhaus, Deluxe Projects, Chicago, IL

1999 *Factory Reject*, curated by Taylor McKimens, Ross Farrell Gallery, Pasadena, CA
Raw Seeing: Celebrating a Decade of Alumni Exhibitions 1988-1998, New York Studio School, New York, NY

1998 *Ways and Means*, Miller Durazo Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Experimenters, curated by Kenny Schachter, Lombard Freid Fine Arts, New York, NY
1987-1997 A Skowhegan Decade, David Beitzel Gallery, New York, NY

1996 *Texas Meets New York: Facing the Millennium, "the song remains the same..."*, curated by Kenny Schachter, Arlington Museum of Art, TX

1994 *10 X 10*, Art Initiatives Gallery, New York, NY