

Nathaniel Donnett

Nathaniel Donnett is an interdisciplinary cultural practitioner born in Houston, Texas. His practice shapes and holds metaphysical and phenomenological significance. Donnett approaches ideas of materiality through Black aesthetic traditions, everyday aesthetic theory, and the lived experience using sourced and reclaimed objects.

Donnett received his B.A. in Fine Arts from Texas Southern University, and his MFA from Yale University School of Art. Nathaniel received the 2024 American Academy of Rome Affiliated Fellowship, a 2022 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a 2020 Dean's Critical Practice Research Grant from Yale, and a 2020 Art and Social Justice Initiative Grant, also from Yale. Other awards include a 2017 Houston Arts Alliance Individual Artist Grant, a 2015 Idea Fund/Andy Warhol Foundation Grant, and a 2014 Harpo Foundation Grant. His work has been exhibited at The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AK; the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, VA; the Mennello Museum, Orlando, FL; Project Row Houses, Houston, TX; The Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA, The University Museum, Houston, TX, The Kemper Contemporary Arts Museum, Kansas City, MO, The Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury CT, The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX, The New Museum, New York, NY among others. Donnett is also the founder and publisher of "What's the New News," a newspaper and project that reframes the narratives of specific neighborhoods.

Education

Yale University, Master of Fine Arts, New Haven, CT

Texas Southern University, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

Solo/ Two Person Exhibitions

2023 – 2024 Dark Matter, Dark Energy, Dark Imaginarence
University Museum, Houston, TX

2022 To Know a Veil, Gallery 51, North Adams, MA
Cindy Rucker, New York, NY (two person show)

2018 Turner & Donnett, Carnegie Center for Art History, New Albany, IN

2017 In One Form or Another, The Art League Houston, Houston, TX
Can You Afford to Throw That Away? - Houston Community College, Houston, TX

2014 Nothing to See, Hear, Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, Houston, TX
Alone in My Four Cornered Room, Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT

2013 You Are the One, Redline Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

Group Exhibitions

2024 Strange Strings, Cindy Rucker Gallery, New York, NY

2023 AIM Biennial, Miami, FL
Post Hip – Hop? or return of the Boom Bap! Sikemma Jenkins & Co. New York, NY

2022 The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and
the Sonic Impulse, The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO
The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and
the Sonic Impulse, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
next to a mountain: portals y paisajes, Emerson Dorsch Gallery, Miami, FL.
I Shouted My Laughter To The Stars, Aicon Contemporary Gallery, New York, NY

2021 The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse, Virginia Museum of
Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse Contemporary Arts
Museum Houston, Houston, TX

In Praise of Shadows, Lyles and King Gallery, New York, NY
Legacy and Rupture, City Gallery, New Haven, CT
2020 Shifting Gaze: A Reconstruction of the Black and Hispanic
Body in Contemporary Art, Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA
2019 Child's Play: An Exploration of Adolescence, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art
Kansas City, MO
2018 Silos: Art League Houston, Houston, TX
Shifting Gaze: A Reconstruction of the Black and Hispanic Body in Contemporary Art, The Mennello
Museum of American Art Orlando, FL
2017 Looking at the overlooked, Ulrich Museum, Wichita, KS
Unmoored Geographies; Works from the Permanent Collection Ulrich Museum, Wichita, KS
2016 Silos, American University Museum at The Katzen Arts Center, Washington, D.C.
2015 Here's Looking Back at You: Mana Contemporary Arts Museum; Jersey City, NJ
The One and the Many: A Self-Portrait in Seven Parts, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX
Piece by Piece; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
2014 Black in the Abstract, Part 2; Hard Edges/Soft Lines, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston,
Houston, TX

Public Art Commissions

2022 Acknowledgement; The Historical Polyrythm of Being(s) 1708 Gallery
Richmond, VA
2020 Acknowledgement; The Historical Polyrythm of Being(s) Contemporary Arts Museum Houston,
Houston, TX
2019 What's the New News, Fresh Arts Houston, Houston, TX
2018 What's the New News, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX
2017 Walking Tour Public Art Installations, Public Row Houses, Houston, TX
2015 Houston Downtown Vehicular Wayfinding Sign Project, Houston, TX

Projects

2011 Ongoing – Founder – Publisher, *What's The New News*, Houston, TX
2014 2018 Founder - *Not That But This* - Website Blog

Awards/ Grants/ Fellowships

2024 American Academy of Rome Affiliated Fellow, Rome, Italy
2023 Individual Artist Grant, Houston Arts Alliance, Houston, TX
2022 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, New York, NY
2021 Helen Frankenthaler Scholarship, Yale University, New Haven, CT
2020 Art and Social Justice Initiative Grant, Yale University, New Haven, CT
2020 Dean's Critical Practice Research Grant, Yale University, New Haven, CT
2019 Fresh Arts Houston Commission/ What's the New News Project, Houston, TX
2018 Project Row House Commission/ What's the New News Project, Houston, TX
2017 Individual Artist Grant, Houston Arts Alliance, Houston, TX
2015 Idea Fund, The Andy Warhol Foundation, Houston, TX
2014 Harpo Foundation New Work Project Grant, Los Angeles, CA
2011 Individual Artist Grant, Houston Arts Alliance, Houston, TX

Residencies

- 2024 American Academy of Rome Affiliated Fellowship Residency, Rome, IT
Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL
- 2023 International Studio & Curatorial Program Residency, Brooklyn, NY
- 2022 Bemis Center Residency, Omaha, NE
Massachusetts College Liberal Arts Artist Laboratory, North Adams, MA
- 2021 Hermitage Retreat, Englewood, FL
- 2016 Centraltrak, Dallas, TX
- 2013 Redline, Milwaukee, WI

Art Talks/ Lectures/ Discussions

- 2022 Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT
Opalka Gallery, Russell Sage Gallery, Albany, NY
Clark Institute, Roundtable on Blackness as a Multifaceted Experience
With Joshua Ross, Conrad Egyir, & Moderator Caroline Fowler, Williamstown, MA
- 2021 Yale School of Art, Power and Possibilities, with Maria de Los Angeles
Moderator Lindsay Mancini, New Haven, CT
- 2018 Art League Houston, "Erasure, Visibility, and Activation" Discussion Panel Houston, TX

Bibliography

- 2024 Burnayway Staff, Close Look, Feb 17, Atlanta, GA
- 2023 Michael Corris, Nathaniel Donnett, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Gallery 51, Artforum, Print, North Adams, MA, March 11,
Stacy J. Pratt, The Dirty South Comes to Denver, Hyperallergic, Denver, CO, Jan 13
- 2022 Jillian Currier, Artist Brings Backpack Exchange for New Project, The Online Beacon
North Adams, MA
Amarie Gipson, The South Speaks, Rice Design Alliance, Houston, TX
Michael McFadden, The South Got Something to Say: Dirty South at CAMH, Arts and Culture Texas
Magazine, Houston, TX
- 2021 Lindsey Mancini, Sculptural Infrastructure, Cosmic Altar, Nathaniel Donnett installs "Subwoofer"
for the city of New Haven, New Haven, CT
Indiana Nash, "Shifting Gaze" at Opalka Gallery in Albany breaks boundaries about identity and
culture, Albany, NY
Holland Cotter, Art Meets Its Soundtrack Deep in The Dirty South
New York Times, New York, New York
Willie J. Wright, *Acknowledging Histories of the Present*, Sugarcane Magazine, Miami, FL
Lucy Gellman, *At Cite Gallery, Seven Black Artist Bridge Past and Present*, New Haven, CT
- 2020 Everett Percival, *Middlegame*, N plus 1 magazine # 37 Brooklyn, NY
- 2019 Shannon Fitzgerald, Shifting Gaze; A Reconstruction of the Black & Hispanic Body in Contemporary
Art, Mennello
Museum of American Art, Orlando, FL
- 2017 Gregory, Casey, *Show Up: Nathaniel Donnett*, Art and Culture TX, Houston, TX
- 2016 Claire C. Carter; *New American Paintings # 126*, Boston, MA
Bill Arning, *Up Close: Houston Loves Eccentrics*, Art in America, New York, NY
- 2015 Lauren Cornell; *Mass Effect: Art and the Internet in the Twenty-First
Century; Critical Anthologies in Art and Culture*; New York, NY
Martine Syms, *Stages of Laughter*, Art in America, New York, NY
John Plueker, *The One and the Many: A Self Portrait in Seven Parts*, Art Forum, Houston, TX
Nancy Wonzy Performia: *The Artist Talk as Theater*, Arts and Culture Texas, Houston, TX

Valerie Cassell Oliver *Right Here, Right Now: Nothing to See, Hear*, The Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, Houston, TX

2014 Valerie Cassell Oliver, *Outside the Lines*, The Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, Houston, TX

2013 Curtis L. Carter, "*Your're Are the One*", Shepard Express Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

2012 Carrie Marie Schneider, Nathaniel Donnett, "*ZZZZzz*", Houston, TX

Collections

Microsoft Art Collection, Dallas, TX

Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO

Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT

The Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Jersey City, NJ

The Nicholson Foundation, Newark, NJ

The Richard and Ellen Sandor Foundation, Chicago, IL

The University Museum, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX