

## Todd Gray Curriculum Vitae

Born 1954, Los Angeles, CA  
Lives and works between Los Angeles, CA and Ghana

### Education

1989  
MFA California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

1979  
BFA California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

### Solo and Two Person Exhibitions

2021  
*the hidden order of the whole*, David Lewis, New York, NY  
*Crossing the Waters of Space, Time, and History*, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI  
*Todd Gray / MATRIX 186*, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT

2019  
*Cartesian Gris Gris*, David Lewis, New York, NY  
*Todd Gray: Euclidean Gris Gris*, Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, CA (cat.)

2018  
*Todd Gray: Pluralities of Being*, Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA  
*Portraits*, Meliksetian | Briggs, Los Angeles, CA

2017  
*My Life in the Bush with MJ and Iggy*,  
Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA *Pluralities of Being*, Gallery Momo,  
Johannesburg, South Africa

2016  
*Time Mac A Place That Looks Like Home*, Light Work, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (cat.) *hine/*  
*Hippie Dandy*, Meliksetian | Briggs, Los Angeles, CA

2015  
*Caliban in the Mirror 2.0: Exquisite Terribleness*, Samson Projects, Boston, MA

2014  
*Exquisite Terribleness*, Meliksetian | Briggs, Los Angeles, CA

2012  
*The Gray Room*, Hagedorn Foundation Gallery, Atlanta, GA

2010  
*Spirit Shack* (with Kyungmi Shin), See Line Gallery, West Hollywood, CA  
2005 *Todd Gray, Shaman*, Pablo's Birthday, New York, NY 2004 *Todd Gray: Immaculate*, Luckman  
Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (cat.)

## Group Exhibitions

2021

Black American Portraits Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA

*Mining The Archive*, Yancey Richardson, New York, NY

Photo Flux: Unshuttering LA, The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center, CA

2020

*TELL ME YOUR STORY: Storytelling in African American Art, From the Harlem Renaissance to the Present*, curated by Rob Purée, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, The Netherlands

2019

*ec-dy-sis*, curated by Shirley Morales, Ltd los angeles at CASSTL and Antwerp Art Pavillion, Museum aan de Stroom, Antwerp, BE

Whitney Biennial, curated by Jane Panetta and Rujeko Hockley, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (cat.)

*Mapping Black Identities*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

*A Brilliant Spectrum: Recent Gifts of Color Photography*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA

2018-2019

*Michael Jackson: On the Wall*, curated by Nicholas Cullinan, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK; traveling to Grand Palais, Paris, France; Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, Germany; and the Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Finland (cat.)

2018

*The Assassination of Leon Trotsky*, David Lewis, New York, NY

*Public Fiction: The Conscientious Objector*, curated by Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey and Lauren Mackler, MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, CA

2016

*Made In LA: a, the, though, only*, curated by Aram Moshayedi and Hamza Walker, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA (cat.)

2015

*Breath/Breadth: Contemporary American Black Male Identity*, Maier Art Museum, Randolph College, Virginia

*Black Portraitures{S} li: Imagining the Black Body and Re-Stagging Histories*, symposium presented by Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, Florence, Italy

*Cry Me A River*, Etoile Polaire Lodge #1, New Orleans, LA

*Manifest Justice*, pop-up exhibition, Los Angeles, CA

2014

*Freeway Studies #2: Inside the Quad*, curated by Meg Linton, Ben Maltz Gallery, Otis College of Art, Los Angeles, CA *Gettin' off the Ground*, curated by Isabelle Lutterodt, Angeles Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro, CA

2013

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA

2012

Sight Specific: LACPS and the Politics of Community, USC Fisher Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA

Refocus: Multicultural Focus, Arena 1, Santa Monica, CA

2011

*The Bearden Project, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY*

*Posing Beauty*, curated by Deborah Willis, Fisher Museum of Art, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA; traveled to Newark Art Museum, Newark, NJ; Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA

2010

*From My Universe, Object of Desire*, See Line Gallery, West Hollywood, CA

*Contemporary Art From the Douglas Nielsen Collection*, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ

2009

*Black Is Black Ain't*, curated by Hamza Walker, Detroit Museum of Art, Detroit, MI (cat.)

