

# Petzel

## JAMES LITTLE

Born 1952, Memphis, Tennessee  
Lives and works in New York, New York

## EDUCATION

1976 MFA, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York  
1974 BFA, Memphis Academy of Art, Memphis, Tennessee

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Affirmed/ Actions*, Petzel, New York, New York
- 2023 *Conversations*, Petzel, New York, New York
- 2022 *Black Stars & White Paintings*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois  
*James Little: Homecoming*, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, Tennessee
- 2020 *James Little: Dots and Slants*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California
- 2018 *Slants and White Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York
- 2016 *Informed by Rhythm: Recent Work by James Little*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California
- 2015 *Color/ Barriers: Recent Work*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York
- 2013 *Never Say Never*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York
- 2011 *Ex Pluribus Unum: New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York
- 2009 *De-Classified, Recent Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York
- 2007 *James Little: Untold Stories*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, Texas
- 2005 *Reaching for the Sky*, G. R. N’Namdi Gallery, New York, New York
- 2003 *Beyond Geometry: New Paintings*, L.I.C.K. Ltd. Fine Art, Long Island City, New York
- 1995 *Recent Abstract Paintings*, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York, New York
- 1992 *James Little: Selected Works from the Past Decade*, Lubin House Gallery, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York  
*James Little: Ovals and Arbitration Paintings*, Sid Deutsch Gallery, New York, New York

# Petzel

- 1990 *Tondos and Ovals*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York
- 1989 *James Little: Recent Paintings*, Christian Science Church, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1988 *James Little & Al Loving: New Work*, New York, June Kelly Gallery,  
*New York to Memphis*, Alice Bingham Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee  
*New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York
- 1987 *New Paintings*, Liz Harris Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1985 *James Little: Format Paintings*, Harris Brown Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1982 *Recent Oil Paintings*, Alternative Museum, New York, New York
- 1976 *Paintings by James Little*, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Edges of Ailey*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York,  
*2024 Instructor Salon*, The Art Students League, of New York, New York
- 2023 *An Apartment of Ghosts*, Petzel Gallery, New York, New York
- 2022 *In These Truths*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo  
*Quiet as It's Kept*, Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, New York
- 2021 *Abstraction & Social Critique*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois  
*The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse*, Virginia Museum of  
Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia; *Travels to: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art*,  
Bentonville, Arkansas in March 2022
- 2020 *Louise Nevelson and James Little*, Rosenbaum Contemporary, Boca Raton, Florida
- 2018 *Color/Line/Form*, Rosenbaum Contemporary, Boca Raton, Florida
- 2017 *Celebrating 30 Years, Gallery Artists: Drawings and Photographs*, June Kelly Gallery, New York,  
New York
- 2016 *Circa 1970*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York  
*Beyond Borders: Bill Hutson & Friends*, Mechanical Hall Gallery, University Museums,  
University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware
- 2015 *Decoding the Abstract Unlimited Potential*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, New York  
*Outside the Lines: Color Across the Collections*, Newark Museum of Art, Newark, New Jersey

# Petzel

- Works on Paper: Selections from the Gallery*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California
- 2014 *Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Hard Edges/Soft Curves (Outside the Lines series)*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, Texas  
*James Little*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois
- 2012 *Today's Visual Language: Southern Abstraction, A Fresh Look*, Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, Alabama  
*What Only Paint Can Do*, Triangle Arts Association, Brooklyn, New York
- 2011 *ABSTRACTION (Abstraction to the Power of Infinity)*, Crane Arts, The Ice Box, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2010 *Abstract Relations*, University of Delaware Museums, University of Delaware collaboration with the University of Maryland David C. Driskell Center, Mineralogical Museum, Mechanical Hall Gallery, Newark, New Jersey  
*It's A Wonderful 10<sup>th</sup>*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
- 2008 *Shape Shifters: New York Painters*, The A.D. Gallery, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke, North Carolina
- 2007 *Three One-Man Exhibitions: James Little, Aimé Mpane, George Smith*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, Texas
- 2006 *The 181st Annual Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*, National Academy of Design, New York, New York  
*Neo-Plastic Redux*, Elizabeth Harris Gallery, New York, New York
- 2005 *Different Ways of Seeing: The Expanding World of Abstraction*, Noyes Museum of Contemporary Art, Oceanville, New Jersey  
*Optical Stimulations: American Abstract Artists*, Yellow Bird Gallery, Newburgh, New York  
*50 Plus*, Netherlands Tunnel Gallery, Brooklyn, New York  
*Raising the Bar: James Little and Thornton Willis*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
- 2004 *Seeds and Roots: Selections from the Permanent Collection*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York  
*A Century of African American Art: The Paul R. Jones Collection*, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware  
*Abstract Identity*, Pelham Art Center, New York, New York
- 2003 *Theories: Abstract New York*, Roger Ramsay Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 2002 New York, Jack Tilton/Anna Kustera Gallery, *No Greater Love, Abstraction Ajita – Unconquerable*, The Station, Houston, Texas  
*500 Works on Paper*, Gary Snyder Fine Art, New York, New York

# Petzel

- Amplified Abstraction*, Doklaan 8-12, Plantage, Chapel, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2001 *Painted in New York City: Viewpoints of Recent Developments in Abstract Painting*, Hofstra Museum, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York  
*Dialog and Discourse*, Friends Academy, Dolan Center Gallery, Locust Valley, New York
- 2000 *Significant Pursuits: Paint and Geometry*, Smack Mellon Studios, Brooklyn, New York  
*Straight Painting*, The Painting Center, New York, New York
- 1999 *Straight No Chaser*, The Puffin Room, The Puffin Foundation, New York, New York  
*The Art of Absolute Desire*, 450 Broadway, New York, New York  
*The Power of Drawing*, Westbeth Gallery, New York, New York
- 1998 *New Directions '98: 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Juried Fine Arts Exhibition*, Barrett Art Center, Dutchess County Art Association, Poughkeepsie, New York  
*New York Eight*, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, New York  
*Works On, With and Made Out of Paper*, Sideshow 195, Brooklyn, New York  
*The African-American Fine Arts Collection of the New Jersey State Museum*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey  
*Postcards from Black America*, De Beyerd Center for Contemporary Art and the Frans Hals Museum, Breda and Haarlem, Netherlands  
*de leugenaars / the liars (I) Helder en Verzadigd Clear and Saturated*, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Color, Matter, Energy*, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, Galerie Maria Chailloux, Amsterdam, Netherlands

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Oliver, Valerie Cassel. *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art. Material Culture, and the Sonic Implus*. Richmond: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, pp. 113, 251.
- 2021 *James Little*. Chicago: Kavi Gupta.  
*Chromatic Rhythm | James Little: Paintings on Paper*. Tuscaloosa: The Sarah Moody Gallery of Art.
- 2020 *Louise Nevelson + James Little*. Boca Raton: Rosenbaum Contemporary  
*James Little | Beyond Geometry—Selections*. New York: The Lobby Gallery Park Avenue and 59<sup>th</sup> Street.  
*The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection*. St. Louis: St. Louis Art Museum.
- 2018 *Color / Line / Form*. Boca Raton: Rosenbaum Contemporary.
- 2007 Harithas, James. *James Little: Untold Stories*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art.
- 2005 N’Namdi, George, Al Loving, Robert Costa, Horace Brockington, Robert C. Morgan, and James Harithas. *James Little: Reaching for the Sky*. G.R. N’Namdi Gallery.

# Petzel

- 1981 Kingsley, April, *Afro-American Abstraction: An Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture by Nineteen Black American Artists*. New York: P.S. 1.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2024 “MTA and Whitney Museum of American Art Celebrate Art in the Subway.” *The City Life Org*, May 31.  
Stirling, Diane. “American Artist James Little G’76 Gifts Painting to Syracuse University Art Museum.” *Syracuse University News*, March 8.  
“A Survey Exhibition: Louis Stern Fine Arts Through the Decades’ celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> year of Louis Stern Galleries.” *artdaily.com*, February 19.
- 2023 Sheets, Hilarie M. “Installations by Theaster Gates and James Little reinvigorate riverfront park in Memphis.” *The Art Newspaper*, September 25.  
“A public park to revitalize the Mississippi river bank in Memphis.” *Domus*, September 5.  
Hill, John. “Tom Lee Park Opens.” *world-architects.com*, September 4.  
“A Panorama of Design.” *The New York Times*, August 31.  
Dreith, Ben. “Studio Gang and SCAPE add timber canopy to ‘inclusive’ park on Memphis waterfront.” *Dezeen*, August 31.  
Genzlinger, Neil. “April Kingsley, Curator Who Championed Unsung Artists, Dies at 82.” *The New York Times*, June 29.  
Rigou, Vasia. “Contextualizing Black Exceptionalism: James Little’s Black Stars & White Paintings at Kavi Gupta.” *New City Art*, February 9.  
Wilkin, Karen. “At the Galleries.” *The Hudson Review*, vol. LXXVI, No. 2, Summer.
- 2022 Yerebakan, Osman Can. “James Little: Fear and transcendence in abstract painting.” *Artforum*, November 30.  
Samarov, Dmitry. “James Little’s Constructed Abstractions.” *Frieze*, November 29.  
“See Inside James Little’s Studio, Where He Combines Pigment, Beeswax, And Varnish To Create Layered Geometric Abstractions.” *MENAFN*, November 28.  
Cascone, Sarah. “See Inside James Little’s Studio, Where He Combines Pigment, Beeswax, and Varnish to Create Layered Geometric Abstractions.” *Artnet News*, November 27.  
Sheets, Hilarie M. “James Little, Unapologetic Abstractionist Painter, Catches the Limelight.” *New York Times*, October 20.  
“What To Do in New York City in August.” *New York Times*, August 4.  
“What To Do in New York City in July.” *New York Times*, July 13.  
Davis-Marks, Isis. “With a Whitney Biennial feature and newfound commercial representation, James Little’s commitment to abstraction is finally paying off.” *The Art Newspaper*, June 21.  
Morici, Abigail. “James Little: Homecoming.” *Memphis Magazine*, June 20.  
Yates, Christin. “Dixon’s 16 Gallery Spaces Each Hosting a Mini-Exhibition.” *Daily Memphian*, June 6.  
“A Long Overdue Recognition: James Little Finally Gets His Turn in the Spotlight at this Year’s Whitney Biennial.” *ARTnews*, May 2.  
Chiu, Vivian. “The 2022 Whitney Biennial Expands the Scope of ‘American’ Art.” *OCULA*,

# Petzel

- April 27.  
Gordon, Dana. "The Single Best Work in the Whitney Biennial." *The New York Sun*, April 18.  
Fisher, Simon; Fuchs, Eva; Mitchell, Rory. "Whitney Biennial 2022: Artist Installations that Stole the Show." *OCULA*, April 8.  
Marius, Marley. "A Glimpse into this Year's Whitney Biennial." *Vogue*, April 2.  
Dozier, Ayanna. "At the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Compelling Works Are Overshadowed by an Inaccessible Space." *Artsy*, March 31.  
Cotter, Holland. "A Whitney Biennial of Shadow and Light." *New York Times*, March 31.  
Greenberger, Alex. "A Sharp Understated Whitney Biennial Looks to the Past to Process the Grief of the Present." *ARTnews*, March 30.  
Durón, Maximiliano. "12 Standouts at the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Where Poetic Reflections on Past Two Years Shine Brightly." *ARTnews*, March 29.
- 2021 Voon, Claire, "Chicago: Six Must-See Exhibitions." *Art Basel*, December 18.
- 2020 Valentine, Victoria L. "James Little's Black Paintings are a 'Volley of Minimalist Ideals' Exposing the Drama, Richness, and Contrasting Values of Black." *Culture Type*, October 22.  
Corwin, William. "Going Beyond Geometry: James Little's Social Abstraction." *Arvade Project*, August 15.  
Sheets, Hilarie M. "Color and Design Matter. So Does Optimism." *New York Times*, March 19.
- 2019 Kistner, Matthew. "Interview: James Little Talks 'The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection' at Saint Louis Art Museum." *ReviewSTL*, October 23.  
Duff, Gary. "A Curator Finds Inspiration In Abstract Expressionism at The American Fine Arts Society Gallery." *Gotham*, April 3.  
Corwin, William. "ArtSeen: New York-Centric." *Brooklyn Rail*, March 5.
- 2017 Brooks, Leronn P. "James Little by LeRonn P. Brooks." *BOMB*, April 19.
- 2013 Panero, James. "Studio Visit: James Little." *New Criterion*, May 3.
- 2011 McGee, Celia. "Driven to Abstraction." *ARTnews*, January 1.
- 2009 Cotter, Holland. "NY Times Art in Review: James Little." *New York Times*, June 5.  
La Rocco, Benjamin. "James Little with Benjamin La Rocco." *Brooklyn Rail*, May 1.

# Petzel

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas  
AT&T, New York and Florida  
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York  
Gucci Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts  
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
Maatschappij Arti Et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Memphis Academy of Art, Memphis, Tennessee  
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, Tennessee  
Menil Collection, Houston, Texas  
Moody Arts Center, Rice University, Houston, Texas  
Mutual of New York Assurance Company, New York, New York  
New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey  
Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey  
Occidental Petroleum Company, Houston, Texas  
Phillips/Schwab Inc., New York, New York  
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri  
Sherbourne, Powers and Needham, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts  
State University of New York at Albany, Albany, New York  
Stephen Mallory Associates, New York, New York  
The Studio Museum, Harlem, New York  
Tennessee State Museum, Nashville, Tennessee  
The Twentieth Century Fund, New York, New York  
U.N.C. Ventures, Boston, Massachusetts  
Veryss Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York