

Chris Watts

Born 1984, High Point NC

The artist lives and works in New York, NY and North Carolina

#### Education

Yale School of Art, Yale University, New Haven CT, 2012 – 2013

College of Arts + Architecture, University of North Carolina–Charlotte, 2005 – 2009

Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Wroclaw, Wroclaw Poland, 2006

#### Awards / Fellowships / Residences

22-23 Open Society Foundation Soros Justice Fellowship

2021 Jerome Hill Foundation Artist Grant

2019 Artist in Residence, Marek Maria Pienkowski Foundation, Chelm Poland

Artist in Residence, McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Charlotte NC

2018 The Art & Law Program Fellowship, Cornell University Art Architecture Planning,  
New York NY

17-18 Artist in Residence, Abrons Arts Center at Henry Street Settlement, New York NY

16-17 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace Program, New York NY

2014 Artist in Residence, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach FL

2010 Artist in Residence, McColl Center for Visual Art, Charlotte NC

#### Solo Exhibitions

2024 TBD, Galerie LeLong, New York NY

2023 *Ceremony*, Welancora Gallery, New York NY

*Love Chant*, Bode Projects, Berlin DE

2021 *Lazuli Trials, KIAF Seoul*, Bode Projects, Seoul KR

2020 *When There Is No Sun*, Monica King Contemporary, New York NY

2017 *Blahk on Blahk on Blak*, Gallery Twenty Two, Charlotte NC

2012 *Chris Watts: New Works*, Artspace Visual Art Center, Raleigh NC

*American Gods*, Genome Gallery, Charlotte NC

2011 *I am Chris Watts*, Davidson College, Davidson NC

#### Group Exhibitions

2023 *Seen and Unseen, Frieze Los Angeles*, Welancora Gallery, Los Angeles CA

2022 *Combinations*, Sugar Hill Museum, Harlem NY

- Framing the stretcher*, Mizuma-Kips Gallery, New York NY  
*Open Door*, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York NY  
*Salon RBH*, Bode Projects, Berlin DE
- 2021 *Behold*, Welancora Gallery, Brooklyn NY  
*We Connect, Art & Future Exhibition*, Incheon International Airport in Incheon, KR  
*Witness or pretend: Decoding materiality in southern art*, Bode Projects, Berlin DE  
*Nightfall | Daybreak, Intersect Art Aspen 2021*, Monica King Projects, Aspen CO
- 2020 *Familiar, Curated by Mario Moore*, David Klein Gallery, Detroit MI  
*Beautiful Bastards*, 1209 Garage, Austin TX  
*Spring in Action*, Monica King Contemporary, New York NY  
*A Response in Uncertain Times*, Lars Kristian Bode, Hamburg DE  
*Intersect Aspen 2020*, Monica King Contemporary
- 2019 *Young Hours*, Galeria Pienkow, Lipinki Poland  
*Breaching the Margins*, Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts at Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI  
*Transparency*, Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art, Charlotte NC
- 2018 *Not an edge but a hinge*, Abrons Arts Center at Henry Street Settlement, New York NY  
*Black Blooded*, New Gallery of Modern Art, Charlotte NC  
*MATERIAL WITNESS WITNESS MATERIAL*, Knockdown Center, New York, NY  
*Roderick MacKillop Memorial Alumni Exhibition*, University of North Carolina–Charlotte, Charlotte NC
- 2017 *Up All Night*, Lump Projects, (Screening), Raleigh NC  
*mood: B L A C K*, Goodyear Arts, Charlotte NC  
*Apple Pie: An American Art Show*, Goodyear Arts, Charlotte NC
- 2016 *Do You See Me?*, Diggs Gallery at Winston Salem State University, Winston Salem NC  
*The Willows: If You Build It*, Lord & Taylor, New York NY  
*Art + Dialogue: Responding to Racial Tension in America*, High Point University, High Point NC
- 2015 *Art + Dialogue: Responding to Racial Tension in America*, Greensboro College, Greensboro NC  
*So Much to She*, Flanders Gallery, Aaron Fowler and Chris Watts, 2-Person, Raleigh NC  
*THATS ON ME*, Paris Blues, Curator: Lauren Halsey, New York NY  
*Realities in Contemporary Video Art*, Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, (Screening), Paris France  
*trashDay*, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands
- 2014 *#Live*, Le Paris Paris Club, (Screening), Paris France  
*INsideOUT*, Atlantic Center for the Arts, (Screening), New Smyrna Beach FL
- 2012 *Assorted – Yale MFA 14 Show*, Yale School of Art, New Haven CT

*Interactive Landscapes: New and Collaborative Works*, Elizabeth Ross Gallery at Central Piedmont Community College, Issac Payne and Chris Watts, 2-Person, Charlotte NC

*North Carolina Artist Exhibition*, Center for the Performing Arts, Catalogue, Raleigh NC  
2010 *Daydreaming with Swimmer's Ear*, McColl Center for Visual Art, (Screening), 2-Person, Charlotte NC

#### Artist Visits / Talks and Discussions

*Artist Panel Discussion* – Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Moderated by Jessica Gaynelle Moss, curator of Black Blooded at New Gallery of Modern Art, and Jen Edwards PhD, curator at the Bechtler Museum, Charlotte NC May 2018

*Roundtable Discussion* – Knockdown Center, Moderated by Brooklyn Museum Associate Curator Carmen Hermo, New York NY 2018

Roundtable Discussion – Abrons Arts Center, Moderated by Alessandra Gomez, New York Nov. 2018

Guest Artist Slide Lecture – Artspace Visual Art Center, Raleigh NC January 2013

*Visiting Artist* – St. Augustine University, Raleigh NC January 2013

*Guest Artist Discussion* – Hard Truths: African American Art in the Mainstream Art World, Mint Museum Uptown at the Levine Center for the Arts, Charlotte NC, July 2012

*Guest Artist Lecture* – Katherine and Tom Belk Visual Arts Center at Davidson College, Davidson NC, October 2011

#### Bibliography

Cerebral Women Podcast – Phillis Hollis, Episode 113. June 2022.

Hyperallergic – Seph Rodney, The Coexistence of Beauty and Evocations of Race and Power. 15 Nov 2021

Artnet News – Sarah Cascone, The Largest Documentary Film Festival in the U.S. Is Kicking Off in New York. Here Are 7 Films About Art to Check Out at Doc NYC. 10 Nov 2021

Artnet News – Taylor Dafoe, What Does It Take to Succeed as a Young Artist Today? A New Documentary Asks Industry Players—and Finds the Answer Is Bleak. 20 Oct 2021

Indyweek – Brian Howe, White-Dominated Arts Institutions Are Keen To Diversify. But Are They Willing To Give Up Power? 24 Feb 2021

Indyweek – Brian Howe, Two Petitions Hold North Carolina Arts Institutions Accountable for Deep-Seated White Supremacy. 12 Aug 2020

QC Exclusive – Eleanor Merrell, *Chris Watts Redefines Southern Art*. Sept 2019

Charlotte Observer – Jennifer Sudul Edwards, *Art Talk: Let a curator help you with how to look at abstract art*. March 26, 2019

Charlotte Observer – Emiene Wright, *BLACK BLOODED: An exhibition that's 'undeniably, unapologetically black'*. June 2018.

The Brooklyn Rail – Nicole Miller, *MATERIAL WITNESS WITNESS MATERIAL*. April 2018.

HappeningsCLT – *Daily: Jessica Moss talks curating Chris Watts' "Blahk on Blahk on Blak"*. April 2017.

HappeningsCLT – *Carolina Art Crush: Chris Watts*. March 2017.

IRAAA – Tracy Spencer-Stonestreet. Vol 25.3. *Featured Artists on The Rise*. Spring 2015.

Indyweek – Chris Vitiello, *At Lump and Flanders Gallery, Harrison Haynes, Chris Watts and Aaron Fowler pierce the myth of the solo artist*. 13 May 2015.

## Collections

Jimenez-Colon Collection, Ponce, Puerto Rico

Davidson College, Davidson NC