

BARBARA WALKER

Born in 1964 in Birmingham, UK

Lives and works in Birmingham, UK

Education

1993 - 96 BA, Art, and Design, University of Central England Birmingham, 1st Class (Hons), UK

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 *Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere*, Victoria Miro, Venice, Italy
- 2024 *Barbara Walker: Being Here*, The Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, UK; Arnolfini, Bristol, UK
- 2022 *Vanishing Point*, Cristea Roberts Gallery, London, UK
- 2019 *Place, Space and Who*, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK (2019–21)
- 2018 *Vanishing Point*, Jerwood Gallery, Hastings, UK
- 2016 *Shock and Awe*, curated by Lynda Morris and Craig Ashley, MAC Birmingham, UK
- 2015 *Sub Urban: New Drawings*, curated by Richard Hylton, James Hockey Gallery, University of Creative Arts, Farnham, UK
- 2014 *Pause*, C&C Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 *As Seen*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK
- 2012 *Pursuit of the real*, Deptford X Fringe, London, UK
- 2011 *Show and Tell*, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall, UK

- 2009 *Louder Than Words*, Vane Contemporary Art, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
- 2007 *Louder Than Words*, Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham, UK; UNIT 2, London Metropolitan University London, UK (2006)
- 2005 *Testimony*, Queens Hall Gallery, Hexham, Northumberland, UK; Suffolk College, Ipswich, UK
- 2002 *Private Face*, EMACA, Nottingham, UK; Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham, UK; 198 Gallery, London, UK
- 2000 *Communication*, The Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK

Two Persons Exhibitions

- 2012 *Bread and Roses*, with Kymia Nawab, Fehily Contemporary Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2008 *Fragments*, with Katharina Rohde, The Bag Factory Residency, Johannesburg, South Africa

Selected Group Exhibition

- 2025 *Find my Blue Sky*, curated by Dr. Omar Kholeif, Lisson Gallery, London, UK
Chiaroscuro, Victoria Miro, Venice, Italy
Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood, Arnolfini, Bristol, UK; Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, UK; Millenium Gallery, Sheffield, UK; Dundee Contemporary Arts, Scotland (2025); VISUAL Centre fo Contemporary Art & The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow, Republic of Ireland (2025)
- 2024 *The Time is Always Now. Artists Reframe the Black Figure*, curated by Ekow Eshun, National Portrait Gallery, UK; The Box, Plymouth UK; The Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA; The Museum of North Carolina, USA
- 2023 *Life Between Islands, Caribbean – British Art, 50s to Now*, curated by David A. Bailey and Alex Farquharson, Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada

Leda and the Swan: A Myth of Creation and Destruction, curated by Minna Moore Ede and presented by Vortic Art and Victoria Miro, London, UK

Turner Prize, Towner Gallery, Eastbourne, UK

Power and Resistance, curated by Dr Victoria Avery FSA and Dr Jake Subryan Richards, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK

Dialogues Across Disciplines, Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, New York, USA

Finding Family, Foundling Museum, London, UK

Thinking Historically in the Present, Sharjah Biennial 15, curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, Sharjah Foundation, United Arab Emirates

2022 *A Line Around An Idea: ways of knowing through contemporary drawing practices*, Glucksman Gallery, Cork, Ireland

Mostra, British School of Rome, Italy

Shifting perspectives : Exploring representation of people of African, Caribbean and Asian Heritage

Leeds Art Gallery's Collection, Leeds Gallery, UK

Broken Angel, curated by Mike Tooby, Coventry Cathedral, Coventry. UK

Exchanges, Whitworth Art Gallery Manchester, UK

Space Is A Place: From Painting To Performance, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol, UK

2021 *Life Between Islands, Caribbean – British Art, 50s to Now*, curated by David A. Bailey and Alex Farquharson, Tate Britain, UK

A Fire in My Head, University of Essex, Colchester, UK

Bob and Roberta Smith Room, Reclaiming The Magic, Summer Show, The Royal Academy of Arts, London UK

Where We Are Now, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Sunderland, UK

Art for Life: An exhibition made with keyworkers, Firstsite, Colchester, UK

Drawing Biennial 2021, Drawing Room, London UK

2020 *Portrayals*, Arts Council Collection, Banbury Museum Art Gallery, Banbury, UK

Everyday Heroes, The Haywood Gallery, Southbank Centre, London, UK

Unquiet Moments: Capturing the Everyday, MA Curating the Art Museum, Courtauld of Art, London, UK [online]

Between The Sun and The Moon, Lahore Biennale 02, Curated by Hoor Al Qasimi Between, Pakistan

2019 *Open Your Eyes*, Art Exchanges, University Essex, Colchester, UK

Super Black, An Arts Council Collection National Partner Exhibition, Firstsite Gallery Colchester, UK

Radical Drawing: Works From Coventry And The Courtauld, The Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry, UK

Frederick Douglass: Embers of Freedom, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah Georgia, USA
Photographs / Contemporary Art: Recent Gifts and Acquisitions, Yale Centre for British Art, Connecticut, USA
Get Up, Stand Up Now, curated by Zak Ove, Somerset House, London UK
Bob and Roberta Smith Room, The Secret to a Good Life, Summer Show, The Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
Protest and Remembrance, Alan Cristea Gallery, London, UK

2018 *Women Power Protest*, Birmingham Museum Gallery, Birmingham, UK
Zeichen, MEWO Kunsthalle, Memmingen, Germany
A Slice Through The World: Contemporary Artist's Drawings, The Drawing Room, London and Modern Art, Oxford, UK
Reformation, Guest Project, co-curated with Kashif Nadim Chaudry and Michael Forbes, London, UK
Walls, Have Ears: 400 Years Of Change, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK
The Gallery Of Small Things, curated by Olabisi Silva, Dakar Biennale, Senegal, Africa, Cultural & Design Festival, Nigeria, Africa

2017 Jerwood Drawing Prize, Selected by Helen Legg, Dr David Dibosa and Michael Simpson
Jerwood Space, London, touring to Norwich, Bath and Canterbury, UK
Vicennial, Vane Contemporary, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
Diaspora Pavilion – International Curators Forum, Palazzo Santa Marina, curated by David A Bailey, Venice, Italy
Untitled: Art of the Conditions of Our Time, curated by Paul Goodwin and Hansi Momodu-Gordon, New Art Exchange, Nottingham, UK
Everything Exist Now, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, UK

2016 *Jamaican Pulse: Art and Politics from Jamaica and the Diaspora*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, UK

2015 Salon 2015, Waterhall Gallery, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, UK
Ten, Vane Contemporary, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
'Figur|elation', galleryELL [online]
Annuale 2015, Article Gallery, Birmingham School of Art, Margaret Street, curated by Rachel Bradley and Mona Casey, UK
One Day, Something Happens: Paintings of People, curated by Jennifer Higgie, a Hayward Touring and Arts Council Collection exhibition, Leeds Art Gallery; Nottingham; Drogheda; Southport; Eastbourne, UK

- 2014 *For the Record*, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK
- 2013 *End of the Line*, Paper Gallery, Manchester, UK
Downtime, curated by Paul O'Kane, Ort Gallery, Birmingham, UK
Luminous Language, Launch F18, New York, USA
- 2012 Berlin / Birmingham / Beyond, Elly Clarke Gallery, mac Birmingham as part of Allotment 10 plots, UK
- 2011 *Mostyn Open 11*, Llandudno, Wales, UK. Selected by Richard Wentworth, Karen Mackinnon and Anders Pleass
- 2010 *The Meaning of Style*, The New Art Exchange, Nottingham, UK
- 2009 *Birmingham Seen*, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham UK
Feminist At practices: rewind, remix and pump up Volume!, Axis Online Curated Selection, curated by Katy Deepwell, UK
East International 09, selected by Raster Gallery and Art & Language, Norwich, UK
Rotate, Contemporary Art Society (with Vane Contemporary), London, UK
- 2008 *Art of Birmingham II 1940 -2008*, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK
Newcastle Gateshead Arts Fair, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
Open West Midlands 08, Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Selected by Richard Billingham, Dr Rachel Garfield and Alistair Robinson, UK
Hawkins & Co, Contemporary Urban Centre, Liverpool, UK
Say it as it is, Signal Gallery, London, UK
- 2006 *Families*, Oxford House Gallery, London, UK
Birmingham Artsfest 06, Birmingham, UK
- 2004 Royal Birmingham Society of Artist, Birmingham, UK
- 2003 *True Stories*, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton, UK; Museu de Arte Contemporanea, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK
Human Condition, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK
- 2002 Intervention Project, Birmingham, UK

2000	Black Artists Exhibition, Q-arts, Derby, UK
1999	Ingoldby Estate, Community Arts Project, Birmingham, UK <i>Central Collective</i> , Roundhouse Gallery, Birmingham, UK
1998	Woodbridge Gallery, Birmingham, UK
1996	Custard Factory, Birmingham, UK
1995	Women's Festival, University of Central England, Birmingham, UK

Commissions

2024	<i>Soft Power</i> , The Whitworth, Manchester, UK
2022	<i>Burden of Proof</i> , Sharjah Biennial 15, Sharjah Foundation, United Arab Emirates
2022	<i>Broken Angel</i> , Coventry Cathedral, Coventry, UK
2021	<i>A Fire in My Head</i> , University of Essex, Colchester, UK
2020	<i>Vital Arts, 100 Rooms</i> , Brent Hospital Trust London, UK. <i>Everyday Heroes</i> , The Haywood Gallery, Southbank Centre, London, UK. <i>Alchemy</i> , Tollinton Market, Lahore Biennale 02, Pakistan
2019	US Embassy Collection, London, UK Place Space and Who, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
2017	Facebook AIR Program, Rathbone Office, London, UK
2010	ABCD Phoenix Park Commission, Wolverhampton Art Gallery/Wolverhampton City Council
2009	<i>The Meaning of Style</i> , the New Art Exchange, Nottingham, UK
2003	<i>True Stories</i> , Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton, UK

Selected Bibliography

- 2025 Akinkugbe, Alayo, *"I Was trying to Deal With the trauma": The Haunting Art of Barbara Walker*, AnOther, Online, 29 January 2025
- 2024 Morgan, Marjorie H., *Barbara Walker: Being Here. The Art of Perception: Reframing Narratives*, The Fourdrinier, Online
 Bowers, Poppy; Volla, Hannah; Chambers, Eddie; Correia, Alice; Green, Leanne; Beauchamp-Byrd, Mora J.; Parker, Rianna Jade; *Barbara Walker: Being Here*, The Whitworth Gallery, UK, (pub) ISBN 978-0-9032261-83-8
 Hessel, Kathy, *The Great Women Artists Podcast*. Interview with Barbara Walker.
 Onus, Chibundu, *Barbara Walker's show at the Whitworth makes me feel proud to be Black British*, The Arts Newspaper, Online, 22 November 2024
 Denman, Tom, *Barbara Walker: Being Here*, Art Monthly, Online, December 2024–January 2025
 Abdel-Razek, Jamila, *Barbara Walker Is Just Getting Started*, Frieze, Online, 3 October 2024
 Ahad, Nick, *Front Row*, BBC Radio 4, UK
 Gentleman, Amelia, *'I'm Pointing A Finger': Barbara Walker on her paintings about the Windrush Scandal and Hers Son's Victimisation*, The Guardian, Online, 30 September 2024
 Judah, Hettie, *Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood*, UK, (pub) ISBN 978-0-02786-8
 McEwan, Olivia, *London's National Gallery Catches Up to Black Portraiture*, Hyperallergic, Online, 15 April 2024
The Time is Always Now, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK, (pub) ISBN 978-85514-558-0
- 2023 Blank Atlantic: Power People Resistance, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK, (pub) ISBN 9781781301234
 Black Atlantic: Power, People, Resistance review – a welcome if partial reckoning, review by Kadish Morris, The Guardian Newspaper, UK
 BBC 4, Front Row, interview with Samira Ahmed, UK
 Toys, twisted rollercoasters, rooftop fountains: meet this year's Turner Prize nominees, by Nicholas Wroe, The Guardian Newspaper, UK
 Who gets remembered and why?: the exhibition asking uneasy questions about the Atlantic slave trade, review Colin Grant, The Guardian Newspaper, UK
 Barbara Walker at the Glucksman, UCC: Addressing racism through art, Irish Examiner, Ireland
- 2022 Barbara Walker, Place, Space and Who, Art Journal, Summer 2022, vol, 81, No 2. USA
 'Vanishing Point' by Barbara Walker at the Cristea Roberts Gallery, text by Emily Laure (online)
 Barbara Walker: Vanishing Point, Contemporary Art Society, by Christine Takengny (online)

Barbara Walker Fills in the Blanks, review by Lauren Dei, Frieze, London, UK
The Ghosted- Barbara Walker: Vanishing Point, by Jo Manby The Fourdrinier, UK (online)
Where Are The Black People in Old Master Paintings?, interview by Griselda Murray Brown, Financial Times Magazine, issue April 22
Barbara Walker – Black figures emerge from the footnotes of classical art, review by Rianna Jade Parker, The Guardian, March, UK (online)
Seven questions with Barbara Walker, by David Trigg, ArtUK, 13 April, (online)
The Artists Fighting Racism, by Precious Adesina, BBC Culture, 31 January, (online)

2021 A Brief History of Black British Art, by Rianna Jade Parker, Tate, UK, ISBN: (pub) 978-1-84976-756-9
Barbara Walker, texts by Paul Gilroy, Sarah Martin and Aicha Mehrez. Interview with the artist by Courtney J. Martin. Turner Contemporary, UK, ISBN: 978-1-9996088-3-5
Life Between Islands: Caribbean – British Art 19 50s – Now, Tate Britain UK, (pub) ISBN: 978-84976-7651-1
Place, Space and Us, By Jan Ryan, The Margate Mercury, Spring 2021, UK
Contained: Exhibiting Blackness, By Tom Denman, Art Monthly, Issue 446 May, London, UK
The Great British Art Tour: these men were there, too,. By Julia Carver, The Guardian Newspaper, UK
Vitamin D3: Today's Best in Contemporary Drawing, 2021, Phaidon ISBN: 9781838661694

2020 Barbara Walker: Place, Space and Who, by Dr Carol Ann Dixon, Museum Geographies (online)
Barbara Walker: Practice of Optimism, Elephant Magazine no 44, Autumn 2020, pg 92-96 London, UK (ISSN1879-3835)
Everyday Heroes, Studio International, UK
Postcolonial interpretations of the art collections at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, By Julia Carver and Jenny Gaschke, Art UK (online line)
Black Artists Look Beyond 'Protest Art' at British Shows, By Julianne McShane
The New York Times, Aug. 20, 2020
Unquiet Moments: Capturing the Everyday, catalogue (online), UK
Lahore Biennale 02, Between The Sun and The Moon, Lahore Biennale Foundation, Publication, Lahore, Pakistan
Lahore Biennale: between the sun and the moon. Reviewed by Virginia Whiles. Art Monthly no. 434, March 2020, pg 26. London, UK

Between The Sun and The Moon – The Second Lahore Biennale. Reviewed by Khadijah Rehman.

Youlin Magazine, (online) 11 February 2020

Lahore Biennale communicates strong political content through its selection of artists, who are dismantling popular narratives about politics, gender and faith. Reviewed by Quddus Mirza, Encore Magazine, Pakistan, (online), 9 February

How she gives visibility to lost or little-known stories. Art Quarterly, London, 13 January

2019

Eugene Palmer and Barbara Walker: Photography and the Black Subject, by Richard Hylton, NKA Journal of Contemporary African Art: Volume 2019, Issue 45 1 November 2019 Online ISSN 2152-7792 Print ISSN 1075-7163

Place, Space, Who: interview, by Lanre Bakare, The Guardian, London, 9 September

Protest and Remembrance, Barbara Walker: Studio International, interview by Anna McNay (online) March, UK

2018

Stick To The Skin, African American and Black British Art, 1965 -2015, by Celeste- Marie Bernier, USA, ISBN 9780520286535

a-n The Artists Information Company, Q&A with... Barbara Walker, artist making black histories visible, by Anneka French (online)

Out of the Dark: Barbara Walker, by Adelaide Bannerman (brochure) June, ISBN 978-1-5272-2437-7

A Slice Through The World, Contemporary Artist's Drawings, by Stephaine Staine and Kate Macfarlane, published by Drawing Room and Modern Art Oxford, June, ISBN 978-1-9996404-1-5

Barbara Walker, Sub Urban: New Drawings, by Christine Checinska, Journal Textile: Cloth and Culture, Volume 16 (pub) ISSN1475-9756

2017

BBC Two – Venice Biennale: Britain's New Voices, UK

Diaspora Pavilion in Venice, by Robbert Roos, Africanah.org (online)

Diaspora Pavilion, by International Curators Forum, (November)

UNTITLED: art on the conditions of our time, reviewed by Piers Masterson, This Is Tomorrow, Contemporary Art Magazine, March (online)

2016

No More "Poisonous, Disrespectful, and Skewed Images of Black People": Barbara Walker's Louder Than Words, by Celeste Marie Berner, Nka Journal of Contemporary African Art: Volume 36-38, November, USA, ISSN 1075-7163

Pictures of... The untold story of Black Servicemen and women.a-n The Artists Information Company, By Jack Hutchinson.(online)

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One Day, Something Happens: Paintings of People, Jennifer Higgie, London, ISBN 978-1-85332-330-0
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Black Artists in British Art: A History from 1950 to the Present, Eddie Chambers, New York, ISBN 978- 1-78076-2715
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- 2011 'Barbara Walker', review, Debora Kuan, Modern Painters, London, December
The Radar Magazine, Paul Green, Birmingham, June
- 2010 The Meaning of Style, review, Amy Shaw, An Magazine, Nottingham, March
The Meaning of Style, review, Jeanie Robinson, Socialist Review, London, 10 March
Black culture's impact on society, (interview, The Meaning of Style), Riah Matthews, The Nottingham Post (Nottingham), 16 January
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Rotate, review, Martin Herbert, Time Out Magazine, (London), 3 September
East International, review Martin Herbert, Art Monthly Magazine, September, London
East International, review, Matt Roberts, An Magazine, Newcastle, September
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Birmingham to Africa, Judith Amanthis, Morning Star, London, 1 April
- 2008 Violence, editor Katy Deepwell, n.paradoxa, international feminist art journal: Volume 21 (London)
A Slice of Reality, (review Say It As It Is), Judith Amanthis, Morning Star London,15 January
Hawkins & Co, Sandra Gibson, Nerve, Liverpool
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- 2006 Private Face, essay, Dr Eddie Chambers, catalogue, Birmingham, ISBN 0 9534477-3-10
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- 2003 True Stories, review, The Birmingham Post, (Birmingham), Wed 17 September
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- 2002 Private Face, review, Metro Newspaper, Birmingham, 28 May
Private Face, review, The Guardian Guide, London, 17 June
Private Face, review, The Birmingham Post, Birmingham, 17 June
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Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, UK
Jerwood Collection, UK
Katrin Bellinger Collection, UK
Leeds Art Gallery, UK
New Walk Museum & Art Gallery, Leicester, UK

Pallant House Gallery, UK

Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA

Rugby Museum and Art Gallery, UK

Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE

Tate, UK

The Fitzwilliam Museum, UK

The Usher Gallery, UK

The Wadsworth Atheneum, USA

US Embassy, London, UK

Wellin Museum of Art, USA

Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, UK

Yale Center for British Art, USA