*Oz, New Offerings From Los Angeles*, Instituto Cultural Cabana, Guadalajara, Mexico

*Posing Beauty*, curated by Deborah Willis, Gulf + Western Gallery, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, New York, NY

2008

*Black Is Black Ain't*, curated by Hamza Walker, Renaissance Society, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (cat.)

*Twenty Years Ago Today: Supporting visual Artists in LA*, curated by Rita Gonzalez and Kris Kuramitsu, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA

*Truthiness: Photography as Sculpture*, curated by Tyler Stallings, California Museum of Photography, Riverside, CA

*PIX, Some Recent Photos From The Post-Filmic Era*, curated by Kristina Newhouse, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA

*This Side of Paradise: Body and Landscape in Los Angeles Photographs*, curated by Claudia Bohn-Spector and Jennifer Watts, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA

2007

*Celebrity*, curated by Marily Knode, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ; traveled to Houston Center for Photography, Houston, TX

*Blacks In and Out of the Box*, curated by Lisa Henry California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles, CA

2006

*Brave New World*, curated by Heather Harmon and Nicole Dungao, Pharmaka Art, Los Angeles, CA

*Gray, Korfmann, Youngblood: New Forms in Photography*, Carl Berg Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2005

*Framing the Triangle*, curated by Deborah Willis, Goethe Institute, Accra, Ghana

2004

*Fade, 1990-2003*, African American Art in Los Angeles, L.A. Cultural Affairs Department, Luckman Gallery, California State University Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

2001 *Committed to the Image*, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY *Beyond Boundaries: Contemporary Photography in California*, The Friends of Photography, San Francisco, CA

## Exhibition Catalogues

2019

McGrew, Rebecca. *Todd Gray: Euclidean Gris Gris*. Claremont: Pomona College Museum of Art  
Hockley, Rujeko and Panetta, Jane. *Whitney Biennial 2019*. New York: Whitney Museum of American Art.

2018

Cullinan, Nicholas, ed. *Michael Jackson: On the Wall*. London: National Portrait Gallery.

2016

Moshayedi, Aram. *Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only*. Munich: Prestel Publishing.

2013

Copeland, Huey, Darby English, Greg Foster-Rice, Amy M. Mooney, Kymberly N. Pinder, Krista Thompson, Hamza Walker, and Kenneth Warren. *Black Is, Black Ain't*. Chicago: The Renaissance Society.

2009

Gray, Todd. *Michael Jackson: Before He Was King*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.

2004

Henger, Sue, ed. *Todd Gray: Immaculate*. Los Angeles: Luckman Gallery.

2000

Barron, Stephanie, Sheri Bernstein, Ilene Susan Fort, Howard N. Fox. *Made in California: Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

## Performances

2018

*Another Part of Me*, University of Maryland Art Gallery, College Park, MD

2017

*Iggy Pop Tried to Kill Me*, Art Los Angeles Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA

2010

*Caliban in the Mirror*, with Max King Cap, Roy & Edna Disney Cal/Arts Theater (REDCAT), Los Angeles, CA

2009

*Water*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA

2008

*Akwidaa: Kumasi, Shrines and Masquerades Live!*, 80WSE, New York University, New York, NY  
*Afrotronic*, with Giavanni Washington, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
*Akwidaa Mangroove*, with Michael Grodsky, 18th Street Arts Center, Santa Monica CA

2007

*Sonic Love Wave*, New Renaissance Theater, Syracuse, NY

2004

*Look Me In The Eye*, Academy of Media Arts Cologne, Cologne, Germany

2003 *Art Church*, The Woman's Building, Los Angeles, CA

## Public Art Commissions

2018

Metro (Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority), Los Angeles, CA

2012

CIM Urban Real Assets, Midtown Crossing, Los Angeles, CA

Los Angeles International Airport, Video Installation, with Joseph Santarromana

2009

Los Angeles International Airport

2004 Los Angeles Fire Station #43, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

## Grants and Awards

2022

Rome Prize for Visual Arts

2018

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for Fine Arts

2016

Bellagio Creative Arts Fellowship, The Rockefeller Foundation

2007

Public Art Commission: Los Angeles International Airport, Los Angeles, CA

2006

SCAC, Assigned Time release, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)

2005

Sabbatical, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists, connected to J. Paul Getty Trust Fund

2004

SCAC, Assigned Time release, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Public Art Commission, Los Angeles Fire Station #43, City of Los Angeles Pasadena Art Alliance Grant for "Immaculate" Exhibition Artists' Resource for Completion Grant, The Furfee Foundation

2003

SCAC, Assigned Time release, California State University, Long Beach, CA (CSULB)

2001

SCAC, Assigned Time release, CSULB Associate Professor, CSULB

2000

Assigned time release, California State University, Long Beach, CA (CSULB)

1999

Public Art Commissions: Jefferson Branch Library, and Baldwin Hills Branch Library

1997

City of Los Angeles Individual Artist Grant

1991

Art Center College of Design, Pasadena - Great Teacher's Award

1988

Wasserman Scholarship (CalArts), Valencia, CA

## Bibliography

2021

Miranda, Carolina A. "Newsletter: Essential Arts: Todd Gray turns colonialism and the art of photography on its head", March 13, 2021

2020

Cap, Max King. "Todd Gray: Diary in Fragments", *Artillery Magazine*, Nov 10, 2020.

Ontiveros, Mario. X-TRA Artists and Rights, EPISODE 2: SUPERPOWERS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES: DEFINING WHAT YOU WANT TO SUSTAIN, July 14, 2020.

Ontiveros, Mario. X-TRA Artists and Rights, EPISODE 1: LIVING A LIFE WHILE DECOLONIZING THE MIND, July 7, 2020

Hosseini, Raheem. "Black artists from around the globe donate their work for online auction to help SF's MoAD",

Datebook, San Francisco Chronicle, April 23, 2020.

Diehl, Travis. "The Artist Remixing History, from French Gardens to the Cosmos." *Aperture*, March 5. "What I've learned: Belinda Tate, executive director of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts." *Christie's*, March 5.

2019

Preston Zappas, Lindsay. "Episode 16: Todd Gray." *Contemporary Art Review.la*, November 14.

Chiotakis, Steve. "Todd Gray explores colonialism in Africa and Europe through photos." *KCRW*, November 13.

Naçi, Silvi. "Artists at Work: Todd Gray." *East of Borneo*, November 4.

Crippa, Karin, "How gallerists choose artists for art fairs." *Art/Basel*, October.

"Todd Gray — Conceptual Artist." *The Genius List*, October.

"Your Concise Los Angeles Art Guide for Fall 2019." *Hyperallergic*, September 10

Distefano, Alex. "Best of L.A. Arts: Fall Preview Pick: Todd Gray at Pomona College." *LAWeekly*, August 27.

Speed, Mitch. "Todd Gray Visualizes the Labyrinth of Black Post-Colonial Identity." *Frieze*, July 24.

Dubicki, Emilia. "New York City Spring 2019 Highlights." *The Woven Tale Press*, June 18.

Well, Graham B. "Todd Gray: Cartesian Gris Gris." *The Brooklyn Rail*, June.

Davis, Ben. "The 2019 Whitney Biennial Shows America's Artists Turning Toward Coded Languages in Turbulent Times." *Artnet News*, May 20.

Cotter, Holland. "The Whitney Biennial: Young Art Cross-Stitched With Politics" *The New York Times*, May 16.

Kissick, Dean. "The Whitney Biennial Takes On The American Dream" *Cultured Magazine*, May 14.

Saltz, Jerry. "The New Whitney Biennial Made Me See Art History in a New Way" *New York Magazine*, May 14.

Durón, Maximiliano. "A Tour of the 2019 Whitney Biennial in 20 Photos" *ARTnews*, May 13.

Mitter, Siddhartha. "The Whitney Biennial Called. How Will They Answer?" *The New York Times*, May 9. "Todd Gray at David Lewis, New York" *ARTnews*, May 8.

"From Exhibitions and Installations to Performances and Collaborations, We Bring You the 25 Most Important Events in Art, Design, Architecture, Fashion and Everything in Between." *Cultured Magazine*. May/June.

Gelt, Jessica. "Mike Kelley Foundation grants: 10 winners split \$400,000 to make daring art." *LA Times*, April 11. Dambrot, Shana Nys. "Todd Gray: Everything is Everywhere." *LA Weekly*, March 8.

## 2018

Tilley, John Martin. "How Do You Solve a Problem Like Michael Jackson?" *Office Magazine*, September 6.

"Todd Gray: Michael Jackson's official photographer." *National Portrait Gallery*, September 4.

Taft, Catherine. "Todd Gray." *Artforum*, September.

Evans, Diana. "Michael Jackson, King of Pop Art." *The New York Review of Books*, August 11. "An Icon Celebrated." *Sotheby's*, July 23.

Mizota, Sharon. "Review: Photographer Todd Gray traces African roots." *Los Angeles Times*, July 9.

Eckardt, Stephanie. "How Nearly 50 Artists' Attempted to Do the Impossible: Illustrate Michael Jackson's Enormous Influence and Legacy." *W Magazine*, July 8.

Koerth, Katherina. "This is how artists saw Michael Jackson." *Spiegel Online*, July 3.

Bradbury, Sarah. "On the wall: Michael Jackson's impact on contemporary art, a decade after his death." *Independent*, June 28.

Lawless, Jill. "Exhibition explores Michael Jackson as artists' inspiration." *Northwest Indiana Times*, June 27.

Zamponi, Beatrice. "Michael Jackson: On the Wall at National Portrait Gallery of London." *Vogue Italia*, June 15.

Miranda, Carolina A. "Datebook: Portraits of peers, collages inspired by the African diaspora and art for feline lovers." *Los Angeles Times*, June 14.

"I was Michael Jackson's personal photographer." *Royal Photographic Society*, June 6.

"The Faces of Michael Jackson." *Royal Photographic Society Journal*, June.

## 2017

Curiel, Jonathan. "Michael Jackson Remains Invincible." *SF Weekly*, May 17.

Wagley, Catherine G. "Iggy Pop on Trial, Long Island Iced Teas, and the Long Game: At the 2017 Edition of Art Los Angeles Contemporary." *Artnews*, January 30.

Wagley, Catherine. "5 Art Shows to See in L.A. This Week." *LA Weekly*, January 25.

## 2016

Mizota, Sharon. "How artist Todd Gray fashioned another loving tribute to his friend, Doors keyboardist Ray Manzarek." *Los Angeles Times*, June 24.

Knight, Christopher. "'Made in L.A. 2016': Hammer Museum biennial proves a thoughtful place to ponder the possibilities." *Los Angeles Times*, June 23.

Diner, Eli. "Aram Moshayedi on Made in L.A. 2016." *Flash Art*, June 10.

Rodney, Seph. "Todd Gray's Framing of Identity." *Artillery Magazine*, May 3.

Finkel, Jori. "Out-of-towners stay out-of-sight at Art Los Angeles Contemporary fair." *The Art Newspaper*, January 30.

Jansen, Char. "Artist's Desks." *Artslant*, January 27.

Finkel, Jori. "'Made in L.A.' at Hammer Museum Casts a Global Eye." *The New York Times*, January 20.



Vankin, Deborah. "What is an L.A. artist? Hammer Museum answers with its 'Made in L.A.' biennial lineup." *Los Angeles Times*, January 19.

2015

McQuaid, Kate. "Armenia, Africa stamp their past on art." *The Boston Globe*, May 26.

2005

Roth, Charlene. "Todd Gray: Immaculate." *Artweek*, March. Freeman, Tommy. "Brave New World at Pharmaka." *Artweek*, September.

2004

Myers, Holly. "A historical record that tends to contain blots and erasures." *Los Angeles Times*, December 21.

2003

Gleason, Mat. "Art Angelenos." *Modern Painters*, Spring.

2002

Holmes, Emory. "Breaking Away From Pictures of Stereotypes." *Los Angeles Times*, July 31.

2001

Alleti, Vince. "Body and Soul," *Village Voice*, March 13.

## Panels and Lectures

2021

Artist Talk: Todd Gray / MATRIX 186, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT, March 8  
Panel Discussion: Todd Gray: Euclidean Gris Gris, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT, May 12

2016

The Poetic Research Bureau presents. Todd Gray, October 15

2011

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, "Caliban in the Mirror", New Orleans, LA.

2005

Luckman Gallery, "Immaculate" gallery talk New York University, Accra, Ghana, Visiting Artist

2004

Yale University, "Regarding Michael Jackson: Performing Racial, Gender, and Sexual Difference  
Center Stage Academy of Media Arts, (Kunsthochschule fur Medien) Cologne, Germany, Visiting Artist

2002

Academy of Media Arts, (Kunsthochschule fur Medien) Cologne, Germany, Visiting Artist Claremont Graduate School, Visiting Artist

2001

Academy of Media Arts, (Kunsthochschule fur Medien) Cologne, Germany, Visiting Artist The Public + Artist Program, Museum of Contemporary Art, L. A.  
California Community Foundation – J. Paul Getty Trust Fund for the Visual Arts and Brody Arts Fund panelist for the selection of Individual Artist Awards



1998

MOCA Mentors Program, presenter, Los Angeles

1997

The Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, "Photographic Lecture and Workshop Series"

"Sunday Family Art Workshops with Todd Gray", MOCA, Los Angeles

"Day Without Art", CSULB, organizer and participant

Education video: "Elusive Paradise: Los Angeles Art from the Permanent Collection" Family Gallery  
MOCA

"Introduction to Professional Careers in the Arts" seminar, Community Arts Resources for the Getty  
Multicultural Summer Interns, The Getty Grant Program, Los Angeles

1996

University of California, San Diego, Artist Lecture Series Oakland Museum of Art, "the present  
(h)our", artist lecture series University Art Museum, UC Santa Barbara,

"Stream of Consciousness: Eight Los Angeles Artists", artist lecture The School of the Art Institute  
of Chicago, artist lecture series

1995

Armand Hammer Museum, "Laurie Brown and Todd Gray, exhibiting artists in the Contemporary  
Photography: The California Focus" at the art rental and sales Gallery.

Society for Photographic Education, National Conference, Atlanta, presenting artist, "Michael  
Jackson Reconsidered".

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, "P.L.A.N. Artist Panel"

Pomona College, Claremont, Media Arts Lecture Series

Korean American Museum, Los Angeles, panelist, "Creating Context" Panelist: City of Los Angeles

Cultural Grants Program, Photography

Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, exhibitions committee

1994

Friends of Photography Annual Members Workshop, San Francisco

Panelist: City of Los Angeles Cultural Grants Program, Photography

State University of New York, Albany, Artist Lecture Series

Santa Monica Museum of Art Salon Presents: Todd Gray

1993

University of California, Los Angeles, Artist Lecture Series

L. A. Art Fair, "The Kitchen Table", Eugenia P. Butler, moderator

1992

University of California, Irvine, "Convergence", Pat Ward Williams, moderator.

L. A. Art Fair, "L. A. Xtension Artist Panel"

1991

Panelist: Regional Individual Photography Grants, National Endowment for the Arts, New England  
Foundation for the Arts, Boston MA

1990

Los Angeles Photography Center: The Visual Statement

1988

Todd Gray: Personal Myths, Columbia College Chicago Photography Department Lecture Series

Panelist: Society for Photographic Education, National Conference, Deborah Willis, moderator,  
Houston, TX.

## Residences

2016

Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residency, Bellagio, Italy

2015

Hermitage Artist Retreat Fellowship, Englewood, FL

## Selected Public Collections

Benton Museum of Art, Pomona College, Claremont, CA  
California Community Foundation, Los Angeles, CA  
Eileen and Peter Norton Family Foundation, Santa Monica, CA  
CA Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA  
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art/LACMA, Los Angeles, CA  
Los Angeles International Airport, Los Angeles, CA  
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN  
Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
Museum of Contemporary Art/MOCA, Los Angeles, CA  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA  
Studio Museum in Harlem, NY  
University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT  
University of Parma, Parma, Italy  
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY