

Shaun Leonardo

131 Clifton Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238
347-678-2987
elcleonardo@gmail.com
shaunleonardo.com

EDUCATION:

- 2005 M.F.A., Painting, San Francisco Art Institute
- 2004 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME
- 2001 B.A., Visual Arts, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

HONORS:

- 2022 Center for Justice Innovation, Honoree, New York, NY
- 2021 Art 21: New York Close Up, New York, NY
- 2019 NYC Arts in Education Roundtable keynote, New York, NY
Creative Time, Social Impact Award, New York, NY
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Board of Governors, New York, NY
Socrates Sculpture Park, Board Member, Long Island City, NY
Bowdoin College of Art, Advisory Council Member, Brunswick, ME
- 2018 No Longer Empty, Honoree, New York, NY
- 2017 Brooklyn Museum, *The Brooklyn Conference* keynote, Brooklyn, NY
- 2015 Yerba Buena Center, *YBCA100* honoree, San Francisco, CA

SELECTED AWARDS:

- 2021 Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant
National Endowment for the Arts award for MassMoCA exhibition
- 2019 A Blade of Grass Fellowship, New York, NY
- 2018 Art for Justice Fund, New York, NY
Guggenheim Social Practice Initiative, New York, NY
- 2017 Smack Mellon, Artist Studio Program, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 Creative Capital, collaboration with Melanie Crean and Sable E. Smith
- 2015 Franklin Furnace Fund for performance art
Franklin Furnace Fund, with Melanie Crean and Sable E. Smith
- 2011 Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grant
- 2010 Franklin Furnace Fund for performance art
McColl Center for Visual Art Residency and Fellowship

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2024 The Return of El Conquistador, Queens Museum, NY
#23, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, NY
- 2023 *The Messengers*, The Art Show (ADAA Fair), w/ Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021 *Between Four Freedoms*, FDR Four Freedoms State Park, Roosevelt Island, NY
- 2021 *The Breath of Empty Space*, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY
- 2020 *The Breath of Empty Space*, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA
The Breath of Empty Space, Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2019 *Mirror/Echo/Tilt*, with Melanie Crean & Sable E. Smith, New Museum, New York, NY
Testimony, Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
- 2018 *Primitive Games*, Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
- 2017 *The Eulogy*, Out of Line series, the High Line, New York, NY
Assembly, Recess, Brooklyn, NY

- 2016 *Something I Can Feel*, curated by Derrick Adams, VOLTA NY, New York, NY
2013 *Untitled (A Performance Project)*, Madragoras Art Space, Long Island City, NY
Champion of the World, Praxis International Art, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2024 *Get in the Game*, SFMoMA, San Francisco, CA
Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing, Norton Museum of Art, W Palm Beach, FL
The sun still rises in spite of everything, Davidson College, Davidson, NC
Men of Change, Smithsonian Institution (SITES), traveling exhibition (2019-2024)
- 2023 *Something Beautiful: Reframing La Colección*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY (-2024)
Men of Change, Smithsonian Institution (SITES), traveling exhibition (2019-2023)
- 2022 *All Opposing Players*, curated by the Racial Imaginary Institute, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Articulating Activism, The 8th Floor, New York, NY
Melanie Crean & Shaun Leonardo, Pratt MWP Gallery, Utica, NY
- 2021 *Vida, Muerte, Justicia*, Ogden Contemporary Arts, Ogden UT
Structure Identity Transformation, david lusk gallery, Memphis / Nashville, TN
Breath Taking, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts 2020-2021 Artists-in-Residence Spotlight, Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, TX
- 2019 *Culture and the People: El Museo del Barrio: 1969-2019*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY
Distance, Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City, NY
Messengers: Artists as Witnesses, University of New Hampshire Museum of Art, Durham, NH
- 2018 *A Truthful Mirror*, Project for Empty Space, Newark, NJ
A VOID, curated by Paul Ramírez Jonas, 601Artspace, New York, NY
Walls Turned Sideways, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX
Second Sight: The Paradox of Vision in Contemporary Art, Bowdoin Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
Portland Biennial, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
- 2017 *Hold These Truths*, No Longer Empty, Nathan Cummings Foundation, New York, NY
Scrimmage: American Artists Image Football from the Civil War to the Present, The Canton Museum of Art, Canton, OH; The Figge Museum of Art, Davenport, IA
- 2016 *A Dark Matter...*, Tarble Arts Center, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL
Whisper or Shout: Artists in the Social Sphere, BRIC, Brooklyn, NY
- 2015 *Radical Presence*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
Between History and the Body, 8th Floor Gallery, New York, NY
Venturing Out of the Heart of Darkness, Harvey B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC
RESPOND, Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014 *Crossing Brooklyn*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

SELECTED PRESS:

- Reframing Freedom*, The New York Times, Weekend Roundup, Melissa Smith, pg. C2, Nov. 25, 2021
Against Passive Seeing, Jane Ursula Harris, Flash Art, 333 Winter 2020-21, Features, January 20, 2021
Shaun Leonardo's Stark Images Of Police Brutality Leaving MASS MoCA, Without Incident, Headed To The Bronx, Forbes, Chadd Scott, December 8, 2020
MASS MoCA Exhibit 'The Breath Of Empty Space' Reinterprets Media Representations of

Police Violence, WBUR Radio Boston, Zoe Mitchell and Tiziana Dearing, October 14, 2020

At Mass MoCA an artist draws a long line on police killings, The Boston Globe, Murray Whyte, September 10, 2020

Canceled in Cleveland, an artist's police violence drawings come to Mass MoCA, The Boston Globe, Malcolm Gay, August 25, 2020

After controversial cancellation in Cleveland, Mass MoCA will exhibit Shaun Leonardo's images of Black victims, The Art Newspaper, Nancy Kenney, August 24, 2020

Artist Shaun Leonardo Wants to Expand the Conversation on Police Brutality Through His Work, WYNC, The Takeaway, Tanzina Vega, July 1, 2020

Artist whose exhibition on police brutality was abruptly canceled in February says institutions must do better, Ananda Pellerin, CNN Style, June 24, 2020

A Museum Canceled a Show About Police Brutality. Here's the Art, Brian Boucher, The New York Times, pg. C4, June 10, 2020

Shaun Leonardo: The Breath of Empty Space, Louis Block, The Brooklyn Rail, March 2020

Silence Speaking Volumes: Artists Confront the Culture of Incarceration, Siddhartha Mitter, The New York Times, Aug. 1, 2019

Moving Eric Garner's Memory from Mind to Body, Rebecca Carroll, WNYC, July 17, 2019

Mirror/Echo/Tilt, Alison Stewart, "All of It," WNYC, July 11, 2019

How Three Artists are Taking on the Crisis of Mass Incarceration, Sara Roffino, Cultured, June 21, 2019

How the Museum is Like a Prison, Kyle Croft, Hyperallergic, Nov. 26, 2018

"These Works Will Haunt You." *The Chart: Anthology 2017-2018*, edited by Jenna Crowder, The Chart, October 2018, pp. 56-73

Can an Artist Shift the Gun Debate, Meredith Mendelsohn, The New York Times, pg. C6, June 22, 2018

Can Calcio Storico, an Ultraviolent Ancient Italian Sport, Help Heal Our Political Divides?
Artist Shaun Leonardo Thinks So, Tim Schneider, artnet News, June 21, 2018

Editors' Picks: 17 Things Not to Miss..., Sarah Cascone, artnet News, June 18, 2018

Scrimmage art exhibit tackles the culture of football, CBS News, Oct. 14, 2017

Practice Makes Perfect, Alex Fialho, Artforum, April 28, 2017

A New Arts Program Offers an Alternative to Incarceration..., Brian Boucher, artnet News, Feb. 14, 2017

The Most Memorable Artworks of 2016, Brian Boucher, artnet News, Dec. 19, 2016

How to Safely Defend Yourself From Police Brutality, Donovan X. Ramsey, Complex News, Dec. 14, 2016

Editors Picks, Sarah Cascone, artnet News, Nov 8, 2016

Bringing Self-Defense Performance Art into the Community, Joel Kuennen, Art Slant, February, 23, 2016

Between History and the Body' is a Damned Good Show, Jessica Dawson, Village Voice, Aug. 11, 2015

Local Heroes, Peter Schjeldahl, The New Yorker, October 20, 2014

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

"On Reverence and Spiritual Reckonings," Michelle D. Commander, Reckoning: Protest. Defiance. Resilience., National Museum of African American History & Culture, Rizzoli Electa, 2024, pg. 148.

"Museum as Nexus: How to cultivate community engagement through artist-powered platforms / Jordan Casteel, Shaun Leonardo, Miguel Luciano, and Lina Puerta," Museum Metamorphosis: Cultivating Change Through Cultural Citizenship, nico wheadon, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers / American Alliance of Museums, 2022, pp. 11-32.

"Self-Portraiture," David Driskell: Icons of Nature and History, edited by Jessica May, Rizzoli Electa, 2021, pp. 78-80.

Dossier #3: Division of Time, edited by Nico Wheadon and David van Der Leer, DVDL DD, March 2021
Creative Futures: On Anti-Racist Somatic Work, Ford Foundation,
<https://www.fordfoundation.org/campaigns/creative-futures/?popup=14765>, January 2021
Critical Communion: On Refusal & Better Questions, edited by Jenna Crowder, The Chart,
Vol. 5, No. 3, <https://thechart.me/on-refusal-better-questions/>, Summer 2020
“The Eulogy” and Mirror/Echo/Tilt.” *Wall Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Justice System*,
edited by Risa Puleo, exhibition catalog, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, pp. 252-255, 388-394.
Mirror/Echo/Tilt, Melanie Crean, Shaun Leonardo and Sable Elyse Smith, exhibition catalog and
curriculum, Pacific, 2019
“I am an Invisible Man.” *Second Sight: The Paradox of Vision in Contemporary Art*, edited by
Ellen Y. Tani, Scala Arts Publisher and the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, 2018, pp. 84-85.
Vector Artists Journal #8, June 2018
“Self-Portrait fight.” *Snöfrid #0*, performance manual, Tensta Konsthall, November 2007, pp. 102-119.

SELECTED VISITING ARTIST LECTURES / PANELS:

The Bronx Museum of the Arts, AIM Fellowship seminar, 12/3/24
Arizona State University, virtual lecture and workshop, 2/16/22
Bowdoin College, virtual lecture and workshop, 10/18/22
Art World Learning, *The Future of Leadership*, with Allison Weisberg, 6/8/21
NYFA, *Blacklist: Considering the Role of Activism in Art*, virtual panel
with Derek Fordjour & Dread Scott, 5/24/21
University of Houston, *Policing, Performance, and the Question of Reform*, Shaun Leonardo &
UH Police Chief Ceaser Moore, 5/20/21
SAIC, visiting artist, virtual, 3/26/21
University of Pittsburgh, Hesselbein Lecture on Leadership, 2/19/21
California State University galleries and museums, *Platform*, presented by ConSortiUm,
virtual lecture, 2/11/21
MASS MoCA, *InSession*, panel with Nick Cave, Steve Locke, Xaviera Simmons,
M. Carmen Lane, Dr. Kalima Young, virtual, 12/10/20
Art Funders Forum, panel discussion, 12/8/20
Temple School of Art & Architecture, visiting artist, virtual, 11/17/20
Materials for the Arts *Race, Art & Identity: A Conversation with Shaun Leonardo*, virtual, 7/16/20
The Brooklyn Rail, *83rd New Social Environment conversation*, virtual, 7/10/20
Artnet Talks: *A Conversation with Shaun Leonardo, Dread Scott, and Clifford Owens on
Art as an Act of Resistance*, virtual, 6/24/20
Tufts University, *Walls Turned Sideways symposium*, workshop and keynote, Boston, MA,
3/5/20
University of Houston, visiting artist, Houston, TX, 2/5/20
University of Western Michigan, visiting artist, Kalamazoo, MI, 11/18/19
Tufts University, *Acting Up*, MFA colloquium, Boston, MA, 10/7/19
Tufts University, visiting artist, Boston, MA, 10/7/19
University of New Hampshire Museum of Art, visiting artist, Durham, NH, 3/20/19
Transylvania University, visiting artist, Lexington, Kentucky, 2/27/19
Kenyon College, visiting artist, Gambier, OH, 1/28/19
Art for Justice, convening and presentation, New Orleans, LA, 11/29/18

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, *Testimony* performance and town hall, Cleveland, OH, 11/10/18

Milwaukee Art Museum, *Envisioning the Role of the Arts in Criminal Justice Reform*, symposium and workshop, Milwaukee, WI, 11/2/18

Brown University, visiting artist, Providence, RI, 10/3/18

Whitney Museum, *Vector #8* journal launch & performance, New York, NY, 6/22/18

Marymount Manhattan College, visiting artist, New York, NY, 5/17/18

Colby College Museum of Art, visiting artist, Waterville, ME, 2/2/18

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS:

JP Morgan Chase, New York, NY

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC

Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore MD

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA

El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY

Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, New York, NY

Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME

University of New Hampshire Museum of Art, Durham, NH

Bowdoin Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME

KADIST Video Library, San Francisco, CA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Socrates Sculpture Park, Co-Director, Queens, NY 2024-present

Recess, Co-Director, Brooklyn, NY, 2021-2024

Pratt Institute, School of Art, Visiting Artist Fellowship, Brooklyn, NY, 2018-2020

SUNY Purchase, School of the Arts, Adjunct Professor, Purchase, New York, NY, 2017-2018

New Museum, School, Youth, and Community Programs Manager, New York, NY, 2015-2017

Socrates Sculpture Park, Director of Public Programs, Long Island City, New York, 2010-2015