

2023

JOHN AHEARN

BIOGRAPHY

1951 Born in Binghamton, NY
1973 B.F.A. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

The artist lives and works in New York

ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2022-2023 **Swagger and Tenderness: The South Bronx Portraits by John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres**, The Bronx Museum of the Arts
- 2020-2021 **The Bronx Comes to LA**, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2020 **John Ahearn**, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans
- 2017 **John Ahearn / Rigoberto Torres**, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2014 **Works from Dawson Street and Walton Avenue**, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2010 **Automatic for the People: John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres**, Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, Newark
- 2007 **John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: Inhotim**, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2001 **Pan Chiao**, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2000 **Sculpture from East 100th Street, part II**, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 1998 **Sculpture from East 100th Street**, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 1995 **John Ahearn, A Decade of Figurative Sculpture**, University Art Gallery, University of California, San Diego
- 1993-1994 **Sculpture by John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: The South Bronx Hall of Fame and Other Realities**, Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery of Reed College, Portland, OR; Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe (catalogue with essay by Susan Fillin-Yeh)
- Friends and Neighbors: The Art of John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres**, The Baltimore Museum of Art, MD; Lehman College Art Gallery, City University of New York, Bronx, New York (brochure)
- 1992 **John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: Face to Face**, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC
- Makiki-Kalihi-Manoa**, Life Casting in Honolulu, The Honolulu Advertiser Gallery
- 1991-1992 **South Bronx Hall of Fame: Sculpture by John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres**, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Witte de With, Rotterdam; The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu (catalogue with essays by Richard Goldstein, Michael Ventura and Marilyn Zeitlin)
- 1991 **John Ahearn**, Sculpture 1988-1991, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1990 **John Ahearn**, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO (brochure)
- 1988 **John Ahearn**, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1986 **John Ahearn with Rigoberto Torres**, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1985 **John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: Portraits from the Bronx: Life Casts from 1979 to Present**, The Bronx Museum of Art, New York, Community Gallery
- Investigations 12: John Ahearn with Rigoberto Torres: Sculpture**, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (brochure)
- 1984 **John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres**, Brooke Alexander, New York

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- 1983 **John Ahearn with Rigoberto Torres: Recent Sculpture from Dawson Street**, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1982 **John Ahearn**, Galerie Rudolf Zwirner, Cologne, Germany
- 1979 **South Bronx Hall of Fame**, Fashion Moda, moved to the Con Edison Building, Bronx, New York, Bronx Museum Satellite Gallery

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 **outer view, inner world**, Morena di Luna, Hove
Beyond the Streets London, Saatchi Gallery, London
City as Studio, K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong
- 2021 **Hand in Hand**, Bienvenu Steinberg and Partner, New York
Index, Alexander and Bonin, New York
And The Beat Goes On: Urban Art from East Village NY to SW China, One East Art Center, Shanghai
- 2020 **The Beat Goes on**, May Park Gallery, Chengdu, China
Realism, Reality and Surreality, Bronx Art Space
Winter Update, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2019-2020 **Good Sports**, The Public Trust, Dallas
- 2019 **Not “En Vogue”**, 5-50 Gallery, Long Island City, New York
Wide World of Sports, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton
BOROUGH5, Black Diamond Gallery, Brooklyn
Beyond the Streets NYC, 25 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn
People, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles
- 2018-2019 **East Village, New York City**, The Seoul Museum of Art
- 2018 **People**, Jeffrey Deitch, New York
Beyond the Streets, Werkartz, Los Angeles
Like Life: Sculpture, Color, and the Body, The Met Breuer, New York
The Unseen, James Fuentes, New York
101 Drawings, Alexander and Bonin, New York
Monument to Us, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- 2017-2018 **Club 57: Film, Performance, and Art in the East Village, 1978–1983**, Museum of Modern Art, New York
The Sweat of their Face: Portraying American Workers, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC
The American Dream, Drents Museum, Assen
- 2017 **Regarding the Figure**, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Objects Tell Stories, The New York Historical Society Museum
The Coffins of Paa Joe and the Pursuit of Happiness, The School, Kinderhook, NY
If I Had Possession Over Judgement Day: Collections of Claude Simard, The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Saratoga Springs
I plan to stay a believer, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York
Street Hassle, Marlborough Contemporary, London
An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney’s Collection, 1940–2017, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Feedback, Marlborough Chelsea

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- 2016 **John and Jonathan**, James Fuentes Gallery, New York
6s and 7s, Marlborough Gallery, New York
HARD LOVE, Martos Gallery, New York
- 2015-2016 **Greater New York**, MoMA PS1, New York
- 2015 **Unrealism**, The Moore Building, Miami
KIDS, Dorian Grey Gallery, New York
- 2014 **lens-based sculpture: The transformation of sculpture through photography**, Akademie
der Künste, Hanseatenweg, Berlin
- 2013 **Double Hamburger Deluxe**, Marlborough Chelsea, New York
Portikus Under Construction, Tanya Leighton Gallery, Berlin
- 2012 **Times Square Show Revisited**, Hunter College, New York
CROSSING HOUSTON, 154 Smart Clothes, New York
Every Exit is an Entrance: 30 Years of Exit Art, Exit Art, New York
This Will Have Been: Art, Love, & Politics in the 1980s, MCA, Chicago; Walker Art
Center, Minneapolis; ICA, Boston
- 2010-2011 **Ordinary Madness**, The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh
- 2009-2010 **Urban Archives: That Was Then This Is Now**, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx,
New York
- 2009 **Beyond Appearances**, Lehman College Art Gallery, Bronx, New York
Martin Wong's Downtown Crossings, Asian/Pacific/American Institute at New York
University, New York
About Face, Adam Baumgold Gallery, New York
- 2008-2009 **Exquisite Corpse**, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Ormeau Gallery, Belfast
- 2006-2007 **The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974-1984**, Grey Art Gallery, New
York; The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Austin Museum of Art, TX
- 2004 **John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: Retratos da Rodoviária de Brumadinho**, Casa da
Cultura de Brumadinho, Brazil
Other Aristocrats, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2003 **Celebrating Sculpture: Modern and Contemporary Works from Dallas Collections**,
Dallas Museum of Art
- 2002 **Mask or Mirror? A Play of Portraits**, Worcester Art Museum, MA
- 2001 **(Self) Portraits**, Alexander and Bonin, New York
The First Ten Years: Selected Works from the Collection, The Irish Museum of Modern
Art, Dublin
- 2000 **Art at the end of the century: Contemporary Art from the Milwaukee Museum of Art**,
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, AZ
Expo 2000, Pavilion of the Holy See, Hannover
- 1999 **1999 Drawings**; Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 1998 **Cleveland Collects Contemporary Art**, Cleveland Museum of Art, OH
- 1996 **Intersections: The Personal and the Social in the Permanent Collection**, The Museum
of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
Three Cornell Artists, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- 1995 **Making Faces, American Portraits**, The Hudson River Museum of Westchester, Yonkers,
NY
- 1994-1995 **From Beyond the Pale**, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin

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- 1994-1995 **New York Realism Past and Present**, Odakyu Museum, Tokyo; Kagoshima City Museum of Art; Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art; The Museum of Art, Kintetsu, Osaka; Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art; Tampa Museum of Art, FL (catalogue)
- 1993 **Contemporary Public Art in the Bronx**, Lehman College Art Gallery, New York
In and Out of Place: Contemporary Art and the American Social Landscape, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
42nd Street Art Project, Creative Time, New York
- 1992 **Americas**, Convento de Santa Clara, Huelva
Devil on the Stairs: Looking Back on the Eighties, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA
- 1991 **Experiencing Sculpture: The Figurative Presence in America 1870-1990**, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY
- 1990 **The Decade Show**, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; The Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art, New York
- 1989 **Urban Images**, Madison Art Center, WI
- 1988 **Democracy: Education, Group Material**, Dia Art Foundation, New York
Urban Figures, The Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, New York
The World of Art Today, Milwaukee Art Museum
- 1987 **Out of the Studio, Art with Community, Part I**, Institute for Art and Urban Resources, P.S. 1, Long Island City, New York
- 1986 **Life in the Big City: Contemporary Artists Responses to the Urban Experience**, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
Correspondences: New York Art Now, Laforet Museum, Harajuku, Tokyo; Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Utsunomiya and Tagaki Hall Space Media, Kobe, Japan
- 1985 **1985 Biennial Exhibition**, Group Material, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Visions of Childhood: A Contemporary Iconography, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Content: A Contemporary Focus 1974-1984, Tenth Anniversary Exhibition, Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
- 1984 **The Heroic Figure**, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, TN; Alexandria Museum/Visual Art Center, Los Angeles; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA; Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago
- 1983 **New York Now**, Kestner-Gesellschaft e.v., Hanover; Kunstverein, Munich; Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne; Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf
New Art at The Tate Gallery, 1983, Tate Gallery, London
- 1982 **Fourth Biennial of Sydney**, Sydney, Australia
Urban Kisses, Institute of Contemporary Art, London
- 1981 **Figures: Forms and Expressions**, Albright Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY
Westkunst, Cologne, Germany
- 1980 **Fashion Moda**, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York
Times Square Show, New York

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- 2017 **Coney Art Walls**, Coney Island, Brooklyn
- 2016 **Coney Art Walls**, Coney Island, Brooklyn
- 2012 **South Bronx Hall of Fame** with Rigoberto Torres, Frieze Projects at the Frieze Art Fair, Randall's Island, New York
- 2005 Public Project with Rigoberto Torres, Centro de Arte Contemporânea, Bello Horizonte, Brazil
- 2004 **Sports Center** with Rigoberto Torres, Caguas, Puerto Rico
- 2000-2002 **Pan Chiao Train Station Public Art Project**, Pan Chiao, Taiwan
- 2000 **Phoenix Day School for the Deaf**, in collaboration with the Scottsdale Museum of Art, Scottsdale, Arizona
- 1996-1997 **General Services Administration, commission for Health Care Finance Administration** with Rigoberto Torres, Baltimore
- 1996 **East 100th Street Sculpture Project** with Rigoberto Torres, New York.
Percent for Art Fountain Project, Juvenile Detention Center, Richmond, VA (not realized)
- 1995 **Residency, Weatherspoon Art Museum and Carolina Tattoo Lee Street Sculpture Workshop**, Greensboro, NC
- 1994 **Education & Community Department, Artists Work Programme**, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Royal Hospital, Dublin (Fall)
Institut für Lippische Landeskunde, Lemgo, Germany, and Schwalenberg Community (Summer)
Tempe, Arizona Boys and Girls Club, sculpture mural in gymnasium, with ASU Art Museum (Spring)
- 1993 **42nd Street Art Project** with Rigoberto Torres, in collaboration with Creative Time, New York
- 1992 **Washington Project for the Arts** with Rigoberto Torres, Washington, DC
- 1991 The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii
Cool Project, Buurthuis Cool with Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 1984-1986 **Walton Avenue Sculpture Workshop** with Rigoberto Torres life casting done publicly in neighborhood
- 1985 **Back to School**, outdoor mural, Walton Avenue at 172nd Street, Bronx, New York
City College of the City of New York, Commissioned eight painted life casts of CCNY students and teachers, on permanent display above student cafeteria
- 1984 Greenville, South Carolina, Permanent Installation of life cast portrait sculptures made in cooperation with the Greenville County Art Museum
- 1981-83 **Intervale Avenue Outdoor Arts Project** with Rigoberto Torres, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Fashion Moda, the Bronx Council on the Arts, and the Federal Housing and Urban Development fund; low relief sculpture mural
- 1982-1983 **Life on Dawson Street**, outdoor mural, Longwood Avenue at Dawson Street, Bronx, New York
- 1981-1982 **We Are Family**, outdoor mural, 877 Intervale Avenue at Fox Street, Bronx, New York
Double Dutch at Kelly Street, outdoor mural, Intervale Avenue at Kelly Street, Bronx, New York (Reconstructed in 1986)

2023JOHN AHEARNBIOGRAPHY**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY – Essays in Books and Catalogues**

- 2018 Syson, Luke, Wagstaff, Sheena, Bowyer, Emerson, and Kumar, Brunda. *Life Like: Sculpture, Color, and the Body*, ex. cat. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- 2017 Resnick, Sarah, ed. *Club 57: Film, Performance, and Art in the East Village, 1978-1983*, ex. cat. New York: The Museum of Modern Art
- Ward, David C. and Moss, Dorothy. *The Sweat of their Face: Portraying American Workers*. Washington, DC: National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Books
- 2011 *Pantheon: A History of Art from the Streets of NYC*, ex. cat. New York: Pantheon Projects
- 2010 McCormick, Carlo and Marc and Sara Schiller, Ethel Seno. *Trespass. A History of Uncommissioned Urban Art*. New York: Taschen
- 2008 *Espèce d'espace*, ex. cat. Grenoble: MAGASIN - National Contemporary Art Center
- 2006 McCormick, Carol. "A Crack in Time." in *The Downtown Book: The New York Art Scene 1974-1984*. Princeton: Princeton University Press
- 2005 Nieves, Marisol and Matthias Winzen. *The Figurative Impulse: Works from the UBS Art Collection*, ex. cat. San Juan: Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico and Zürich: The UBS Art Collection
- 1995 Lacy, Suzanne, ed. "Directional Signs: A Compendium of Artists' Works." *Mapping the Terrain: New Genre Public Art* (Seattle: Bay Press): 194-195
- 1994 Kramer, Jane. *Whose Art is It?* Durham & London: Duke University Press/Public Planet Books, 1994
- 1991 Goldstein, Richard, Michael Ventura and Marilyn A. Zeitlin. *South Bronx Hall of Fame: John Ahearn/Rigoberto Torres* Houston: Contemporary Arts Museum, 1991
- 1987 Lippard, Lucy. *New Art in a Multicultural America* New York: Pantheon Books, 1990
- Frank, Peter and Michael McKenzie. *New and Improved: Art for The Eighties* New York: Abbeville Press, 1987

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY – Reviews and Articles

- 2017 Korman, Sam. "John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres." *Flash Art International*, Vol.50, No.137 (November- December, 2017): 96-97
- Bourland, Ian. "John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres." *Artforum* (October 6, 2017)
- 2016 Kitnick, Alex. "Greater New York." *Artforum* (January 2016): 236 - 237
- 2013 Kennedy, Randy. "A Feast of Street Art, Luminous and Legal: Graffiti Art of the City, From the Bronx to Brooklyn." *The New York Times* (August 30, 2013): C20
- Pincus-Witten, Robert. "Times Square Show Revisited." *Artforum* (December 2012): 274-275
- 2012 Maloney, Jennifer. "British Art Carnival Wakes a Big Apple Isle." *The Wall Street Journal* (May 5-6, 2012): C14
- Cotter, Holland. "On an Island, Worker Bees Fill a Long White Hive." *The New York Times* (May 5, 2012): C1
- Russeth, Andrew. "John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres Cast Portraits at Frieze." *GalleristNY* (May 5, 2012)

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- 2012 Hegert, Natalie. "Some Full Circle on Randall's Island: John Ahearn at Frieze Projects." *ARTslant* (May 3, 2012)
 Russeth, Andrew. "Casting Call." *The New York Observer* (April 30, 2012): B1
 Budick, Ariella. "Spirit of the Bronx." *Weekend Financial Times* (April 28/29, 2012):
 Corbett, Rachel. "John Ahearn Revival at Frieze." *Artnet* (March 5, 2012)
- 2009 Leffingwell, Edward. "The Empty Biennial." *Art in America* (March 2009): 59-64
- 2007 Baker, R.C. "Best in Show: John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres." *Village Voice* (June 20-26, 2007): 47
- 2001 Schjeldahl, Peter. "John Ahearn." *The New Yorker* (December 24 & 31, 2001): 22
- 2000 Dannatt, Adrian. "Our Choice of New York contemporary galleries; John Ahearn." *The Art Newspaper* (July-August 2000): 78
- 1998 Taplin, Robert. "John Ahearn at Alexander and Bonin." *Art in America* (November 1998): 124-25
- 1993 "Forty-Second Street Art Project." *The New Yorker* (September 20, 1993): 29
- 1988 Hess, Elizabeth. "Working the Street." *Village Voice* (November 29, 1988)
- 1986 Larson, Kay. "Body and Soul." *New York* (February 10, 1986): 72
- 1984 Wolff, Theodore F. "The Home Forum: Neighbors as Art." *The Christian Science Monitor* (September 13, 1984): 47
- 1983 Glatt, Cara. "Sculptors look at human form." *The Hyde Park Herald*, vol. 102, issue 21 (May 25, 1983): 10, 22
- 1980 Goldstein, Richard. "First Radical Art Show." *Village Voice* (June 16, 1980): 1, 31-32

GRANTS, AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2009 The Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant

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SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Baltimore Museum of Art
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Australian National Gallery, Canberra
Art Institute of Chicago
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati
Museum Ludwig, Cologne
Dallas Museum of Art, TX
Greenville County Art Museum, SC
Museum of Contemporary Art, Iowa City
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA
Eli Broad Family Foundation, Los Angeles
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
Milwaukee Art Museum
The Newark Museum, NJ
Brooklyn Museum, New York
City College of New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Museum of Modern Art, New York
The New School Art Collection, New York
The New York Historical Society
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh
Witte de With, Rotterdam
St. Louis Art Museum
Arizona State University, Tempe
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC