

## MARTIN PURYEAR

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1941** Martin Puryear was born in Washington, DC
- 1963** Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, B.A. in Art. Puryear had studied biology, then became an art major, concentrating on painting and also beginning to make sculpture.
- 1964-66** Puryear traveled to Sierra Leone, West Africa, with the Peace Corps, where he learned traditional techniques of wood craftsmanship from African carpenters.
- 1966-68** Swedish Royal Academy of Art, Stockholm, Sweden. Puryear was a guest student in printmaking and sculpture, and was interested in Scandinavian woodworking and furniture design.
- 1969-71** Yale University, School of Art and Architecture, M.F.A. in Sculpture.
- 1972** First one-person exhibitions of Puryear's sculpture in the United States were presented at the Fisk University Gallery, Nashville, Tennessee, and at Henri 2 Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1973-77** Puryear established a studio in Brooklyn, New York.
- 1977** The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, presented a one-person exhibition of Puryear's sculpture.  
Puryear completed his first major outdoor sculpture commission for Artpark in Lewistown, New York.  
A fire in his Brooklyn studio damaged or destroyed much of Puryear's sculpture.
- 1978** Puryear exhibited at The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, in the "Young American Artists 1978 Exxon National Exhibition."  
Puryear moved to Chicago, Illinois.
- 1979, 1981** Puryear's work was included in the 1979 and 1981 Whitney Biennial Exhibitions, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York.
- 1980** Visiting Artist, Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine.
- 1982** "Bodark Arc," a major outdoor sculpture commission for the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, Governors State University, University Park, Illinois, was completed by Puryear.
- 1983** Puryear traveled to Japan on a John S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Grant.
- 1984** A ten-year survey travelling exhibition of Puryear's sculpture was organized by the University Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- 1986** Visiting Artist, American Academy in Rome, Italy.

- 1989** Recipient of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Award.  
Puryear's work was included in the 1989 Whitney Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York.  
Puryear represented the United States at the São Paulo Bienal, Brazil, and received the grand prize for best artist.
- 1990** Awarded the Skowhegan Prize for Sculpture, Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine.
- 1992-93** Artist-in-Residence, Atelier Calder, Saché, France
- 1997-98** Artist-in-Residence, American Academy in Rome, Italy

#### **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 1977** The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- 1978** Protetch-McIntosh Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1979** Protetch-McIntosh Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1980** Young Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL  
"Options 2," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL (brochure, text by Judith Russi Kirshner)  
"I-80 Series: Martin Puryear," Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE (exhibition catalogue, text by Holliday T. Day)
- 1981** "Martin Puryear," Delahunty Gallery, Dallas, TX, and and/or, Seattle, WA
- 1982** McIntosh/Drysdale Gallery, Washington, DC  
Young Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1983** Donald Young Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1984** "Martin Puryear: Ten Year Survey," travelling exhibition organized by the University Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; traveled to: The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA; Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston, MA; The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY; The La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla, CA (catalogue, text by Hugh M. Davies, interview by Hugh Davies and Helaine Posner)
- 1985** Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
Donald Young Gallery, Chicago, IL  
"Martin Puryear: Matrix/Berkeley 86," University Art Museum, Berkeley, CA

- (brochure, text by Constance Lewallen)
- 1987** "Martin Puryear: Public and Personal," Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, Chicago, IL (catalogue, essays by Patricia Fuller and Judith Russi Kirshner)  
"Martin Puryear: Sculpture and Works on Paper," Hewlett Art Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA (brochure, text by Elaine King)  
Donald Young Gallery, Chicago, IL  
"Martin Puryear: Stereotypes and Decoys," David McKee Gallery, New York, NY
- 1988** "Martin Puryear: New Wall Sculpture," McIntosh/Drysdale Gallery, Washington, DC  
Grand Lobby Installation, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
- 1989** Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
"20th International São Paulo Bienal," São Paulo, Brazil (catalogue, texts by Kellie Jones and Robert Storr)
- 1990** "Connections: Martin Puryear," Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA (brochure, texts by Vishakha N. Desai and Kathy Halbreich)
- 1991** "Martin Puryear," travelling retrospective exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL (organized by the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL)
- 1992** "Martin Puryear," travelling retrospective exhibition at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C. (organized by the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL)  
"Martin Puryear," travelling retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA (organized by the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL)  
"Martin Puryear," travelling retrospective exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA (organized by the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL)
- 1993** "Martin Puryear," travelling retrospective exhibition at the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio
- 1995** "Martin Puryear: New Sculpture," McKee Gallery, New York, NY
- 1997** Donald Young Gallery, Seattle, WA  
"Martin Puryear," Fundación "la Caixa," Madrid, Spain  
"Martin Puryear," American Academy, Rome, Italy
- 1999** "Drawing into Sculpture: Martin Puryear," The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2001** "Martin Puryear: The Cane Project," The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York
- 2001-02** "Martin Puryear", Traveling Exhibition: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia; Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida; University of California Berkeley Art

- Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California; Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa
- 2003** "New Prints", McKee Gallery, New York, New York  
"Martin Puryear: Prints", Hemphill Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2004** BALTIC: The Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, England
- 2005** "Martin Puryear: Artworks from the Anderson Collection", San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, California
- 2007-2009** "Martin Puryear," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; travels to Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1974-78** National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, DC
- 1977** "The Material Dominant: Some Current Artists and Their Media," The Pennsylvania State University Museum of Art, University Park, PA (brochure)  
"The Program in the Visual Arts," Artpark, Lewiston, NY (catalogue, text by Nancy Rosen)
- 1978** "Young American Artists, 1978 Exxon National Exhibition," The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (catalogue, interview by Linda Shearer)  
"The Presence of Nature," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (brochure, text by Cindy Schwab)
- 1979** "Art and Architecture, Space and Structure," Protetch-McIntosh Gallery, Washington, DC  
"Wave Hill: The Artist's View," Wave Hill, Bronx, NY (catalogue, text by Kirk Varnedoe)  
"1979 Whitney Biennial Exhibition," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (catalogue, texts by John G. Hanhardt, Barbara Haskell, Richard Marshall, Mark Segal, and Patterson Sims)  
"Customs and Culture," U.S. Customs House, Bowling Green, New York, NY (exhibition organized by Creative Time)
- 1980** "Afro-American Abstraction," Institute for Art and Urban Resources, P.S.1, Long Island City, NY; traveled to: Everson Gallery, Syracuse, NY  
"Chicago, Chicago," Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH  
"The Black Circle," A. Montgomery Ward Gallery, University of Illinois at Chicago, IL

- 1981** "1981 Whitney Biennial Exhibition," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (catalogue, text by John G. Hanhardt, Barbara Haskell, Richard Marshall, and Patterson Sims)
- "Sculptural Density," Visual Arts Museum, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- "Artists' Gardens and Parks," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL (brochure, text by Mary Jane Jacob and Lynne Warren)
- "City Sculpture," The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, Chicago, IL (catalogue, text by Judith Russi Kirshner)
- "Instruction Drawings," Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI (catalogue, text by Michael Hall and Roy Slade)
- "The New Spiritualism: Transcendent Images in Painting and Sculpture," organized by the Oscarsson Hood Gallery, New York, NY; traveled to: Jorgensen Gallery, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT; Robert Hull Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT (catalogue, text by April Kingsley)
- 1982** "Invitational Exhibition," Bell Gallery of List Art Center, Brown University, Providence, RI (catalogue, text by Roger Mayer)
- "Form and Function, Proposals for Public Art in Philadelphia," Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA (catalogue, text by Penny Balkin Bach)
- "Mayor Byrnes' Mile of Sculpture," International Art Exposition, Chicago, IL
- "N.A.M.E. Gallery in Pittsburgh," Hewlett Gallery, Carnegie Mellon College of Fine Arts, Pittsburgh, PA
- "74th American Exhibition," The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL (catalogue, text by Anne Rorimer)
- "Works in Wood," Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- "American Abstraction Now," The Institute of Contemporary Art of the Virginia Museum, Richmond, VA (catalogue, text by Julia Boyd)
- 1982-84** "Afro-American Abstraction," organized by the Art Museum Association, New York; traveled to: Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; The Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA; Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, Memphis, TN; The Art Center, South Bend, IN; The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH; Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA; Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, TX; Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MI (catalogue, text by April Kingsley)
- 1983** "Five Artists / NOAA Collaboration," Seattle Art Museum Pavillion, Washington
- "Invitational Exhibition," Grace Borgenicht Gallery, New York, NY
- "Invitational Exhibition," Grace Borgenicht Gallery, New York, NY
- "Beyond the Monument, Documentation of Public Art Projects and Proposals," Hayden Corridor Gallery, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

- 1984** "American Sculpture," Donald Young Gallery, Chicago, IL  
"An International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (catalogue, text by Kynaston McShine)  
"Proposals and Projects: World Fairs, Waterfronts, Parks and Plazas," Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL  
"Transformation of the Minimal Style," The Sculpture Center, New York, NY  
"American Sculpture," Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
"Collaborating: The Power of the Artist and Architect Co-Designing Parks, Plazas, Public Places from New York to Seattle," McIntosh-Drysdale Gallery, Houston, TX  
"Primitivism in 20th Century Art: Affinity of the Tribal and Modern," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (catalogue, texts by William S. Rubin and Kirk Varnedoe)
- 1985** "Choosing: An Exhibit of Changing Perspectives in Modern Art and Art Criticism by Black Americans, 1925-1985," organized by the Hampton University, Hampton, VA; traveled to Portsmouth Museum, Portsmouth, VA; Chicago State University, Chicago, IL; Howard University, Washington, DC (catalogue, texts by Kathy Halbreich, Douglas Dreishpoon and Katy Kline)  
"Sculpture Overview 1985," Evanston Art Center, Evanston IL (brochure, text by Stephen Luecking)  
"The Artist As Social Designer: Aspects of Public Urban Art Today," Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA (brochure, text by Maurice Tuchman)  
"Inaugural Exhibition," Tyler Gallery, Temple University Center City, Philadelphia, PA  
"Chicago Sculpture International/Mile 4," State Street Mall, Chicago, IL  
"Transformations in Sculpture: Four Decades in American and European Art," Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (catalogue, text by Diane Waldman)  
"Anniottanta," Galleria Comunale d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, Italy (catalogue, edited by Carlo Gentili)  
"Basically Wood," Thomas Segal Gallery, Boston, MA  
"Black Creativity, Generations in Transition: 80 Years of Black American Expression," Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL
- 1986** "After Nature," Germans van Eck, NY (brochure, text by Steven Henry Madoff)  
"Sculpture on Stetson: 1986," Chicago, IL  
"Installations and Sculpture," Inaugural Exhibition, Donald Young Gallery, Chicago, IL

- "Natural Forms and Forces: Abstract Images in American Sculpture," Hayden Gallery, List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA and Bank of Boston, Boston, MA (catalogue, text by Kathy Halbreich)
- "Personal References," Charlotte Crosby Kemper Gallery, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
- "Individuals: A Selected History of Contemporary Art, 1945-1986," Museum of Contemporary Art, Inaugural Exhibition, Los Angeles, CA (catalogue, text by Julia Brown Turrell)
- 1987** "Structure to Resemblance: Work by Eight American Sculptors," Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY (catalogue, text by Susan Krane and Michael Auping)
- "Fifty Years of Collecting: An Anniversary Selection of Sculpture of the Modern Era," The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (catalogue)
- "Emerging Artists 1978-1986: Selections from the Exxon Series," The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (catalogue, text by Diane Waldman)
- 1988** "Private Works for Public Spaces: Drawings, Maquettes and Documentation for Unrealized Public Artworks," R.C. Erpf Gallery, New York, NY (brochure, text by Jenny Dixon)
- "Vital Signs: Organic Abstraction from the Permanent Collection," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (catalogue, text by Lisa Phillips)
- "1988: The World of Art Today," Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI
- "Sculpture Inside Outside," Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; traveled to: The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX (catalogue, texts by Martin Friedman, Donna Harkavy, and Peter W. Boswell)
- "SKULPTUR: Material + Abstraktion: 2 x 5 Positionen," organized by the Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, Switzerland; traveled to: Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland; City Gallery, New York, NY; Swiss Institute, New York, NY (catalogue, texts by Corinne Diserens, Steven Henry Madoff, and Beat Wismer)
- "New Sculpture / Six Artists," The Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO (brochure, text by Michael Edward Shapiro)
- "From the Southern Cross, A View of World Art c. 1940-88," The Biennale of Sydney, Art Gallery of New South Wales Foundation, Sydney, Australia
- "Enclosing the Void: Eight Contemporary Sculptors," Whitney Museum of American Art at Equitable Center, New York, NY (catalogue, text by Susan Lubowsky)
- "Innovations in Sculpture," Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT
- 1989** "Introspectives: Contemporary Art by Americans and Brazilians of African Descent," The California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles, CA (catalogue, texts by Henry J. Drewel and David C. Driskell)

- "Traditions and Transformations in Contemporary Afro-American Sculpture," The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY (catalogue, text by Philip Verre)
- "1989 Whitney Biennial Exhibition," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (catalogue, texts by Richard Armstrong, John G. Hanhardt, Richard Marshall and Lisa Phillips)
- "New Sculpture: Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Martin Puryear, Susana Solano," Donald Young Gallery, Chicago, IL
- "Art in Place: Fifteen Years of Acquisitions," The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (catalogue, text by Tom Armstrong and Susan C. Larsen)
- 1990** "Objects of Potential: Five American Sculptors From the Anderson Collection," Wiegand Gallery, College of Notre Dame, Belmont, CA (brochure, text by David Cateforis)
- David McKee Gallery, New York, NY
- "Black USA," Museum Overholland, Amsterdam, Holland (catalogue)
- "The Decade Show: Frameworks of Identity in the 1980s," The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY (catalogue)
- "Selected Artists from the First Twenty Years," Max Protech Gallery, New York, NY
- 1991** "Small Scale Sculpture," Sewell Art Gallery, Rice University, Houston, TX
- "Reprise: The Vera List Collection," David Winton Bell Gallery, List Art Center, Brown University, Providence, RI (catalogue)
- "Devil on the Stairs: Looking Back at the Eighties," Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA; Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA (catalogue)
- 1992** "Allegories of Modernism: Contemporary Drawing," The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (catalogue)
- "Process to Presence: Issues in Sculpture 1960 to 1990," in conjunction with the 14th International Sculpture Conference, Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- Donald Young Gallery, Seattle, WA
- Documenta IX, Kassel, Germany
- 1993** "Collective Pursuits: Mt. Holyoke Investigates Modernism," Mt. Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, MA (collection of Renee and David McKee)
- "Yale Collects Yale," Yale University, New Haven, CT (catalogue)
- "Drawing the Line Against AIDS," 45th Venice Biennale, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy (catalogue)
- "American Art in the 20th Century: Painting and Sculpture 1913-1993," Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany; Royal Academy of Arts, London, England; Saatchi Gallery, London, England (catalogue)

- "Visual Arts Encounter: African Americans and Europe," Salle Clemenceau, Palais du Luxembourg, Paris, France
- 1994** "Landscape as Metaphor - Visions of America in the Late Twentieth Century", Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, and Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH  
Donald Young Gallery, Seattle, WA  
"Putting Things Together," Art Museum of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz, CA  
"Western Artists / African Art," Museum of African Art, New York, NY (selected collection of Martin Puryear's African textiles)
- 1995** "American Color: A Late 20th Century Perspective," Louis Stern Fine Arts, Los Angeles, CA  
"New Works on Paper: Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold, Martin Puryear, Richard Serra," Donald Young Gallery, Seattle, WA  
"The Material Imagination," Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York, NY
- 1996** "Abstraction in the Twentieth Century: Total Risk, Freedom, Discipline," The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
"Wanås 1996," Knislinge, Sweden  
Elena Zang Gallery, Woodstock, NY  
"Art in Chicago, 1945-1995," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
"Faret Tachikawa: City and Art Today," National Technical Museum, Prague, Czech Republic
- 1997** "A Century of Sculpture: The Nasher Collection," Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
"Envisioning the Contemporary: Selections from the Permanent Collection," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
"Selections from the Permanent Collection: Identity/Identidad," Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA  
"American Stories: Amidst Displacement and Transformation," travelling exhibition organized by the Cultural Projects Division, Tokyo, Japan
- 1998** "Face to Face: Art in the Public," Marlborough Chelsea, New York, NY  
"Narratives of African American Art of the 20th Century: The David C. Driskell Collection," The Art Gallery of the University of Maryland, College Park, MD  
"The African-American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship," The Library of Congress, Washington, DC (<http://www.loc.gov>. "American Memory")
- 1999** "Weaving the World: Contemporary Art of Linear Construction," Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan

- 2001** "Strength and Diversity: A Celebration of African American Artists," Carpenter Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
"Making Choices," Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York  
"New-Land-Marks: Public Art, Community, and the Meaning of Place," Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2002** "New to the Modern: Recent Acquisitions from the Department of Drawings", MoMA, New York, New York
- 2003** In the spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.", Traveling Exhibition: Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI, Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, FL, Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL.  
"Drawings: Anne Chu, Rodney Graham, Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold, Joshua Mosley, Bruce Nauman, Thomas Schütte, Martin Puryear, Charles Ray, Jana Sterbak, Richard Serra, Rosemarie Trockel," Donald Young Gallery, Chicago
- 2004** "Breathless," Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, Purchase, New York  
"Contemporary Art and Furniture Design in Dialogue", Senior & Shopmaker Gallery, New York, New York
- 2005** "An Intuitive Landscape", McKee Gallery, New York, NY
- 2007** "Part One: 1976-1980", Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago  
"Estampes," Galerie Lelong, Paris, France  
"Early Signs," McKee Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008** "Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture Part II," John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco