

SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY

William Downs CV

Education

2003 M.F.A., Mount Royal School of Art, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

1996 B.F.A., Painting and Printmaking, Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, GA

Solo Exhibitions

2021 *Pieces of a Man*, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY

2019 *LET THE WIND CARRY US*, Tempus Projects, Tampa, FL

a soft place to land, E.C. Liná, Los Angeles, CA

standing on the verge of..., Grizzly Grizzly Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

2018 *Sometimes it hurts*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Inhuman, Sandler Hudson Gallery, Atlanta, GA

2016 *Aimless Reverie*, The Fuel and Lumber Company, Birmingham, AL

2011 *At Ease*, Parker Jones Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2009 *A World I Never Made*, Slag Gallery, New York, NY

2008 *Fly Away Fly Away*, Artspace, New Haven, CT

2003 *Drawings*, Tevis County Gallery, Westminster, MD

2002 *Drawings 2001 – 2002*, Mission Space, Baltimore, MD

1999 *Broken Ladders*, Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum, La Grange, GA

1998 *Hands and Feet*, Gallery 307, Decatur, GA

1997 *Drawings*, ASIS Alternative Space, Atlanta, GA

1997 *Broken Ladders*, Georgia South Western University, Fine Arts Center Gallery, Americus, GA

Group Exhibitions:

2021 *Of Care and Destruction: 2021 Atlanta Biennial*, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA

Summer Show, Curated by TJ Moberg, Moberg Gallery, Des Moines, IA

2020 *Before, During, and After*, Sandler Hudson Gallery, Atlanta, GA

2019 *Project*, Temporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA

Figure Forward, Albany Museum, Albany, GA

2018 *Til The Lights Go Out*, Hathaway Contemporary Gallery, Atlanta, GA

Private Eyes, curated by Mountain, 284 Seigel Street, 1B Brooklyn NY, 11206

Figure Forward, Curated by Sarah Higgens, The Zuckerman Museum of Art Kennesaw, GA

Black Pulp! Curated by William Villalongo & Mark Gibson, The African American Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA

Draw it OUT! Curated by MICA faculty members Renee van der Stelt and

Gerald Ross, Meyerhoff Gallery. Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

GSU Welch School of Art and Design Faculty Triennial, Georgia State University Welch Gallery Atlanta, GA

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- THIRD SPACE/SHIFFTING CONVERSATION ABOUT CONTEMPORARY ART,
Birmingham Museum of Art, AL
- 2017 *Published by The Artist, 2017* IPCNY. New York, NY
Black Pulp, Curated by William Villalongo & Mark Gibson, Ezra and Cecile Zilkha
Gallery at Wesleyan University. Middletown, CT
Summer Thunder, Group Exhibition, Sandler Hudson Gallery. Atlanta, GA
Sheffield Wood Gallery, Fine Arts Center Greenville, SC
Upstream part II, The Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA.
THIRD SPACE/SHIFFTING CONVERSATION ABOUT CONTEMPORARY ART,
Birmingham Museum of Art, AL
The Reroute, Day&Night Projects at Tempus Projects. Tampa, FL
- 2016 *Tell All the Truth but Tell it Slant*, Selena Gallery Brooklyn, NY
Art Aids America, Alphawood Exhibitions LLC. Chicago, IL
End HIV/AIDS: The Artists Respond, Fulton County Government Center, Atlanta,
GA
Black Pulp, curated by Will Villalongo and Mark Thomas Gibson, IPC Chelsea,
NY
The voice never sleeps, Day and Night Projects, Atlanta, GA
Call and Response: Michael Reese and William Downs, Sandler Hudson Gallery,
Atlanta, GA
All of Tomorrows Parties, Hathaway David Contemporary, Atlanta, GA.
Art Aids America, The Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw, GA
Black Pulp, curated by Will Villalongo and Mark Thomas Gibson, Yale University,
Edgewood Gallery, New Haven, CT
Moleskine Mailer Collaboration, Tempus Projects, Tampa, FL
- 2015 *Monster Drawing Rally*, The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
Sprawl! Drawing Outside the Lines, The High Museum, Atlanta, GA
Drawing Experiment, Chastain Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
Summer Salon, Sandler Hudson Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Careless Whiskers, Curated by Joy Phrasavath, Beep Beep Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Bewariness, Tempus Projects, Tampa, FL
- 2014 *NEXUS, SEXUS, PLEXUS series of systems*, Dashboard Co-op, Atlanta, GA
Kaleidoscope Eyes, MacDonough Gallery, Albertus Magnus College, New
Haven, CT
Drawing2014, Group show, Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University,
Pittsburgh, PA
- 2013 *On Paper*, Group show, curated by Ayana Moore, Fieldwork Gallery, Pittsburgh,
PA
Divisions, Group show, Beep Beep Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Precious, Group show, Porthole Gallery, London, UK

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- 2012 *Crossing Lines* (two-person exhibition with Brooke Pickett), {Poem88}, Atlanta, GA
Everything All at Once, Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 2011 *Crossing Lines* (two-person exhibition with Brooke Pickett), The Front, New Orleans, LA
PICK TWO, curated by Timothy Young, Artspace, New Haven, CT
- 2010 *Painting Comes Alive*, ARTJAIL Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 *Another Shade of Grey*, NYU Art Gallery, New York, NY
Wakaime Art Studio Exhibition, Anjo, Aichi, Japan
No Soul For Sale, X Initiative, New York, NY
State of Consciousness, curated by Damien Montalieu, Collective Gallery, New York, NY
ALIVE, Luxe Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 *Transformer*, curated by Derrick Adams, The Gateway Gallery, Baltimore, MD
Inseparability, Five Ten Studio, Oakland, CA
Fine Arts Center Alumni Exhibition, Sheffield Wood Gallery, Greenville, SC
Untitled, Moti Hasson Gallery, New York, NY
- 2007 *Reparations*, curated by Keith Miller, Stony Brook University, SAC Gallery, Stony Brook, NY
The Most Curatorial Biennial of the Universe, apexart, New York, NY
If It Ain't Broke, Gallery 138 (in conjunction with Stony Brook University), New York, NY
- 2006 *cotton candy on a cloudy day*, curated by Shinique Smith, The Proposition, New York, NY
Art Auction, Artists Space, New York, NY
17th National Drawing & Print Competitive Exhibition, juror Amy Eva Raehse (purchase award), Gormley Gallery, College of Notre Dame, Baltimore, MD
Art Papers Art Auction, Atlanta, GA
- 2005 *Battles*, Current Gallery, Baltimore, MD
I-5 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Katrina Benefit, Spring Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2003 *Faculty Exhibition*, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
Door and Window Project, curated by Gary Kachedorian, Baltimore City Arts Projects, Baltimore, MD
Journey: A Traveling Exhibition, Chela Gallery, Baltimore, MD
Reduced, Century Gallery, London, England
Ripples, Alcazar Gallery, Baltimore School for the Arts, Baltimore, MD
Filter/Natural, Dog Couch Space, Baltimore, MD

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- Between the Lines*, School 33, Baltimore, MD
51st Annual Keisho Art Association Exhibition, Nagoya, Japan
Model Home, Artscape, Baltimore, MD
MFA Biennial Exhibition, Delaware Contemporary Art Center, Wilmington, DE
Fin, M.F.A. Graduate Exhibition, Decker Gallery, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
Door and Window Project, curated by Gary Kachedorian Baltimore City Arts Projects, Baltimore, MD
- 2002 *Winter*, Mission Space, Baltimore, MD
Freestylin, Meyerhoff Gallery, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
twenty-eight, Whole Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- 2001 *Reactions*, Exit Art Gallery, New York, NY
Untitled, Whole Gallery, Baltimore, MD
Nanotechnology, Whole Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- 2000 *Drawings*, 333 West Baltimore Street, Alternative Space, Baltimore, MD
Drawings, One World Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- 1998 *Michael Price One Year Anniversary Show*, MPG Gallery, Boston, MA
The Nexus Biennial, Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA
Sketches Part Two, Aurora Space, Atlanta, GA
Stimuli, Drawings and Paintings by William E. Downs III and Melvin Ocassio, Piedmont Park, Atlanta, GA
Atlanta College of Art Alumni Show, The Woodruff Arts Center Gallery, Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, GA
The Padeia Arts Festival, Padeia Elementary School, Atlanta, GA
EATING: An Exhibition of Erotic Imagery, Building 130, Atlanta, GA
- 1998 *The Blue Dress*, curated by Cathy Byrd, The Ballroom Studios, Atlanta, GA
Homage to Paint, The Michael Price Gallery, Boston, MA
Sketches, Drawings, Sound and Motion Pictures, ASIS Alternative Space, Atlanta, GA
Alumni Exhibition & Sale, Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, GA
LEGACY, Thirty Years of Work from ACA's African American Alumni 1967-97, The Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, GA
Cultural Freedom, Emory Law Library, curated by Jennifer Lackland and Veronica Carolson, Decatur, GA
Project 6, A Show of Painting and Photography with 6 artists, The Backdrop Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Investigation, Initiation, Exploration, Celebration, Penetration: A Journey Into Lifestyle, Eroticism and Imagery, The Old Lake Claire Baptist Church, Alternative Space, Atlanta, GA
Anti-Art, The U-Haul Building, Alternative Space, Atlanta, GA

