MoMA
PS1

22-25 Jackson Ave
Long Island City
NY 11101
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MAJOR EXHIBITION EXAMINING THE LEGACY OF BLACK ARTISTS WORKING IN ABSTRACTION OPENS ON NOVEMBER 5

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, November 4, 2026—MoMA PS1 presents *Hard Art*, a major exhibition that examines the legacy of abstraction by Black artists in the US from 1969 to today. On view through March 15, 2027, the exhibition features over 90 works by more than 40 artists, and juxtaposes historical paintings by artists who came to prominence in the 1970s with recent conceptually driven practices that incorporate sculpture, video, sound, and painting. The exhibition traces the legacy of three generations of artists, featuring the work of Frank Bowling, Mark Bradford, Peter Bradley, Barbara Chase-Riboud, Ed Clark, Melvin Edwards, Jennie C. Jones, Joe Overstreet, and Raymond Saunders, alongside new and recent works by Aria Dean, Torkwase Dyson, Nikita Gale, Suzanne Jackson, Rindon Johnson, Caroline Kent, Carolyn Lazard, Eric N. Mack, Charisse Pearlina Weston, and SoiL Thornton, among others. Together, these cross-generational conversations emphasize the enduring relevance and urgency of abstraction in shaping the current political imaginary.

The exhibition also addresses an unmapped history of exhibitions that have explored Black artists' entanglement with abstract art over the past six decades. Anchored by artist-curated shows such as Frank Bowling's *5 + 1* (1969) and Peter Bradley's *The DeLuxe Show* (1971), which foregrounded experiments with modernist aesthetics as a refusal to conform to representational practices, this rich history includes the 1980 MoMA PS1 exhibition *Afro-American Abstraction*, which featured 13 artists also included in *Hard Art*. Curated by April Kingsley, this seminal exhibition underscored a shared aesthetic among the artists, characterized by "a bold physicality, rhythmical vitality, and textural richness, as well as a tendency to use linear, geometrical imagery, and high-energy color." In response to *Afro-American Abstraction*, Lorraine O'Grady staged her performance *Mlle Bourgeoise Noire* (1980–83), critiquing the limits of a 'reductive' abstract art for Black artists, and demanding that "BLACK ART MUST TAKE MORE RISKS!!!" *Hard Art* takes O'Grady's galvanizing intervention as a prompt, bringing forward the tension between formal and conceptual explorations of abstraction's relationship to identity and Blackness.

Through a cross-generational lens, *Hard Art* expands this history by proposing a network of practices seldom seen or theorized together. Its title derives from Bradley's description of *The DeLuxe Show*, which leveraged abstraction's perceived opacity and complexity as a prompt for deepened engagement with art. The exhibition highlights several key works that were included in *The DeLuxe Show*, *Afro-American Abstraction*, and other landmark exhibitions by artists such as David Hammons, James Little, Howardena Pindell, and Martin Puryear. *Hard Art* also includes new commissions by SoiL Thornton, Carolyn Lazard, Rindon Johnson, and Torkwase Dyson. Spanning the entirety of PS1's double height-gallery, a new architectonic environment by Dyson expands the artist's ongoing engagement with Black spatial liberation. Through artistic motifs and strategies such as opacity, double consciousness, and disfiguration, the artists in *Hard Art* expand material and conceptual modes of abstraction, tracing its formal and political stakes from the late 20th century through today.

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Hard Art is accompanied by a fully illustrated publication featuring essays by Connie Butler, Jessica Bell Brown, Aria Dean, Torkwase Dyson, Rindon Johnson, and Erich Kessel, Jr., as well as an illustrated chronology of significant museum exhibitions by June Kitahara and Sheldon Gooch.

Organized by Connie Butler, The Agnes Gund Director, with Sheldon Gooch, Curatorial Associate. Exhibition research and support is provided by June Kitahara, Research Assistant.

ARTISTS

Hannah Black (b. 1981)
Frank Bowling (b. 1934)
Mark Bradford (b. 1961)
Peter Bradley (b. 1940)
Beverly Buchanan (1940-2015)
Barbara Chase-Riboud (b. 1939)
Ed Clark (1926-2019)
Aria Dean (b. 1993)
Torkwase Dyson (b. 1973)
Melvin Edwards (1937–2026)
Nikita Gale (b. 1983)
Sam Gilliam (1933-2022)
David Hammons (b. 1943)
Maren Hassinger (b. 1947)
Cynthia Hawkins (b. 1950)
Richard Hunt (1935–2005)
Suzanne Jackson (b. 1944)
Virginia Jaramillo (b. 1939)
Jennie C. Jones (b. 1968)
Rindon Johnson (b. 1990)
Daniel LaRue Johnson (1938–2017)
Caroline Kent (b. 1975)
Carolyn Lazard (b. 1987)
Glenn Ligon (b. 1960)
James Little (b. 1952)
Al Loving (1935–2005)
Mary Lovelace O'Neal (1942–2026)
Eric N. Mack (b. 1987)
Tiona Nekkia McClodden (b. 1981)
Rodney McMillian (b. 1969)
Julie Mehretu (b. 1970)
Senga Nengudi (b. 1943)
Lorraine O'Grady (1934-2024)
Joe Overstreet (1933-2019)

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Adam Pendleton (b. 1984)
Howardena Pindell (b. 1943)
Walter Price (b. 1989)
Martin Puryear (b. 1941)
Andy Robert (b. 1984)
Raymond Saunders (1934–2025)
Mildred Thompson (1936–2003)
SoiL Thornton (b. 1990)
Charisse Pearlina Weston (b. 1988)
Jack Whitten (1939–2018)

PUBLIC PROGRAM

Revisiting PS1's Afro-American Abstraction (1980)
Saturday, November 7, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
Connie Butler, The Agnes Gund Director, moderates a panel with *Hard Art* artists Howardena Pindell and James Little, who all took part in PS1's *Afro-American Abstraction* (1980). The exhibition underscored a shared aesthetic among the artists, characterized by "a bold physicality, rhythmical vitality, and textural richness, as well as a tendency to use linear, geometrical imagery, and high-energy color." Revisit this landmark exhibition through a conversation that explores these artists' legacies on the occasion of PS1's 50th Anniversary.

SUPPORT
Major support is provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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Generous support is provided by Pamela J. Joyner and Alfred J. Giuffrida.

Significant support is provided by Art Bridges, the Black Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art, The Jeffrey and Leslie Fischer Family Foundation, Melony and Adam Lewis, Susan and Larry Marx, Jay Ptashek and Karen Elizaga, and the Robert Lehman Foundation.

Art Bridges

Additional support is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Richard Chang, The Davidson Williams Foundation, Kathy and Richard Fuld, Bernard I. Lumpkin and Carmine D. Boccuzzi, Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg Foundation, and Amitha Raman.

Special thanks to the Judelson Family Foundation.

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ABOUT MoMA PS1

Inspired by daring artists, MoMA PS1 is committed to the exploration of contemporary art and culture, broadening perspectives on the issues of our day, and engaging New Yorkers and communities across the world. Founded in 1976, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth-century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982 and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

Hours: MoMA PS1 is open from 12 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Monday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: MoMA PS1 is a place for everyone. Free admission is made possible by Sonya Yu. Tickets may be reserved online at mo.ma/ps1tickets.

Visitor Guide: Discover even more from MoMA PS1 with the Bloomberg Connects app. Read wall text, hear directly from artists, and uncover the building's history with this multimedia visitor guide. This digital experience is made possible through the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit momaps1.org.

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