

CRISTIN TIERNEY

Shaun Leonardo

b. 1979, Queens, NY

Studio located in Brooklyn, NY

shaunleonardo.com

EDUCATION

2005 Master of Fine Arts, San Francisco Art Institute, CA
1993 Residency and Grant, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, ME
1990 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND RESIDENCIES

2022 Honoree, Center for Justice Innovation, New York, NY
2021 Award, *New York Close Up*, Art21, New York, NY
Grant, Pollock Krasner Foundation, New York, NY
Award, MASS MoCA exhibition, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC
2019 Round table keynote, NYC Arts in Education, New York, NY
Board of Governors, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, New York, NY
Board Member, Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY
Advisory Council Member, Bowdoin College of Art, Brunswick, ME
Fellowship, A Blade of Grass, New York, NY
2018 Benefit Honoree, No Longer Empty, New York, NY
Grant, Art for Justice Fund, New York, NY
Commission, Guggenheim Social Practice Initiative, New York, NY
2017 Keynote, *The Brooklyn Conference*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Artist Studio Program, Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY
2016 Collaboration with Melanie Crean and Sable E. Smith, Creative Capital, New York, NY
2015 Honoree, YBCA 100, Yerba Buena Center, San Francisco, CA
Award, Franklin Furnace Fund for performance art, Brooklyn, NY
Award, Franklin Furnace Fund, with Melanie Crean and Sable E. Smith, Brooklyn, NY
2011 Travel and Study Grant, Jerome Foundation, St. Paul, MN
2010 Award, Franklin Furnace Fund for performance art, Brooklyn, NY
Residency and Fellowship, McColl Center for Visual Art, Charlotte, NC

SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2027 Taller Puertorriqueño, Inc, Philadelphia, PA
2026 *The Invisible Man*, Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York, NY
2024 *The Return of El Conquistador*, Queens Museum, NY
#23, Andrew Rafacz, Chicago, IL
Can We Know the Sound of Forgiveness, Brockman Hall for Opera, Rice University, Houston, TX
2021 *Between Four Freedoms*, FDR Four Freedoms State Park, Roosevelt Island, NY
The Breath of Empty Space, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY
2020 *The Breath of Empty Space*, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA
The Breath of Empty Space, Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore, MD
2019 *Mirror/Echo/Tilt*, with Melanie Crean & Sable E. Smith, New Museum, New York, NY
Testimony, Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
2018 *Primitive Games*, Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
2017 *The Eulogy*, *Out of Line* series, The High Line, New York, NY
Assembly, *Recess*, Brooklyn, NY
2016 *Something I Can Feel*, Curated by Derrick Adams, VOLTA NY, New York, NY

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2013 *Untitled (A Performance Project)*, Mandragoras Art Space, Long Island City, NY
Champion of the World, Praxis International Art, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*, Perez Art Museum Miami, FL
2025 *Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AK
2024 *Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*, San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA
Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL
2023 *Something Beautiful: Reframing La Colección*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY
Men of Change, Smithsonian Institution (SITES), [traveled]
2022 *All Opposing Players*, Curated by the Racial Imaginary Institute, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Articulating Activism, The 8th Floor, New York, NY
Melanie Crean & Shaun Leonardo, Pratt MWP Gallery, Utica, NY
2021 *Vida, Muerte, Justicia*, Ogden Contemporary Arts, UT
Structure Identity Transformation, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis/Nashville, TN
Breath Taking, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts 2020-2021 Artists-in-Residence Spotlight, Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, TX
2019 *Culture and the People: El Museo del Barrio: 1969-2019*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY
Distance, Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City, NY
Messengers: Artists as Witnesses, University of New Hampshire Museum of Art, Durham, NH
2018 *A Truthful Mirror*, Project for Empty Space, Newark, NJ
A VOID, curated by Paul Ramírez Jonas, 601Artspace, New York, NY
Walls Turned Sideways, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX
Second Sight: The Paradox of Vision in Contemporary Art, Bowdoin Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
Portland Biennial, Portland Museum of Art, ME
2017 *Hold These Truths*, No Longer Empty, Nathan Cummings Foundation, New York, NY
Scrimmage: American Artists Image Football from the Civil War to the Present, The Canton Museum of Art, Canton, OH; [traveled: The Figge Museum of Art, Davenport, IA]
2016 *A Dark Matter...*, Tarble Arts Center, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL
Whisper or Shout: Artists in the Social Sphere, BRIC, Brooklyn, NY
2015 *Radical Presence*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
Between History and the Body, The 8th Floor, New York, NY
Venturing Out of the Heart of Darkness, Harvey B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC
RESPOND, Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY
2014 *Crossing Brooklyn*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026 – Present Executive Director, Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens, NY
2021-25 Co-Director, Recess, Brooklyn, NY
2018-20 Visiting Artist Fellowship, Pratt Institute, School of Art, Brooklyn, NY
2017-18 Adjunct Professor, SUNY Purchase, NY
2015-17 School, Youth, and Community Programs Manager, New Museum, New York, NY
2010-15 Director of Public Programs, Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY

SELECTED LECTURES

2026 Shaun Leonardo in Conversation with Robert O'Meally, Cristin Tierney Gallery, NY
Take One Action: Art at a Time Like This, Cristin Tierney Gallery, NY
Shaun Leonardo in Art & Wrestling, Panel Discussion, Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL
Shaun Leonardo in Conversation with Dawit Petros, 114th Annual Conference of College Art Association of America, Chicago, IL
Works in Public Symposium, Art Students League, New York, NY

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- 2025 *Cruces: Thinking in Public Forum*, The Clemente Center, New York, NY
Collaboration and Knowledge Justice in Latinx Cultural Production, NADA, New York, NY
The Future is Connection: On Community Engagement & Contemporary Art, WHOOP DEE DOO, Brooklyn, NY
The Activism of Art, OR Books at Francis Kite Club, New York, NY
- 2022 *Lecture and workshop*, Arizona State University (virtual)
Lecture and workshop, Bowdoin College (virtual)
- 2021 *The Future of Leadership*, with Allison Weisberg, Art World Learning (virtual)
Blacklist: Considering the Role of Activism in Art, panel with Derek Fordjour and Dread Scott, NYFA (virtual)
Policing, Performance, and the Question of Reform, with UH Police Chief Ceaser Moore, University of Houston, TX
Visiting Artist, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (virtual)
Hessel Bein Lecture on Leadership, University of Pittsburgh, PA
Platform, Presented by ConSortiUm, California State University galleries and museums (virtual)
- 2020 *InSession*, with Nick Cave, Steve Locke, Xaviera Simmons, M. Carmen Lan, and Dr. Kalima Young, MASS MoCA (virtual)
Panel discussion, Art Funders Forum, New York, NY
Visiting artist, Temple School of Art & Architecture (virtual)
Race, Art & Identity: A Conversation with Shaun Leonardo, Materials for the Arts (virtual)
83rd New Social Environment conversation, The Brooklyn Rail (virtual)
A Conversation with Shaun Leonardo, Dread Scott, and Clifford Owens on Art as an Act of Resistance, Artnet Talks (virtual)
Walls Turned Sideways symposium, workshop and keynote, Tufts University, Boston, MA
Visiting Artist, University of Houston, TX
- 2019 *Visiting Artist*, University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI
Acting Up, MFA colloquium, Tufts University, Boston, MA
Visiting Artist, University of New Hampshire Museum of Art, Durham, NH
Visiting Artist, Transylvania University, Lexington, KY
Visiting Artist, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
- 2018 *Convening and presentation*, Art for Justice, New Orleans, LA
Testimony, performance and town hall, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, OH
Envisioning the Role of the Arts in Criminal Justice Reform, symposium and workshop, Milwaukee Art Museum, WI
Visiting Artist, Brown University, Providence, RI
Vector #8 journal launch & performance, Whitney Museum, New York, NY
Visiting Artist, Marymount Manhattan College, New York, NY
Visiting Artist, Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Leonardo, Shaun. "Self-Portraiture." In *David Diskell: Icons of Nature and History*, edited by Jessica May. New York: Rizzoli Electa, 2021.
Leonardo, Shaun. *Dossier #3: Division of Time*, edited by Nico Wheadon and David van Der Leer New York: DVDL DD, 2021.
Leonardo, Shaun. "Creative Futures: On Anti-Racist Somatic Work." New York, NY: Ford Foundation. 2021.
- 2020 Leonardo, Shaun. "Critical Communion: On Refusal & Better Questions." *The Chart*, Vol. 5, No. 3. (2020).
Leonardo, Shaun. "The Eulogy and Mirror/Echo/Tilt." In *Wall Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Justice System*, edited by Risa Puleo. Houston: Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, (2020).
- 2019 Crean, Melanie, Sable Elyse Smith, and Shaun Leonardo. *Mirror/Echo/Tilt*. New York: Pacific, 2019.
- 2018 Leonardo, Shaun. "I am an Invisible Man." In *Second Sight: The Paradox of Vision in Contemporary Art*, edited by Ellen Y. Tani. New York: Scala Arts Publisher, and Brunswick: the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, (2018).
- 2007 Leonardo, Shaun. "Self-Portrait fight." In *Snöfrid #0*. Stockholm: Tensta Konsthall, 2018.

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- 2026
Carey, Brainard, "Shaun Leonardo," *WYBCX Yale University Radio*, July 8, 2026.
Bowels, Meg, "Keep Calm and Carry On," *The Moth*, July 1, 2026.
Grant, Daniel, "Why Sports Venues Are Betting Big on Fine Art," *Observer*, May 12, 2026
"From Hoops to Art at Barclays Center," *BK Reader*, April 7, 2026
"Paul Pfeiffer named inaugural artist-in-residence at Barclays Center," *The Brooklyn Eagle*, April 3, 2026.
Battaglia, Andy, "Brooklyn's Barclays Center Arena Launches Art Program, with Paul Pfeiffer As First Artist-in-Residence," *ARTnews*, April 2, 2026
Sutton, Benjamin, "Paul Pfeiffer will be inaugural artist-in-residence at Brooklyn's Barclays Center arena," *The Art Newspaper*, April 2, 2026.
"Sunset Flip Exhibition Miami Design District Wrestling Art," *Salon Privé Magazine*, March 24, 2026.
- 2025
Whiddington, Richard, "Art and Pro Wrestling Collide in a Major Florida Exhibition," *Artnet*, September 26, 2025.
Krasner, Bob, "New digs, same soul: Cristin Tierney Gallery reimaged in Tribeca," *AM NY*, September 10, 2025.
Cassady, Daniel, "With the Art Market in Flux, Some Galleries Are Closing; This One is On the Move," *ARTnews*, September 9, 2025.
"Frieze New York Diary: sparring artists are boxing clever," *The Art Newspaper*, May 9, 2025.
Vartanian, Hrag, "Talking a Big Game: The Art of Sports and the Sport of Art," *Hyperallergic*, March 25, 2025.
Engoren, Jan, "Norton's 'Strike Fast' a lyrical look at the sweet science," *Palm Beach Artspaper*, January 20, 2025.
Duray, Dan, "One Fine Show: 'Strike Fast, Dance Lightly' at the Norton Museum of Art," *Observer*, January 2, 2025.
- 2024
Leonardo, Shaun and Dixon, Katie, "Opinion: Cultural nonprofits are the unsung stewards of NYC," *New York Nonprofit Media*, December 30, 2024.
WI Web Staff, "New Publication at National Museum of African American History and Culture Celebrates African American Art," *The Washington Informer*, December 11, 2024.
Tenorio, Rich, "Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: largest ever boxing exhibition links sport and art," *The Guardian*, December 3, 2024.
Scott, Chadd, "How Sports And Art Are Coming Together Across America," *Forbes*, November 11, 2024.
Janofsky, Michael, "Connecting Sports and Art in an Eclectic Mix," *The New York Times*, October 26, 2024.
Morgan, Emmanuel, "Draw Sports Fans to an Art Museum? That's the Goal.," *The New York Times*, October 18, 2024.
"Louis Cameron: 'Now Is the Time'," *Emerson Today*, October 22, 2024.
"Smithsonian Museum Showcases African American Art in New Publication, Exhibition," *The Washington Informer*, September 3, 2024.
"Houston Ballet II Joins Team of Renowned Artists for *Can We Know the Sound of Forgiveness*," *Pointe*, January 19, 2024.
- 2023
"Art21 Launches artist driven campaign committed to expanding access to contemporary art," *Art News*, November 9, 2023.
Cornes, Mae, "The power of visual communication: a graphic designer's take on advancing social causes through design," *Digital Journal*, November 6, 2023.
"The Art Show Returns in Full Swing for Henry Street Settlement," *Surface Magazine*, November 6, 2023.
- 2021
Smith, Melissa, "Weekend Roundup," *The New York Times*, November 25, 2021.
Harris, Jane Ursula, "Against Passive Seeing: Shaun Leonardo," *Flash Art*, January 20, 2021.
- 2020
Scott, Chad, "Shaun Leonardo's Stark Images of Police Brutality Leaving MASS MoCA, Without Incident, Headed to The Bronx," *Forbes*, December 8, 2020.
Mitchell, Zoe and Tiziana Dearing, "MASS MoCA Exhibit 'The Breath Of Empty Space' Reinterprets Media Representations Of Police Violence," *WBUR Radio Boston*, October 14, 2020.

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- Whyte, Murray, "At Mass MoCA an artist draws a long line on police killings," *The Boston Globe*, September 10, 2020.
- Gay, Malcolm, "Canceled in Cleveland, an artist's police violence drawings come to Mass MoCA," *The Boston Globe*, August 25, 2020.
- Kenney, Nancy, "After controversial cancellation in Cleveland, Mass MoCA will exhibit Shaun Leonardo's images of Black victims," *The Art Newspaper*, August 24, 2020.
- Vega, Tanzina, "Artist Shaun Leonardo Wants to Expand the Conversation on Police Brutality Through His Work," *WNYC, The Takeaway*, July 1, 2020.
- Pellerin, Andrea, "Artist whose exhibition on police brutality was abruptly canceled in February says institutions must do better," *CNN Style*, June 24, 2020.
- Boucher, Brian, "A Museum Canceled a Show About Police Brutality. Here's the Art," *The New York Times*, June 10, 2020.
- Block, Louis, "Shaun Leonardo: The Breath of Empty Space," *The Brooklyn Rail*, March 2020.
- 2019 Mitter, Siddhartha, "Silence Speaking Volumes: Artists Confront the Culture of Incarceration," *The New York Times*, August 1, 2019.
- Carroll, Rebecca, "Moving Eric Garner's Memory from Mind to Body," *WNYC*, July 11, 2019.
- Stewart, Allison, "Mirror/Echo/Tilt," *WNYC, All of It*, July 11, 2019.
- Roffino, Sara, "How Three Artists are Taking on the Crisis of Mass Incarceration," *Cultured*, June 21, 2019.
- 2018 Croft, Kyle, "How the Museum is Like a Prison," *Hyperallergic*, November 26, 2018.
- Crowder, Jenna, "'These Works Will Haunt You.' The Chart: Anthology 2017-2018," *The Chart*, October 2018.
- Mendelsohn, Meredith, "Can an Artist Shift the Gun Debate," *The New York Times*, June 22, 2018.
- Schneider, Tim, "Can Calcio Storico, an Ultraviolent Ancient Italian Sport, Help Heal Our Political Divides? Artist Shaun Leonardo Thinks So," *Artnet News*, June 21, 2018.
- Cascone, Sarah, "Editors' Picks: 17 Things Not to Miss...", *Artnet News*, June 18, 2018.
- 2017 "Scrimmage art exhibit tackles the culture of football," *CBS News*, October 14, 2017.
- Fialho, Alex, "Practice Makes Perfect," *Artforum*, April 28, 2017.
- Boucher, Brian, "A New Arts Program Offers an Alternative to Incarceration..." *Artnet News*, February 14, 2017.
- 2016 Boucher, Brian, "...The Most Memorable Artworks of 2016," *Artnet News*, December 19, 2016.
- Ramsey, Donovan X., "How to Safely Defend Yourself From Police Brutality," *Complex News*, December 14, 2016.
- Cascone, Sarah, "Editors Picks," *Artnet News*, November 8, 2016.
- Kuennen, Joel, "Bringing Self-Defense Performance Art into the Community," *Art Slant*, February 23, 2016.
- 2015 Dawson, Jessica, "Between History and the Body' is a Damned Good Show," *Village Voice*, August 11, 2015
- 2014 Schjeldahl, Peter, "Local Heroes," *The New Yorker*, October 20, 2014.

PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Bowdoin Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
JP Morgan Chase Corporate Art Collection, New York, NY
KADIST Video Library, San Francisco, CA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, New York, NY
Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC
University of New Hampshire Museum of Art, Durham, NH