

## LEZLEY SAAR

Born 1953, Los Angeles, CA

Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

### Education

1978 B.A., California State University at Northridge, Northridge, CA

1976 San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

1972 L'Institut Francais de Photographie, Paris, FR

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024 *Saudade*, Various Small Fires, Dallas, TX

2022 *Diorama Drama*, Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA

2021 *Black Garden*, Various Small Fires, Seoul, South Korea

*Legends from Los Angeles; Betye, Alison and Lezley Saar*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

2020 *A Conjuring of Conjurers*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2018 *Betye, Alison and Lezley Saar*, Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA

2017 *Gender Renaissance*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

*Salon des Refusés*, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA

2014 *Monad*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2012 *Madwoman in the Attic*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2010 *Autist's Fables*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

*Tooth Hut*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2007 *Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, Palmer Art Museum, PA

2006 *Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, San Jose Museum of Art, CA

*Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, Pasadena Museum of Art, CA

2005 *Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, Ackland Art Museum, NC

2004 *Recent Work*, Kravets/Wehby Gallery, New York, NY

*The Secret Self*, Sawhill Gallery, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

2003 *Mulatto Nation*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

*Mulatto Nation*, List Gallery, Swarthmore College, PA

2001 *Paintings from the Rap Series*, Lehman College Art Gallery, New York, NY

*Africans, Rap Thugs-n-Dimes*, Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO

*Encyclopedia Exotica*, David Beitzel Gallery, New York, NY

2000 *Works by Alison and Leslie Saar*, Williamson Gallery, Scripps College, Claremont, CA

*Anomalies*, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO

*Paradox of the Unexpected Hanging*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

*Africans, Rap Thugs-n-Dimes*, The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH,  
traveled to St. Louis, MO

*Africans, Tragic Mulattos, Anomalies and Rap*, David Beitzel Gallery, NY

1999 *So Called Books*, San Francisco Center for the Book, CA

*Anomalies*, Fresno Museum of Art, Fresno, CA

1998 *The Artist as Collector: The Collection of Francine Bishop Good and David Horvitz*,  
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL

*The Tip of the Iceberg*, Dorfman Projects, New York, NY

1997 *Recent Work*, David Beitzel Gallery, New York, NY

1996 *Repetitive Ritual*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

1994 *Recent Work*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

- The Athenaeum II*, Mesa College, San Diego, CA  
 1993 *The Athenaeum*, Koplín Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
 1991 *Altar(ed) Books*, Koplín Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
 1990 *Altered Books*, Art Works, Los Angeles, CA

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2024 *With the Moon Under Our Feet*, The Philosophical Research Society, Los Angeles, CA  
*Shared Vision: Portraits from the CCH Pounder-Koné Collection*, African American Museum, Philadelphia, PA  
*Immersive Worlds: Real and Imagined*, Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NH  
 Art Basel, Various Small Fires, Hong Kong, CN  
 Frieze OVR IRL 2024, Various Small Fires, Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 *Elegant Threads*, Lighthouse ArtCenter Gallery, Tequesta, FL
- 2022 *Adornment/Artifact*, The Getty Center, curated by jill moniz, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 *Black American Portraits*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
*Cantos of the Sibylline Sisterhood*, Art Center College of Design, DTLA Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Art and Hope at the end of the Tunnel*, USC Fisher Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
*Black American Portraits*, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA  
*Then and Now*, Telluride Gallery of Fine Art, Telluride, CO  
*Black Beauty*, Arthur Rogers Gallery, New Orleans, LA  
*Ambiguities of Blackness*, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA  
*Otherwise/Revival*, Bridge Projects Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Legends from Los Angeles; Betye, Alison, and Lezley Saar*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
- 2020 *Mojo Rising*, curated by Jill Moniz, Ronald H. Silverman Fine Art Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 *The Medea Insurrection: Radical Women Artists Behind the Iron Curtain*, The Wende Museum, Culver City, CA  
*To Reflect Us*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Get Up, Stand Up Now*, Sommerset House, London, England  
*Queerest of the Queer*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Transamerica/n: Gender, Identity, Appearance Today*, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX  
*Personal Truth*, El Camino College Art Gallery, Torrance, CA  
*Unfrozen*, Curated by Randi Matushevitz, Substrate Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
 Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 2018 *Betye, Alison and Lezley Saar*, Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA  
*Care and Feeding: The Art of Parenthood*, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA  
*In This Together, Embracing Diversity*, curated by Sagi Refael and Brenda G. Williams, Castelli Art Space, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 *I.D., Please!*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 *A Star Is Born: Ten Years Later*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Art and Spirit*, Art Division at Church, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 *How Many Miles to Babylon*, c24 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 *Cross Fade*, Curated by Brenda G. Williams, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 *Self-Possessed*, Koplín Del Rio, Los Angeles, CA

- 2011 *Breaking in Two*, Arena 1 Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
*Group Exhibition*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*In Context*, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 *Group Exhibition 2010*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*I feel Different*, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 *Laugh It Off*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Collected. Propositions on the Permanent Collection*, Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, NY  
*Southern Exposure*, Manhattan Beach Creative Arts Center, CA  
*Political Draw*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 *20 Years Ago Today*, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
*A View from Here: A Group Exhibition of Contemporary Landscape*, The Judson Studios, Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 *Between Two Worlds*, Californian African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
 and Hamilton Bermuda  
*New Images of Identity*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA  
*The Feminist Figure*, Forum Gallery, New York, NY  
*Multiple Vantage Points*, LA Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, Palmer Art Museum, University Park, PA  
*Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
- 2006 *Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, CA  
*Lag-time Line-up*, Mumbo Jumbo Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Ladies with Figures*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Family Legacies: The Art of Betye, Lezley & Alison Saar*, Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2004 *Fade, African American Artists in Los Angeles*, Craft & Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2003 *Whiteness, a Wayward Construction*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA
- 2001 *Identities: Contemporary Portraiture*, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Summit, NJ  
*Talking to Myself: Culture Fantasy & the Domestic Condition*, Porter Troupe Gallery, San Diego, CA
- 2000 *The Next Wave: New Painting in Southern California*, California Center for the Arts, Escondido, CA  
*Facing the Millennium: Portraits and Self Portraits*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1999 *Re:Assemble*, Todd Madigan Gallery, Bakersfield, CA  
*Re/Righting History: Counternarratives by Contemporary African-American Artists*, Katonah Museum of Art, New York, NY
- 1999 *Out West*, The Artists Book in California”, San Francisco Center for the Book, San Francisco, CA
- 1998 *Precious*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*The Artist as Collector, The Collection of Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL  
*Tip of the Iceberg*, Dorfman Projects, New York, NY 1997  
*Remembrance of Exhibitions Past: 20th Anniversary Celebration*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*My Favorite Femmes*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1996 *Go Getty Go*, Big Sail Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*L.A. Current; The Female Perspective*, Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
*The Inner Lives of Women: Psyche, Spirit & Soul*, Spring Street Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

- 1995 *Muses*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA  
*Exultations*, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA  
*Works by Betye, Lezley and Alison Saar*, Montgomery Glasoe Fine Art, Minneapolis, MN  
*Inaugural Group Show*, Monique Knowlton, New York, NY  
*Localities of Desire*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia  
*Gallery Group*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*In The Black*, Irvine Art Center, Irvine, CA  
*Relatively Speaking: Mothers and Daughters in Art*, Rahr West Museum, Manitowock, WI  
*Relatively Speaking: Mothers and Daughters in Art*, Sweet Briar College Art Gallery,  
 Sweet Briar, VA
- 1994 *Localities of Desire*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia  
*Relatively Speaking: Mothers and Daughters in Art*, Snug Harbor Cultural Center,  
 Snug Harbor, NY (traveling)  
*Flora: In Artists Gardens*, S.F. Community Arts, CA  
 400 South Hope Street Associates, Los Angeles, CA  
*The Sacred and the Profane*, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*5th Biennale*, Havana, Cuba  
 The Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany  
*Trophies*, California State University, Los Angeles Fine Arts Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1993 *Beyond the Written Word*, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA  
*The Return of the Cadavre Exquis*, originated by The Drawing Center, New York, NY
- 1993 *Book as Art VI*, The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC  
*Shaped Structures*, Beckstrand Gallery, Palos Verdes, CA  
*Unification: Cultures in Collision*, FHP Hippodrome Gallery, Long Beach, CA  
*The Elegant, the Irreverent and the Obsessive: Drawing in Southern California*,  
 Art Gallery-Visual Arts Center, California State University Fullerton, CA
- 1992 *Under Cover: The Book Becomes Art*, Scottsdale Cultural Center, Scottsdale, AZ  
*Sacred Forms Revisited*, Security Pacific Bank, Seattle, WA
- 1991 *California Artists Books*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA  
*Photographic Book Art in the United States*, University of Texas, San Antonio, San Antonio, TX  
 (traveling exhibition)
- 1989 *A Book in Hand*, Arvada Center for the Arts, Arvada, CO
- 1988 *The Book Show*, Artworks, Los Angeles, CA
- 1986 *Book Art*, The Brand Library, Los Angeles, CA
- 1985 *Bookworks*, Franklin Furnace, New York, NY
- 1984 *The Book as Art*, Art Works, Los Angeles, CA  
*Book Show*, Miami Dade Library, Miami, FL  
*Generations*, Conejo Valley Art Museum, Conejo Valley, CA
- 1984 *California Book Works*, Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design, Los Angeles, CA
- 1981 *Magical Mystery Tour*, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

### Awards

- 2000 California State Senate Contemporary Art Collection
- 1996 J. Paul Getty Mid-Career Grant
- 1995 Seagram's Gin Perspective in African American Art Fellowship

## Public Collections

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA  
 Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, CA  
 Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
 California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
 Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA  
 Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO  
 Museum of Art and History (MOAH), Lancaster, CA  
 Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA  
 Hood Museum of Art, New Hampshire  
 Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY  
 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
 Petrucci Family Foundation Collection, Asbury Park, NJ  
 Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, OR  
 Smith College Museum of Art, Southampton, MA  
 The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York NY  
 Smith College Museum of Art, Southampton, MA  
 Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC

## Bibliography

- 2021 Ch'ien, Letha, "Crocker Art Museum celebrates Saar family's powerful work challenging race and gender stereotypes," *Datebook*, April 16, 2021
- 2020 Pagel, David, "Review: Yassa, Septime, Burvis. Meet the magical women of Lezley Saar's world," *Los Angeles Times*, February 5
- 2018 Brown, Betty Ann, "ONE WORK: Lezley Saar, "Miss Pearly, The Transcontinental Mind Reader," *Art and Cake*, February 18, 2018  
 "Lezley Saar: Salon des Refusés' at the California African American Museum," *Blouin Artinfo*, January 12, 2018  
 Rubin, David, "Lezley Saar," *Visual Art Source*, January 2018
- 2017 Rosenzweig, Leah, "Rejected People Find a Home in the Otherworldly, Highly Personal Paintings of Lezley Saar," *LA Weekly*, November 17, 2017  
 Kelley, Sonaiya, "Words and Pictures: In 'Salon des Refuses' mixed-media artist Lezley Saar explores gender and identity through surrealism and symbolism," *Los Angeles Times*, November 7, 2017  
 Miranda, Carolina, "A gallery of the refused at CAAM," *Los Angeles Times*, October 27, 2017  
 Barrie, Lita, "Lezley Saar's Melancholic Poetics of Identity," *Hyperallergic*, July 1, 2017  
 Zellen, Jody, "Lezley Saar's Gender Renaissance," *Art and Cake*, June 3, 2017  
 Mizota, Sharon, "Male or female? Black or white? The paintings of Lezley Saar play with labels and expectations," *Los Angeles Times*, May 27, 2017  
 Miranda, Carolina, "Ongoing Exhibitions," *Los Angeles Times*, May 25, 2017  
 Stromberg, Matt, "Lezley Saar Explores Gender Fluidity at Walter Maciel Gallery," *Hyperallergic*, May 10, 2017
- 2014 "Monad," *High Fructose*, 2014
- 2012 "Madwoman in the Attic," *High Fructose*, 2012  
 Harnish, Tracey. "Madwoman in the Attic - The Female Gothic," *Artweek LA*, 2012
- 2010 Kussatz, Simone. "Autist's Fables," *art ltd. Magazine*, November

- 2008 Muchnick, Suzanne. "The works get very personal," *Los Angeles Times*, January
- 2007 Myers, Holly. "Lezley Saar at Walter Maciel," *Los Angeles Times*, November  
 Buckley, Annie. "Lezley Saar at Walter Maciel," *Artforum.com*, November  
 Lovelace, Carey. "Girls, Girls, Girls," *Art in America*, June
- 2006 Heartney, Eleanor. "The Art of Relationships," *Art in America*, October  
 Buckley, Annie. "Family Legacies," *Artweek*, September  
 Cheng, Scarlet. "Mother, daughters, memories," *Los Angeles Times*, May  
 Dambrot, Shana. "The Family Business," *Lifescapes*, May
- 2003 Knight, Christopher. "Mixed media, mixed race," *Los Angeles Times*, June 27  
 Donohue, Victoria. "Mulatto Nation recast an old way of viewing artwork,"  
*Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 9
- 2001 Ollman, Leah. "Lezley Saar at Jan Baum," *Art in America*, February
- 2000 Sirmans, Franklin. "Africans, Tragic Mulattos, Anomalies & Rap," *Time Out New York*, February 3  
 Ziolkowski, Thad. *Artforum*, April  
 Krueger, Michael. , "Lezley Saar at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art,"  
*New Art Examiner*, June  
 Key-Turner, Nancy, *Art Scene*, October  
 Pagel, David, *Los Angeles Times*, October
- 1999 *New American Paintings*, Vol. 24, Open Studio Press, Lowry Sims, juror  
 Lombardi, D.Dominick. "Black Artists Confront History," *New York Times*, May  
 Brown, Jeremy. "Black Art in America Takes Stage," *The Record Review*, April  
 Hale, David. "Personal Issues," *Fresno Bee*, March 7
- 1998 Taha, Halima, "*Collecting African American Art*" *New York: Crown Publishers*  
 Goodman, Jonathan. "Lezley Saar," *Art in America*, April  
 Frankel, David. "Lezley Saar," *Artforum*, January  
 Turner, Grady. "Lezley Saar," *Artnews*, January
- 1997 Johnson, Ken. "Lezley Saar," *New York Times*, September 26  
 Adamson, Loch. "When Creativity Runs in the Family," *New York Times*, August  
 Yazdani, Tarssa. "A Fragile and Limber Magic," *A Gathering of the Tribes*
- 1996 Kandel, Susan. "Allegory and Ritual," *Los Angeles Times*, December  
 Donohue, Marlena. "Arranging Her World," *The Daily Breeze*, November 29
- 1995 Schwendenwien, Jude. *Sculpture Magazine*, April/May  
 Zimmer, William, *New York Times* "The Ties That Bind Mother and Daughter," January 1
- 1994 Pincus, Robert. "Lezley Saar's Athenaeum," *San Diego Union Tribune*, September
- 1993 Christensen, Judith A. "Lezley Saar: The Athenaeum," *Visions Art Quarterly*  
 Kapitanoff, Nancy. "Lezley Saar, Finely Made Constructions," *Los Angeles Times*
- 1992 Hoffberg, Judith A. "Lezley Saar at Koplín," *Visions Art Quarterly*, Fall
- 1991 Bulmer, Marge, "Lezley Saar," *ArtScene*, November  
 Frank, Peter. "Art Pick of the Week," *L.A. Weekly*, December 15
- 1990 Frank, Peter. "Art Pick of the Week," *L.A. Weekly*, October 18