

# GAVLAK

## **SIMONE LEIGH**

**b. 1968, Chicago, IL**

**Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY**

## **EDUCATION**

1990 BA in Art and Philosophy, Earlham College, Richmond, IN

## **SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS**

- 2016 *Psychic Friends Network with Simone Leigh*, Tate Exchange, Tate Modern London, UK  
*Hammer Projects: Simone Leigh*, The Hammer Museum Los Angeles, CA  
*The Waiting Room*, New Museum, New York, NY  
*Simone Leigh: I ran to the rock to hide my face the rock cried out no hiding place*, H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
- 2015 *Moulting*, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY  
*Crop Rotation*, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY
- 2014 *Free People's Medical Clinic*, commissioned by Creative Time, Stuyvesant Mansion, Brooklyn, NY  
*Gone South*, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, organized by Stuart Horodner Atlanta, GA  
*Simone Leigh and Wolfgang Paalen*, Gallery Wendi Norris, San Francisco, CA
- 2013 *I Always Face You Even When It Seems Otherwise*, Tiwani Contemporary, organized by Bisi Silva, London, England (**catalogue**)
- 2012 *What's Her Face*, Gavlak, Palm Beach, FL  
*You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been*, curated by Rashida Bumbray, The Kitchen, New York, NY  
*jam packed and jelly tight*, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 *The Gods Must Be Crazy, for In Practice*, SculptureCenter, Queens, NY  
*Queen Bee*, G Fine Art Project Room, Washington, D.C.
- 2008 *Scratching the Surface Vol 1*, organized by Gabi Ngcobo and Mwenya Kabwe, L'appartement 22, Rabat, Morocco  
*if you wan fo' lick old woman pot, you scratch him back* (Jamaican proverb), Rush Arts Gallery Project Space, New York, NY
- 2005 *Momenta Art Gallery*, Brooklyn, NY

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2016 *Energy Charge: Connecting to Ana Mendieta*, Arizona State University Art Museum, co-curated by Heather Sealy Lineberry and Julio Cesar Morales, Tempe, AZ  
*In Harlem: Simone Leigh*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Marcus Garvey Park, curated by Amanda Hunt, New York, NY  
*In the Power of your Care*, The 8th Floor, New York, NY  
*The Grace Jones Project*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA  
*Unconventional Clay: Engaged in Change*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
- 2015 *Ten Year Anniversary*, Gavlak, Los Angeles, CA and Palm Beach, FL  
*Greater New York*, MoMA PS1, New York, NY  
*Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art*, Yerba Buena Center

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- for the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
*Creative Time Summit: The Curriculum at La Biennale di Venezia*, Venice, Italy  
*A curious blindness*, Columbia University, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, New York, NY  
*Wave and Particle*, Ronald Feldman Gallery, New York, NY  
*Same Difference*, The Art Museum, The University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky  
*Cape Town Art Fair*, with Tiwani Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 *As We Were Saying*, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY, with catalog  
*The Shape of Things*, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY  
*but that joke isn't funny anymore...*, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY  
*Dak'art 2014: The 11th Biennial of Contemporary African Art*, organized by Elise Atangana, Abdelkader Damani and Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi  
*Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Hard Edges/Soft Curves*, organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX
- 2013 *Present Tense Future Perfect*, organized by Teka Selman, Carol Jazzar Contemporary, Miami, FL  
*Double Fortune, Double Trouble: Art for Twins among the Yoruba*, organized by Marla Berns and Henry Drewal, Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA  
*Approximately infinite universe*, organized by Jill Dawsey Radical, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, CA  
*Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art*, organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, Contemporary Art Museum in Houston (Houston, TX), Studio Museum in Harlem (New York, NY), and The Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN) **(catalogue)**  
*FUN HOUSE*, Richard Gray Gallery, New York, NY  
*March On!*, organized by Dexter Wimberly, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York, NY
- 2012 *Cleopatra's Family Jewels Family Business*, New York, NY  
*Pose/Re-Pose: Figurative Works Then and Now*, organized by Isolde Brielmaier and Melissa Messina, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA  
*The Whitney Biennial 2012*, part of Alica Hall Moran and Jason Moran's BLEED, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
*Transforming Function*, organized by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Building 110, Governor's Island, NY  
*Unevenness*, organized by Raphael Chikukwa, The National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe  
*In the Making, Roberts and Tilton*, Los Angeles, CA  
*Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art*, organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, Contemporary Art Museum in Houston (Houston, TX), The Studio Museum in Harlem (New York, NY), and The Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN) **(catalogue)**
- 2011 *The Bearden Project*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
*Evidence of Accumulation*, organized by Naomi Beckwith, Artist-In-Residence program exhibition, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
*Weltraum/Space – Exploration and Exploitation*, KUNSTHALLE wein, Vienna, Austria, organized by Catherine Hug  
*The February Show*, organized by Jun Lee and Heather Hart, Ogilvy and Mather, New York, NY
- 2010 *Else*, organized by Derrick Adams and Jack Tilton, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, NY  
*Divine Horsemen*, with Chitra Ganesh, Mason Gross Galleries, organized by Latoya Ruby Frazier, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

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- Digression*, organized by Jessica Shaefer, Hendershot Gallery, New York, NY  
*Comedy and Tragedy*, organized by David Hunt, Marvelli Gallery, New York, NY  
*Bunny Redux*, organized by Eric Shiner, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburg, PA  
*Hair Tactics*, organized by Rocio Aranda Alvarado, Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ  
*Vessel*, organized by Kenya Robinson, Brennan Gallery, Jersey City, NJ  
*The Brucennial*, Recess Space, New York, NY
- 2009 *30 seconds off an inch*, organized by Naomi Beckwith, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY  
*Rockstone and Bootheel: Contemporary West Indian Art*, organized by Kristina Newman  
*Scott and Yona Backer*, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT **(catalogue)**  
*Herd Thinner*, Charest-Weinberg Gallery, Miami, FL  
*The Pleasure of Hating*, organized by David Hunt, Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York NY  
*AIM 29*, organized by Micaela Giovannotti, Bronx Museum, Bronx, NY **(catalogue)**  
*Locus*, organized by Lauren Wolk, MCLA Gallery 51, North Adams, MA  
*Pulse*, organized by organized by Fernando Salicrup and Christine Licata, Taller Boricua, New York, NY
- 2008 *The Future As Disruption*, organized by Rashida Bumbray and Matthew Lyons, The Kitchen, New York, NY  
*Intransit*, organized by Omar Lopez-Chadoud, Moti Hasson Gallery, New York, NY  
*The B-Sides*, organized by Edwin Ramoran, Aljira A Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, NJ  
*Archeologies of Wonder*, organized by Kristina Newman-Scott, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT  
*Ethnographies of the Future Remixed*, organized by Sara Reisman, Tides Foundation, New York, NY  
*Scratching The Surface VOL 1*, organized by Gabi Ngcobo and Mwenya  
*Kabwe*, L'appartement 22, Rabat, Morocco and AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Ethnographies of the Future*, organized by Sara Reisman, Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 *Material Culture*, organized by Juanita Lonzos, Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, Bronx, NY  
*Red Badge of Courage*, organized by Omar Lopez-Chahoud, Newark Council for the Arts, Newark, NJ  
*Done by the Forces of Nature*, organized by Roberto City of College of New York, New York, NY  
*Visani Visual Jury*, Fine Art Work Center, Provincetown, MA  
*Defensive Mechanisms (part of INTERSECTIONS)*, organized by Martin Dust, Henry Street Settlement, Abrons Art Center, New York, NY
- 2006 *Wild Girls*, organized by Jodi Hanel, Sarah Ryhanen, and Juana Gallo, EXIT ART, New York, NY  
*Henry Street Settlement*, Abrons Art Center, New York, NY  
*Brooklyn Divas*, Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn, New York  
*Figures of Thinking: Convergences in Contemporary Cultures*, organized by Vicky Clark and Sandhini Poddar, various venues including The Chicago Cultural Center (Chicago, IL), Richard E. Peeler Art Center (De Pauw University, Greencastle, IN), Western Gallery (Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA), The McDounough Museum of Art (Youngstown, OH), Tufts University Gallery (Medford, MA), and the Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art (Univeristy of Richmond, Richmond, VA) **(catalogue)**
- 2005 *"From the Studio: Wish You Were Here..."*, organized by Franklin Sirmans, Co-dependent: Artists, Artist/Curators, & Curators Select Artists @ The Living Room, Miami, FL  
*Remnants and Relics: Reinterpretations in African American Art*, organized by Heng-Gil Han,

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Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, Queens, NY **(catalogue)**

*Divine*, organized by Bruce W. Ferguson and Milena Hoegsberg, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine and LeRoy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY

*Watershed Kiln Gods*, Gallery 1448, Baltimore, MD **(catalogue)**

2004 *Art Downtown: Connecting Collections*, The Deutsche Bank, New York, NY

*Steuben Gallery*, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

*Baltimore Clayworks*, Baltimore MD

2003 Skylight gallery, Bedford Styvesant Restoration Corporation, Brooklyn, NY

*The Nathan Cummings Foundation*, New York, NY

2002 The Center for African American Art and NOEL gallery, Charlotte, NC

2001 Rush Arts Gallery, organized by Lea K. Green, New York, NY

2000 *SMIRK, Women, Art and Humor*, organized by Debra Wacks, Firehouse Gallery, Hempstead, NY **(catalogue)**

## **Awards/Residencies/Internships/Grants**

2013 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Award

2012 Creative Capital Grantee

The International Art Programme, Center For Contemporary Art Lagos, Nigeria

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Michael Richards award for Visual Arts

(formerly the President's Award)

2011 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Painters and Sculptors

The Worth Residency in Bovina, NY

2010 The Studio Museum in Harlem Artist-in-Residence Program (through 2011)

2009 New York Foundation of the Arts fellowship in Sculpture

Art Matters Foundation Grant

Bronx Museum AIM program

2008 Artist in Residence, Hunter College (through 2009)

2007 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace grant (through 2008)

Visiting Artist, School of Visual Arts Computer Art MFA program (through 2008)

Astraea Foundation Visual Arts grant

2006 Artist In Residence, Henry Street Settlement, New York, NY

2005 Wheeler Foundation grant

2004 Artist in Residence, Greenwich House Pottery, New York, NY

2001 Kiln God fellowship, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, Watershed, ME

2000 Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME

## **Lectures/Symposia/Screenings**

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- 2014 CUT/throat Creativity: Structuring The New, with Rashida Bumbray, Doug A. Jones, Lauren Wittels and Simone Leigh, organized by Radiclan Clytus and The New Group, Brown University, Providence, RI  
Public Lecture: San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco
- 2013 Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Columbia University, New York NY  
GET READY FOR THE MARVELOUS: BLACK SURREALISM IN DAKAR, FORT-DE-FRANCE, HAVANA, JOHANNESBURG, NEW YORK CITY, PARIS, PORT-AU-PRINCE, 1932-2013, Performa Institute, New York, NY  
Conference, organized by Adrienne Edwards NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York, nY
- 2012 Ancient to Future: Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts and Simone Leigh, a conversation with Claire Barliant, LIVE at the NYPL, New York Public Library, New York, NY  
Radical Freedom: Feminist Collaborations and Hybrid Aesthetics, Simone Leigh and Chitra Ganesh, Center for The Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY  
BREAKDOWN, artist talk and video screening, with Liz Magic Laser, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY  
Rhode Island School of Design, Visting Artist Lecture, Providence, RI  
Visiting Artist Lecture, New York University, New York, NY
- 2011 Kessler conversations: In Memory of Monique Wittig, Simone Leigh and Chitra Ganesh, moderated by Dean Daderko, CLAGS, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY  
The Caribbean Epistemologies Symposium, Caribbean Cultural Production, Center for the Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY  
Visiting Artist Lecture, organized by Coco Fusco, Parsons School of the Arts, New York, NY
- 2010 Visiting Artist Lecture, Rutger's University, Rutgers, NJ
- 2007 Visiting Artist Lecture, Fine Art Work Center, Provincetown, MA  
Mining History, Contemporary Art, moderated by Sophie Sanders, The African American Museum in Philadelphia and the Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 2005 Unparalleled salon, with Carrie Yamaoka, curated by Martha Southgate, Stacey D'Erasmus and Bliss Broyard
- 2001 Symposium for the creation of the David Driskell Center on Africa and The Americas, panel on the Art of the African Diaspora, moderated by Carla Peterson, University of Maryland, College Park, MD  
Body Language: Image and Art, Women's Caucus for Art Conference, moderated by Marianne Woods, Chicago, IL
- 2000 Slave Markets, Lynched Bodies and Hottentot Vessels: The Black Female Body in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art, Feminist Art and Art History Conference, moderated by Adrienne Childs, Barnard College, New York, NY

Daniel Mendelsohn, "But Enough about Me," *New Yorker*, January 25, 2010. 68.

## **Selected Bibliography**

- Bradley Rizvana, "Going Underground: An Interview with Simone Leigh," *Art in America*, August 20, 2015.  
"Simone Leigh." *Apogee Journal*, Issue 05, 2015

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Garth Clark, "Exhibition | Simone Leigh: Haunting Race and Gender at Jack Tilton, New York," *CFile*, May 6, 2015.

William Grimes, "Distinct Prisms in an Ever-Shifting Kaleidoscope," *The New York Times*, April 16, 2015.

Holland Cotter, "10 Galleries to Visit on the Upper East Side", *The New York Times*, April 16, 2015.

Jane Ursula Harris, "Moulting," *The Believer*, March 31, 2015.

Simone Leigh. "Simone Leigh," *ARTFORUM*, March 2, 2015.

Elizabeth Kramer Kramer, "African, personal history infuses artist's work," *The Courier Journal*, February 20, 2015.

Simone Leigh, "Best of 2014", *ARTFORUM*, December 2014.

Rebecca Dimling Cochran, "Simone Leigh: Atlanta Contemporary Art Center," *Sculpture*, December 2014.

Holland Cotter, "Time-Traveling to a Corner of Brooklyn's Past," *The New York Times*, October 8, 2014.

William J. Simmons, "As We Were Saying: Art and Identity in the Age of 'Post.'", *ARTFORUM*, Fall 2014.

Chloë Bass, "Funk, Medicine, and Questions of the Future," *HYPERALLERGIC*, October 6, 2014.

Joe Osmundson, "How Many Black Histories We Still Don't Know: An Interview With Simone Leigh," *The Feminist Wire*, October 3, 2014.

Marjon Carlos, "Black Radical Brooklyn: A New Art Exhibition Unearths Bed-Stuy's Self-Determined History," *FADER Magazine*, September 25, 2014.

Jonathan Tarleton, "Black Radical Weeksville," *Urban Omnibus*, September 24, 2014.

"A Review Dak'art 2014," *Africa Is A Country*, June 20, 2014.

Cathryn Drake, "Creative Representation," *ARTFORUM*, June 4, 2014.

Amanda H. Hellman, "ÀSÌKÒ IN DAKAR, A History—and a Future—for Alternative Arts Education in Africa," *ART PAPERS*, May/June Issue, 2014.

Victoria Chamblin, "Simone Leigh, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center," *ARTFORUM*, May 2014.

Tom Berlangero, "Simone Leigh's Metaphors of Interiority at the ACAC," *BURNAWAY*, April 30, 2014.

Harriette Grissom, "Review: Simone Leigh's exploration of Southern blackness at ACAC is elegant and Zen-like," *Arts Atlanta*, April 25, 2014.

Malik Gaines, "Simone Leigh: Artists on Artists," *Bomb Magazine*, Spring 2014.

Martha Raoli, "Present Tense Future Perfect," *The Miami Rail*, Spring 2014.

Kimberly Chun, "Simone Leigh uses sculpture, video to race, gender issues," *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 2, 2014.

Elizabeth A. Watson, "Approximately Infinite Universe," *International Review of African American Art*, Feb 2014.

Kalia Brooks, "Simone Leigh: Quiet As Its Kept," *ARC Magazine*, Issue 08, Nov 2013.

Katherine Brooks, "'Radical Presence' Surveys Black Performance Artists From the 1960's to Today," *Huffington Post*, October 9, 2013.

Catherine Mckinley, "It's All About The Cow," *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Fall 2013.

Matthew Harrison Tedford, "Visiting Artist Profile: Simone Leigh," *Art Practical*, April 21, 2013.

Simone Leigh and Guest editor Martha Schwendener, "Everyone Wants To Be Subaltern," *Brooklyn Rail*, February 2013.

Sally Frater, "Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art," *Artforum*, December 2012.

Nova Benway, "Chitra Ganesh, Simone Leigh: Tilton gallery," *Modern Painters*, September 2012.

"Simone Leigh," *The New Yorker*, *Goings On About Town: Art*, February 27, 2012.

Una-Kariim A. Cross, "The Surrealist Art of Simone Leigh," *EBONY Magazine*, March 5, 2012.

Elisabeth Kley, "Simone Leigh: Mouthing Off," *Artnet*, January 27, 2012.

Nicole Caruth, "Simone Leigh and the Fruits of Her Labor," *Art21*, January 20, 2012.

"You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been," *TimeOut*, February 23 - March 7, 2012.

Diane McClure, "You Don't Know Where Her Mouth Has Been," *Highsnobette*, February 1, 2012.

Elisabeth Sussman and Jay Sanders, "Whitney Biennial 2012," *Whitney Museum of American Art*, 2012.

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Holland Cotter, "A Griot for A Global Village," *The New York Times*, December 8, 2011.  
"Evidence of Accumulation," *The New Yorker*, *Goings On About Town: Art*, September 12, 2011.  
Pia Catton, "Uptown, Turning Over a New Motif," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 12, 2011  
Holland Cotter, "Else," *The New York Times*, *Art in Review*, September 24, 2010.  
Uri McMillan, "Studio Visit," *STUDIO Magazine: The Studio Museum of Harlem*, Fall 2009.  
Quinn Latimer, "Introducing Simone Leigh," *Modern Painters*, November 2008.  
Benjamin Genocchio, "Collective Strangeness in Hartford," *The New York Times*, December 21, 2008.  
Karen Roxenburg, "The Future As Disruption," *The New York Times*, August 1, 2008.  
Colby Chamberlain, "The Future As Disruption," *ARTFORUM.com*, *Critic's Picks*, July 2008.  
Claire Barliant, "New York Summer Shows," *Artinfo.com*, July 2008.  
Ed Halter, "Futures Exchange," *Rhizome*, 7 July 7, 2008.  
"SUPERNATURE," *Small Axe, A Journal of Caribbean Cultural Criticism*, Issue 28, February 2008.  
Penelope Green, "The Artist's Kitchen, Recycled and Curated," *The New York Times*, June 14, 2007.

Yolanda Sangweni, "SIMONE LEIGH, REBEL SOUL," *TRACE Magazine*, Issue #66, October 2006.  
Douglas Max Utter, "The Thinkers," *ANGLE, A Journal of Arts and Culture*, Issue 29, 2006.  
"Wild Girls," *Flavorpill*, Issue 327, September 12, 2006.  
Rafael Risemberg, "Women Gone Wild, The Next Generation of Provocative Female Artists," *New York Blade*, July 31, 2006.  
"They Called Her Hottentot: The Art, Science and Fiction of Sarah Baartman," Anthology edited by Deborah Willis-Kennedy and Carla Williams, February 2006.  
"Goings On About Town: Art." *The New Yorker*, January 17, 2005  
Stephen Maine, "Dateline Brooklyn," *ARTnet Magazine*, 2005.  
"In the Realm of the senses: Lisa DiLillo and Simone Leigh," *Flavorpill*, Issue 241, January 6, 2005.  
Penelope Green, "Brooklyn Artist Who Prefers To Show Others' Work," *The New York Times*, February 8, 2004.  
L.P Streifeld, "Freedom of Exclusion: The Rise of the Female Spirit in Contemporary Art," *NYArts Magazine*, December 2001.  
Steve Parks, "Some Laughing Matters, Women's Art exhibit: More than funny, girl," *Newsday*, March 2001.  
Deborah Frizzell, "Bawdy Burlesque, Raucous Ribaldry," *NYArts Magazine*, April 2001.