

AUDREY FRANCIS

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Artist Statement

I am formally trained as an illustrator and painter. Over the course of more than twenty years, my oeuvre is continually changing and includes assemblage, collage, oil painting, and gouache. Each body of work reflects my technical evolution as an artist. My practice also reveals an evolving sense of identity as I have proceeded through life, whether these have been questions of authority, religion, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexuality, or motherhood. As well, the importance of genre and style remain at the core of my work and the drive to experiment.

I am in part inspired by narrative, modern figurative work, and baroque portraiture. My influences are many and have varied throughout the periods of production, but have included the structure of illustration and design, the complex narratives of outsider art, the figurative work of Lucien Freud, the dramatic pictures of Diego Velázquez and too the classic modernists like Picasso and Phillip Guston.

Much of my early work included atelier style nudes, as well as modernist drapery studies, which in turn transformed into more compressed and expansive paintings of texture, space and figuralism.

The importance of continual technical and conceptual experimentation is reflected in surrealist images emerged from experimentation with materials: collages made of old paintings, Photoshop, and even gouache. As such, the Gouache series combine painting, illustration, and design, revealing a balance between the brush, color, and drawing.

Throughout, I have continued to work with the figure, created myopic studies of the human body informed by the opulence of Velázquez. In 2010, I began a series of more understated pictures – a gouache series, studies of fabric that became formless and abstract. From this point, I have continually worked on inverting form and genre, taking compositions that were studies of an object, and redirecting the gaze, turning the viewpoint on its side.

For me, collage offered an opportunity to escape the confines of realism, the diversity of materials, shapes and format allowing me to construct narrative structure through assemblage, and from this emerged a new understanding of form. Today the principals of montage, assemblage, and collage remain at the core of my practice and this approach is reflected in both the paintings and the mixed media pieces.

Most recently, working to assemble genre and materials has meant a new series of paintings has emerged, specifically paintings that are an admixture of abstraction, representation, and patterning such as *Safety in Numbers*. Today, I continue to experiment, bringing in motifs of the natural world, as well as returning to the form of the figure and allowing the purity of color and abstraction to inform my vision.

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Exhibitions

- 2018 *Together We Celebrate*. The Howland Cultural Center. Beacon, New York.
Spirit Of the Hudson Benefit and Auction. Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Beacon, New York.
Vista Panoramico. Ann Street Gallery, Newburgh, New York.
- 2017 *Works for Home*. Ledspin Inc. Rhinecliff, New York
- 2015 *Annual Benefit and Auction*. Starr Library. Rhinebeck, New York.
- 2014 *Art Lives Peace; The Struggle for Balance*. The Howland Cultural Center. Beacon, New York.
Fashion As Art. Gallery 66. Cold Spring, New York.
- 2012 *The Faculty Show*. Dutchess Community College. Poughkeepsie, New York.
Luck of the Draw. Mid-Hudson Heritage Center. Poughkeepsie, New York.
Dressings. Hyde Park Free Library Annex. Hyde Park, New York.
Blue. Gallery at the Saugerties Performing Arts Factory. Saugerties, New York.
Queen City. Dutchess County Art Association (DCAC). Poughkeepsie, New York.
The Inaugural. Saugerties Performing Arts Factory. Saugerties, New York.
Green. Martha Gault Gallery. Slippery Rock University, Pennsylvania.
The Big Draw. Mill Street Loft. Beacon, New York.
- 2011 *Art Studio Views*. Rhinebeck, New York.
- 2010 *Submerged*. Unison Arts Center. New Paltz, New York.
- 2009 *On-site Installation*. Beacon Arts Community Association (BACA). Beacon, New York.
Humanidad-Conciencia-Inspiracion. The Howland Cultural Center. Beacon, New York.
The Economic Stimulus Package Show. G.A.S. Art and Performance Space. Poughkeepsie, New York.
- 2007 *Identity*. Cadiz Design Studio, Huntington Beach, California.
- 2006 *Gender*. Haddad-Lascano Gallery. Great Barrington, Massachusetts.
MFA Thesis. Chandler Gallery, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art. SUNY New Paltz, New York.
Best of SUNY. State University Plaza. Albany, New York.
- 2005 *Contiguous; Collaboration with Jeff Seaburg*. SUNY New Paltz. New Paltz, New York.
Fat Art. 3FU Gallery. Kingston, New York.
This is Not an Archive. Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College. New York.
- 2004 *Newfangled*. SUNY New Paltz. New Paltz, New York.
- 2002 *Art for Peace Project*. Mount Saint Mary College. Newburgh, New York.
Masterpeace. The Howland Cultural Center. Beacon, New York.
Small Works. The Barrett Art Center. Poughkeepsie, New York.
Amanecer de Mujeres. WomanMade Gallery. Chicago, Illinois.
Women of the Hudson Valley. The Howland Cultural Center. Beacon, New York.
One Inch: One Person--September 11th to Scale. Zeitgeist Gallery. Cambridge, Massachusetts.
9/11 Remembrance and Hope. The Barrett Art Center. Poughkeepsie, New York.
- 2001 *The Members Show*. Award. The Barrett Art Center. Poughkeepsie, New York.
Saints and Sinners. Hyde Park Free Library, Hyde Park, New York.
Artist of the Month. Display terminated due to censorship. Hyde Park Post Office. New York.
Small Works. Barrett Art Center. Poughkeepsie, New York.
- 1996 *Works of Art*. The Barrett House Galleries. Poughkeepsie, New York.
Young Teamsters. Charas Theatre. New York, New York.
Irrelevant. Post Logic Productions. Santa Monica, California.
L.A. Language. Gensler & Associates. Santa Monica, California.
Shades of Green. Gensler & Associates. Santa Monica, California.
- 1995 *Night of 1000 Drawings*. Artists Space. New York, New York.
Visual Aids '95 Art in the Face of Adversity. Barrett House Galleries. Poughkeepsie, New York.
Young Teamsters. Directed and produced by Andrew Clarke. New York, New York.
- 1994 *Visual Aids '94 Art in the Face of Adversity*. Barrett House Galleries. Poughkeepsie, New York.
Dutchess County Art Association Juried Members Show. Barrett House Galleries. New York.
The Independents Biennial. Charas-Galleria en El Bohio. New York, New York.
Lost in Space. Saint Andrews Club. Boca Raton, Florida.
- 1993 *Contemplating the Figure: New Approaches*. Barrett House Galleries. Poughkeepsie, New York.
7th Annual Women in the Visual Arts Show. Erector Square Gallery. New Haven, Connecticut.
- 1992 *The Armory Show*. Dutchess County Art Association. Poughkeepsie, New York.
The Independents Show. Charas-Galleria en El Bohio. New York, New York.

Professional

- 2010-14 Adjunct Instructor. Visual Arts Department. Dutchess Community College. Poughkeepsie, New York.
- 2006-10 Adjunct Instructor. Painting Department. State University of New York. New Paltz, New York.
- 1984-92 Graphic Designer: Client List: MTV, VHI, Nickelodeon, Fairchild Publications, Conforte Graphics, MGM, RKO Video, Conde Nast.

Education

- 2006 Master of Fine Arts. Painting. State University of New York at New Paltz, New York.
- 1984 Bachelor of Fine Arts. Illustration. Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

Additional Information

- 2006 Grant. Research and Creative Projects Award. SUNY at New Paltz.
- 2006 Nominated for Joan Mitchell Award by faculty of SUNY at New Paltz.
- 2001 Award. Barrett Art Center. Poughkeepsie, New York. Juror: Albert Shahinian.
- 1994 Residency at Nantucket Island School of Design & The Arts. Nantucket Island, Massachusetts.
- 1989 Permanent collection of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, N.Y.C. by Marshall Cummings, Inc.