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- 1997 *Etchings and Paintings* (two-person exhibition), Eclipse De Luna, Atlanta, GA
Precise Significance Symbolism Iconology, curated by Daniel Hoover Hammons
House Gallery, Atlanta, GA
A Classic Halloween with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Live Action Painting,
Symphony Hall, The Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
Paintings, Gallery 307, Decatur, GA
November Project: Seven Artists, The Old Lake Claire Baptist Church,
Alternative Space, Atlanta, GA
Cold Well Bank Arts Festival, Cold Well Bank, Atlanta, GA
Simple Fare, A Cultural Urban Market, Atlanta, GA
Center Space Salon, The Woodruff Arts Center Gallery, Atlanta College of Art,
Atlanta, GA
The Slug, a one act play with visual art, a project by Leon Kirkland, The Old
Highland Bakery, Alternative Space, Atlanta, GA
The Americus, Georgia Art Gallery, Americus, GA
Degrees of Excellence, Atlanta College of Art Gallery, Colony Square Mall,
Atlanta, GA
Senior Show, The Woodruff Arts Center Gallery, Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta,
GA
Ladders and Measurement (Daniel Paz and William E. Downs III), The Old
Highland Bakery, Alternative Space, Atlanta, GA
The 5th Annual College Juried Exhibition, Marietta, GA
Erotiko: A Collection of Erotic works by Atlanta Artists, The Old Highland Bakery,
Alternative Space, Atlanta, GA
I am just because we are, Black History Exhibition, Atlanta-Fulton County Library
Downtown, Atlanta, GA
The Southern Craft Expo, The Georgia Dome, Atlanta, GA

Grants & Awards

- 2019 MOCA GA Working Artist Project
2018 Artadia Award
The Nellie Mae Rowe Fellowship at Hambidge Creative Residency Program
2001 Mount Royal School of Art Award

Teaching

- 2019 Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO
Summer Experimental Drawing Workshops
- 2019 Albany Museum, Albany, GA
Figure Drawing Class
- 2012 - 2018 Lecturer in Drawing and Painting, Georgia State University,
Atlanta, GA
- 2012 - 2014 Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

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Visiting Lecturer in Drawing and Painting

- 2011 – 2012 Tulane University, School of Liberal Arts/Newcomb Art Department, New Orleans, LA
Adjunct Professor, Foundation Department: Drawing I
- 2009 – 2011 The Cooper Union School of Art, New York, NY
Adjunct Professor, Foundation Department: Drawing I & II
- 2010 – 2011 Parsons The New School for Design, New York, NY
Adjunct Professor, Drawing and Painting Department: Drawing III
- 2003 – 2010 Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
Adjunct Professor, Foundation Department: Drawing I, II, & Drawing for Transfer,
Printmaking Department: Introduction to Printmaking, Etching,
Block Printing
- 2002-2003 School 33 Baltimore, MD: Instructor, Drawing and Painting
- 1998-1999 Atlanta College of Art: Instructor, Continuing Studies: How to See Drawing
Atlanta College of Art Instructor, Foundation Department: Drawing I & II

Residencies and Workshops

- 2021 Anderson Ranch Art Center, CO, one week workshop and lecture
- 2019 Anderson Ranch, Snowmass Village, CO
- 2018 Hambidge Creative Residency Program, Rabun Gap, GA
Drawing IT OUT!, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2017 Tojka Institute, Questa, NM

Bibliography

https://saportareport.com/conceptual-design-picked-for-ivan-allen-jr-maynard-jackson-monument/sections/reports/maria_saporta/

<http://www.artsatl.com/2012/04/review-exquisite-corpses-abound-williams-downs-brooke-pickett-collaborations-poem-88/>

Michael Ned Holte, "ACP: Parker Jones," Artforum, March 2011.

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0268/is_7_49/ai_n58569268/

Lyra Kilston, "A World William Downs Never Made," Slag Gallery Exhibition Brochure, May 3, 2009.

<http://lyrakilston.com/2009/05/03/a-world-william-downs-never-made/>

Jessica Bowers, "17th National Drawing and Print Competitive Exhibition," Baltimore City Paper, April 12, 2006.

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<http://www2.citypaper.com/news/story.asp?id=11683>

Sarah Tanguy, "Baltimore 'Model Home' Artscape," Sculpture Magazine, Volume 23, No. 6, July/August 2004.

<http://www.sculpture.org/documents/scmag04/julaug04/webspecials/modelhome.shtml>

Blake de Pastino, "Journey: A Traveling Group Art Show," Baltimore City Paper, March 17, 2004.

<http://www2.citypaper.com/arts/story.asp?id=7403>

Jamie Stiehm, "City area supplies new window to art," Baltimore Sun, February 13, 2004.

[http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/baltsun/access/544779841.html?
dids=544779841:544779841&FMT=ABS&FMTS=ABS:FT&type=current&date=Feb+13%2C+
2004&author=Jamie+Stiehm&pub=The+Sun&desc=City+area+supplies+new+window+to+art+](http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/baltsun/access/544779841.html?dids=544779841:544779841&FMT=ABS&FMTS=ABS:FT&type=current&date=Feb+13%2C+2004&author=Jamie+Stiehm&pub=The+Sun&desc=City+area+supplies+new+window+to+art+)

Tim Hill, "Street Signs," Baltimore City Paper, March 5, 2003.

<http://www2.citypaper.com/arts/story.asp?id=3792>

Jessica Bowers, "Drawing No Conclusions," Baltimore City Paper, August 6, 2003.

<http://www2.citypaper.com/arts/story.asp?id=3770>

Gadi Dechter, "A Place to Hang," Baltimore City Paper, December 11, 2002.

<http://www2.citypaper.com/arts/story.asp?id=3805>

Mike Giuliano, "Between the Lines: The Unbearable Exactitude of Lightness," Baltimore City Paper, September 5, 2001.

<http://www2.citypaper.com/arts/story.asp?id=3886>

Art Projects in Magazines & Journals

Black Pulp! 2016

Friends of Friends for Friends, July 2005

Link, 2004

Baltimore Magazine, Summer 2004

Chela Magazine, Summer 2004

Peek review, 2001 – 2002

Animal Stories Magazine, Drawings, 1998

Freeform, cover, May 1996

Commissions

The Zuckerman Museum of Art

Fiber Webb Company, Fountain Inn, SC

Bob Carrington, Realtor, Atlanta, GA

Sonia David Web Design Company, Atlanta, GA

Collections

The Birmingham Museum of Art

The High Museum of Art, Drawing Collection

The Smithsonian Museum of Art

Peggy Cooper Cafritz Collection

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Tim Schrager Collection

Bio

WILLIAM DOWNS is a contemporary American artist residing in Atlanta, Georgia. His varied work includes drawing, painting, printmaking, installation and three-dimensional studies. For Downs, “the line” is paradoxically fundamental and surreal, based on its infinite capabilities. His artwork expresses truth in common forms turned ambiguous, while his use of repetition distorts expectations of truth. Downs’ forms form, reform, and deform. Downs received a B.F.A in Painting and Printmaking from the Atlanta College of Art and Design and a multidisciplinary M.F.A from the Mount Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art. His awards include Artadia, The Working Artist Project at MOCA GA, and The Nellie Mae Rowe Fellowship at Hambidge Creative Residency Program. His work has been included in nationally touring shows with *Art AIDS America*, curated by Rock Hushka and Jonathan Katz and in *Black Pulp!* curated by Mark Thomas Gibson and William Villalongo. Downs has exhibited at venues nationally and abroad including: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis MO, Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia, PA, Tempus Projects, Tampa, FL; Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw, GA, the Century Gallery in London, UK, and Derek Eller Gallery in New York, NY. His work resides in collections such as The High Museum of Art, Drawing Collection, The Birmingham Museum of Art, and The Smithsonian Museum of Art.

Artist Statement

William Downs, *Inhuman* at Sandler Hudson Gallery

Inspired compositionally by Paul Cézanne, these drawings in ink wash are figurative and surreal. They depict human beings participating in a dream-like fantastic world of activities. I am fascinated with people who train their bodies to do inhuman things like run a marathon or bend and contort their bodies. The scene from “Yoga girls” is a good example of body contortion and extreme ambiguity and flexibility. Along with the fascination, there is a voyeuristic and erotic component that is neither here nor there. Are these figures creatures? Are they gestures? Their androgyny and ambiguity doesn’t allow us to find out.

William Downs Additional PR

2021 William Downs to create mural for Atlanta Legacy Makers Monument
https://saportareport.com/conceptual-design-picked-for-ivan-allen-jr-maynard-jackson-monument/sections/reports/maria_saporta/
William Downs in Atlanta Contemporary Biennial, *Of Care and Destruction*

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<https://atlantacontemporary.org/exhibitions/2021-atlanta-biennial>

William Downs with Adult Swim Atlanta Mural Project

<https://www.adultswim.com/muralproject/atlanta/>

William Downs at Derek Eller Gallery, NY: Show covered by Two Coats of Paint

<https://www.twocoatsofpaint.com/2021/08/scene-sensoria-2.html>

2020

William Downs at MOCA GA: Drawings of Wildness and Silence...

<https://mocaga.org/calendar/william-downs/>

Coverage of show by María Korol for Burnaway

<https://burnaway.org/daily/commanding-shadows-of-death-william-downs-at-moca-ga/>

2018

William Downs at Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

<https://camstl.org/exhibitions/william-downs/>