

Terry Adkins

b. in 1953 in Washington DC, USA
Died in 2014 in New York, NY, USA



Terry Adkins developed a diverse artistic practice which included sculpture, live music, spoken language, and video. Rooted in a deep appreciation for abstraction, Adkins created a bridge between the influences of modernist sculpture and the vernacular craft and musical traditions of the American South. Delving into historical and industrial sites, archives, and his local community, Adkins scavenged dismissed materials crafting them into artworks of remarkable ambition.

EDUCATION

1979

MFA, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

1977

MS, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA

1975

BS, Fisk University, Nashville, TN, USA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023

Terry Adkins: Flumen Orationis (from The Principalities), Charlotte & Philip Hanes Art Gallery, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

2022

Terry Adkins, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2020

Terry Adkins: Our Sons and Daughters Ever on the Altar, Fisk University Galleries, Nashville, TN, USA

Terry Adkins: Resounding, Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis, MS, USA

Terry Adkins: Our Sons and Daughters Ever on the Altar, The Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN, USA

2018

Terry Adkins: Infinity Is Always Less Than One, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL, USA

Terry Adkins: The Smooth, The Cut, and The Assembled, Lévy Gorvy, New York, NY, USA

Terry Adkins: Renditions I – III, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN, USA

2017

Projects 107: Lone Wolf Recital Corps, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA

2016

Soldier, Shepherd, Prophet, Martyr: Videos from 1998–2013, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA

2013

Nenuphar, Salon 94 Bowery and Salon 94 Freemans, New York, NY, USA

Recital, Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA

2012

Recital, Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, USA

The Principalities, Galerie Zidoun, Luxembourg

2010

Riddle of the Sphinx, Amistad Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

2009

Meteor Stream, American Academy in Rome, Italy

2008

Songs of Hearth and Valor, Warehouse Gallery, Syracuse, NY, USA

2007

Belted Bronze, Pageant Soloveev, Philadelphia, PA, USA

2004

Black Beethoven, Pageant Soloveev, Philadelphia; Traveled to Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts; Bronx River Art Center, New York, NY, USA

2003

Towering Steep, Friede–Strauss Galleries, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA

Sanctuary, Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Darkwater, Arthur Ross Gallery, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Facets, P.P.O.W. Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2001

Deeper Still, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL, USA

Songs of New Heaven (New Earth), Cheekwood Museum of Art, Nashville, TN, USA

Greater Deeps, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

Altar Encore, Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts, Eatonville, FL, USA

2000

Wild Ashes Mute, Finesilver Gallery, San Antonio, TX, USA

1999

Relay Hymn, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Sightings in South Florida—Deeper Heart, Schmidt Center Gallery, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, USA

Powre Above Powres—Passing Freedom: A Work in Nine Dominions, Mandeville Gallery, Union College, Schenectady, NY, USA; Traveled to Saratoga County Arts Council, Saratoga Springs, NY, USA

Invisible (Slight Return), Watermark/Cargo Gallery, Kingston, NY, USA

1998

Later Coltrane, Hamilton College Emerson Gallery, Clinton, New York, NY, USA

Muffled Drums, P.P.O.W. Gallery, New York, NY

After Flame, Mary Schiller Meyers School of Art, University of Akron, Akron, OH, USA; Traveled to Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL; I-space, Chicago, IL, USA; Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA; John Brown House, Summit County Historical Society, Akron, OH, USA; Hand Workshop Art Center, Richmond, VA, USA

Distant Mirrors, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ, USA

1997

Guarded Table, Watermark Cargo Gallery, Kingston, NY, USA

Temporary Hours: for Jean Toomer, Sculpture Center, New York, NY, USA

Seamless Robe, William Benton Museum of Art, Storrs, CT, USA

1995

Firmament RHA, Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, New York, NY, USA

Visionary Recital, Hammonds House Museum, Atlanta, GA, USA

1993

Maroon, Ledis Flam Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Parameters, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA, USA

Anthem, Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC, USA

1992

Perpetual Choir, LedisFlam Gallery, New York, NY, USA

1990

Call/Response, Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA

Inside/Out, Valencia Community College, Orlando, FL, USA; *Enframe*, Miami-Dade Community College, Miami, FL, USA

Dyad, LedisFlam Gallery, New York, NY, USA

1989

New Ghosts, Galerie Andy Jllien, Zürich, Switzerland

1988

Hammer Ring, Liz Harris Gallery, Boston, MA, USA

1987

Hannibal, Galerie Emmerich-Baumann, Zürich, Switzerland

Arbeit/Work, 1986–87, Projekt Binz 39, Zürich, Switzerland

1986

The Sihl, Projekt Binz 39, Zürich, Switzerland

1981

Terry Adkins/Carl Latimore, Nyangoma's Gallery, Washington, DC, USA; *Tribulation*, Carriage House Gallery, Arts & Humanities Center, Richmond, VA, USA

1980

New Ghosts, Wise Art Gallery, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA, USA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

Flight into Egypt: Black Artists and Ancient Egypt, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA

2023

Gimme Shelter, The Historic Hampton House, Miami, FL, USA

A Garden of Promise and Dissent, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT, USA

Artist's Choice: Grace Wales Bonner – Spirit Movers, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA

All Hearts Beneath the Sun, University Galleries of Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA

Impossible Museum, Miller Institute for Contemporary Art, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Sonic Presence (or Absence): Sound in Contemporary Art, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Eugenics in the Garden, Tureen, Dallas, TX, USA

Terry Adkins, Christian Marclay, Kelley Walker, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Looking Back, White Columns, New York, NY, USA

Spirit in the Land, Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, NC; traveling to Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL USA; Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Jacksonville, FL, USA

Cloudscape, The Colby Museum of Art, Waterville, ME, USA

Visual Record: The Materiality of Sound in Print, International Print Center New York, NY, USA

2022

Mettere al mondo il mondo, Thomas Dane Gallery, Naples, Italy

Singing in Unison, Brooklyn Rail and Industry City, Brooklyn, NY, USA

On the Nature of Things, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Visual Record: The Materiality of Sound in Print, International Print Center New York, NY, USA
A Drawing Show, Paula Cooper Gallery, Palm Beach, FL, USA

2021

American Verses: Terry Adkins, Mark Bradford & Kerry James Marshall, Peoria Riverfront Museum, IL, USA
Promise, Witness, Remembrance, Speed Art Museum, Louisville
The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and Sonic Impulse, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, VA, USA
Otherwise/Revival, Bridge Projects, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Cascadence, Altman Siegel, San Francisco, CA, USA
Grief and Grievance, New Museum, New York, NY, USA
The Dirty South, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA, USA; traveled to Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX, USA; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AK, USA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO, USA

2020

Grace Before Jones: Camera, Disco, Studio, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, IL, USA
Polyphonic: Celebrating PAMM's Fund for African American Art, Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL, USA
Seven Stations: Selections from MOCA's Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Hotel Beethoven, The Centre for Fine Arts/BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium

2019

Waking Dream, Ruby City, Linda Pace Foundation, San Antonio, TX, USA
Louder Than Words, Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennedy State University, Kennesaw, GA, USA

2018

À Cris Ouverts, Les Ateliers de Rennes – Contemporary Art Biennale, Rennes, France

Wiggle Wiggle, Galerie Greta Meert, Brussels, Belgium

Sculptures, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Reclamation! Pan-African Works from the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA, USA

2017

Resonant Spaces: Sound Art at Dartmouth, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA

Let Me Be an Object that Screams, Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

2016

Field Studies, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Brooklyn, NY, USA

The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music, 1965 to Now, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Après Beethoven, Musée de la Musique, Paris, France

2015

All the World's Futures, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

Human Ecology 101, Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, NY, USA

I Like It Like This, S2 x Drake, Sotheby's, New York, NY, USA

Under Color of Law, Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA, USA

Nero su Bianco, American Academy in Rome, Italy

The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music, 1965 to Now, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Color Fields, Sandra and David Bakalar Gallery, MassArt, Boston Immersed, Linda Pace Foundation, San Antonio, TX, USA

2014

Prospect New Orleans: Prospect.3: Notes for Now (P.3), New Orleans Art or Sound, Fondazione Prada, Venice, Italy

Whitney Biennial 2014, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA

2013

Feedback, Arts Incubator in Washington Park, Chicago, IL, USA
Farewell Rodney, Sommer Contemporary Art Gallery, Tel Aviv,
Israel

Art Stage Singapore, Zidoun-Bossuyt Gallery, Singapore

2012

Intense Proximity, La Triennale, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

The Bearden Project, Studio Museum, Harlem, NY, USA

Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art, Brown
Foundation Gallery, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Texas,
USA; traveled to Grey Art Gallery, New York University, NY, USA;
Studio Museum, Harlem, NY, USA; and Walker Art Center, Minnea-
polis, MN, USA

Clifford Owens: Anthology, MoMA PS1, Queens, NY, USA

True North, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK, USA

Alpha's Bet Isn't Over Yet, New Museum, New York, NY, USA

Magical Visions: Ten Contemporary African American Artists, Me-
chanical Hall Gallery, University of Delaware, Wilmington, DE, USA

2010

The Crude and the Rare, Cooper Union, New York, NY, USA

Artist & Artifact: Re/Visioning Brooklyn's Past, Rotunda Gallery,
Brooklyn, NY

Time Equals Distance Over Speed or Nothing, Pageant Soloveev, Phi-
ladelphia, PA, USA

Accademia delle Accademie, complesso Monumentale Santo Spirito
in Sassia, Rome, Italy

Spazi Aperti: The Vagabond Can't Draw, Accademia di Romania in
Roma, Rome, Italy

The Riddle of the Sphinx, W.E.B. DuBois College House, University
of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

2009

Sound: Print: Record: African American Legacies, University Museums, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, USA

2008

NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith, Menil Collection, Houston; traveled to: MoMA PS1, Queens, New York; Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL, USA

Black Is, Black Ain't, Renaissance Society, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Thunderbolt Special—The Great Electric Show and Dance, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX, USA

Rag and Bone, Pageant Soloveev, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Nightwatch Research Project, Verbeke Foundation, Stekene, Belgium,

2007

Ensemble, Institute for Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Spectral Evidence, Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA

2006

Paper Trail, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, USA

Shoebox Sculpture 9, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, USA

2005

Inventors, Movers and Makers, Museum Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Double Consciousness—Black Conceptual Art Since 1970, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX, USA

2004

Open House: Working in Brooklyn, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, USA

2002

Time/Frame, Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX, USA

2001

Mind Fields, Wake Forest University Gallery, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

Red, Black and Green, Studio Museum, New York, NY, USA

2000

Passages: Contemporary Art in Transition, Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL, USA

1999

Narratives of Art & identity, De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA

Selected Works from The Permanent Collection, Studio Museum, Harlem, NY, USA

1998

Postcards from Black America, De Beyerd Museum; Frans Hals Museum, The Netherlands

Interpreting, Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA

May Day—The Rights of Spring, P.P.O.W. Gallery, New York, NY, USA

African American Art, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ, USA

1997

Seeing Jazz, International Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA

Material Dialogues, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ, USA

1996

Other Bloods, Real Art Ways, Hartford, Connecticut; traveled to The Painted Bride, Philadelphia, PA, USA

1995

Required Nuance, Studio Museum, Harlem, NY, USA

Other Bloods, Museum Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam Material Matters, Anchorage, Brooklyn, NY, USA

It's Only Rock & Roll, Phoenix Museum of Art, Phoenix, AZ, USA

Minumentals, Watermark/Cargo Gallery, Kingston, NY, USA

1994

Western Artists/African Art, Museum for African Art, New York, NY, USA

The American Flag in Contemporary Art, Center for Contemporary Art, Cleveland, OH, USA

...It's How You Play the Game, Exit Art, New York, NY, USA

Points of Interest/Points of Departure, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA

1993

Edward Albee's Other Eye, Hillwood Art Museum, Brookville, NY, USA

In the Ring, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, NY, USA

1992

Egyptomania, Hillwood Art Museum, Brookville, NY, USA

The Endowed Chair, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Southern Black Aesthetic, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

Present Tense, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, USA

1991

Cadences: Icon and Abstraction in Context, New Museum, New York, NY, USA

New Generations: New York, Carnegie Mellon Art Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Dommenikos Theotokopoulos: A Dialogue, Philippe Briet Gallery, New York, NY, USA

1990

The Blues Aesthetic, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC, USA

Taking Shape, Memorial Arch, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA

From Earth to Archetype, LedisFlam, New York, NY, USA

1989

Selections, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA, USA

Object Makers, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

Pillar to Post, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York, NY, USA

1987

Espirit, Salama-caro Gallery, London, UK

ArtBasel 87, Galerie Emmerich Baumann, Basel, Switzerland; traveled to: Kulturhaus Palazzo, Liestal, Switzerland

Sihlquai Kunsler, Projekt Binz 39, Zürich, Switzerland

1986

In the Tropics, Longwood Arts Project, Bronx, NY, USA

Soundwave NYC, City Gallery, New York, NY, USA

1984

Studio Artists, PS1 Institute for Art & Urban Resources, The Clocktower, New York, NY, USA

From the Studio, Studio Museum, Harlem, NY, USA

African American Artists, High Museum, Atlanta Darkness, William Paterson College, Wayne, NJ, USA

1983

Juss' Jazz, Kenkeleba House, New York, NY, USA

1980

Dimensions & Directions, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS, USA

Alternatives by Black Artists, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC, USA

Three Views, Hardart Gallery, Washington, DC

SELECTED PERFORMANCE RECITALS

2013

Postlude (Corpus Specere) & At Osiris, Studio Museum, Harlem, NY, USA

Liquid Gardens, Regenstein Recital Hall, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA

Last Trumpet, Performa Biennial, New York, NY, USA

2012

Facets, Arthur Zankel Music Center, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, USA

Last Trumpet, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX, USA

2011

The Portent, Amistad Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA

2010

Paradiso XXVII, Romanian Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy

2009

Hiving Bee, American Academy in Rome Freedom Suite, New Museum, New York, NY, USA

Invocation for Bessie Smith, PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens, NY, USA

2008

Thunderbolt Special, Eldorado Ballroom, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX, USA

Songs of Hearth and Valor, Warehouse Gallery, Syracuse, NY, USA

2005

Solemnis, Wheaton College, Beard Gallery, Norton, MA, USA

2004

Pinewood Air, Pageant, Philadelphia, PA, USA

2003

Recovery Blues, Faulkner Auditorium, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA

Titan, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA, USA

2001

The Still, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL, USA

Voodoo, Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts, Eatonville, FL, USA

Solid Clouds, Cheekwood Museum of Art, Nashville, TN, USA

2000

Facets, New World Symphony of Miami, Miami, FL, USA

Testament, Summit County Historical Society, John Brown House, Akron, OH, USA

1999

Azure, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Taperlight, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA

1998

Ohnedaruth, John Coltrane Song Cycle, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, USA

1997

Temporary Hours, Jean Toomer Song Cycle, Sculpture Center, New York, NY, USA

1996

Last Trumpet, Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, New York, NY, USA

1991

De Jacht Zwarte Piet, Museum Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Telefonia, Hall of Science, New York, NY, USA

1990

Lithium AZ, Rigiblick Theatre, Zürich, Switzerland

1988

Alto Age, Institute for Contemporary Art, London, UK

1987

Mirliton, Kulturzentrum Rote Fabrik, Zürich, Switzerland

1985

Trance, P.S. 1, Institute for Art & Urban Resources, New York, NY, USA

1983

New Music America Festival (with Harmolodica), Washington, DC, USA

1982

Churinga, University of Cincinnati, School of Fine Arts, Cincinnati, OH, USA

1981

Fault (with Sherman Fleming), Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC, USA

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Art Bridges Foundation, Bentonville AR, USA
Chrysler Museum, Norfolk VA, USA
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco CA, USA
Glenstone Museum, Potomac MD, USA
High Museum of Art, Atlanta GA, USA
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA
Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH, USA
Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, Austin TX, USA
Julius Baer Art Collection, Zurich, Switzerland
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York NY, USA
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL, USA
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles CA, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston MA, USA
Museum of Modern Art, New York NY, USA
New Jersey State Museum, Trenton NJ, USA
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia PA, USA
Pérez Art Museum, Miami FL, USA
Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark NJ, USA
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis MO, USA
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York NY, USA
Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence KS, USA
Studio Museum Harlem, New York NY, USA
Syracuse University Museum of Art, Syracuse NY, USA
Tate Collection, London, England, USA
The New School, New York NY, USA
The University of Texas, Austin TX, USA
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY, USA

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2014

Monument Lab, Pew Center for Arts & Heritage (grant and site specific installation in the City Hall Courtyard) Philadelphia, PA, USA

2009

Jesse Howard, Jr. / Jacob H. Lazarus – Metropolitan Museum of Art Rome Prize

2008

United States Artists James Baldwin Fellow

1997

Perspectives in African-American Art Award, Seagram Americas, New York, NY, USA

1995

New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, New York, NY, USA

1994

Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship, Brooklyn, NY, USA

1989

SECCA 7 Fellowship, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

1986

National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Washington, D.C., USA