JAMES LITTLE

Born 1952, Memphis, Tennessee
Lives and works in New York, New York

EDUCATION

1976 MFA, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
1974 BFA, Memphis Academy of Art, Memphis, Tennessee

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Homage El Shabazz*, Petzel, New York

2024 *Affirmed/Actions*, Petzel, New York, New York

2023 *Conversations*, Petzel, New York, New York

2022 *Black Stars & White Paintings*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois
James Little: Homecoming, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, Tennessee

2020 *James Little: Dots and Slants*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California

2018 *Slants and White Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

2016 *Informed by Rhythm: Recent Work by James Little*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California

2015 *Color/Barriers: Recent Work*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

2013 *Never Say Never*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

2011 *Ex Pluribus Unum: New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

2009 *De-Classified, Recent Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

2007 *James Little: Untold Stories*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, Texas

2005 *Reaching for the Sky*, G. R. N'Namdi Gallery, New York, New York

2003 *Beyond Geometry: New Paintings*, L.I.C.K. Ltd. Fine Art, Long Island City, New York

1995 *Recent Abstract Paintings*, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York, New York

1992 *James Little: Selected Works from the Past Decade,* Lubin House Gallery, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
James Little: Ovals and Arbitration Paintings, Sid Deutsch Gallery, New York, New York

1990 *Tondos and Ovals*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

1989 *James Little: Recent Paintings*, Christian Science Church, Boston, Massachusetts

1988 *James Little & Al Loving: New Work*, New York, June Kelly Gallery,
New York to Memphis, Alice Bingham Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

1987 *New Paintings*, Liz Harris Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts

1985 *James Little: Format Paintings*, Harris Brown Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts

1982 *Recent Oil Paintings*, Alternative Museum, New York, New York

1976 *Paintings by James Little*, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Rhapsodies in Black*, Memphis Art Museum, Memphis
Hard Art, MoMA PS1, New York
Geometries, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York
Memphis College of Art, 1936-2020: An Enduring Legacy, Memphis Brooks Museum, Memphis

2024 *Edges of Ailey*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
2024 Instructor Salon, The Art Students League, of New York, New York

2023 *An Apartment of Ghosts*, Petzel Gallery, New York, New York

2022 *In These Truths*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo
Quiet as It's Kept, Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, New York

2021 *Abstraction & Social Critique*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois
The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia; Travels to: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas in March 2022

2020 *Louise Nevelson and James Little*, Rosenbaum Contemporary, Boca Raton, Florida

2018 *Color/Line/Form*, Rosenbaum Contemporary, Boca Raton, Florida

2017 *Celebrating 30 Years, Gallery Artists: Drawings and Photographs*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, New York

2016 *Circa 1970*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Beyond Borders: Bill Hutson & Friends, Mechanical Hall Gallery, University Museums, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

2015 *Decoding the Abstract Unlimited Potential*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, New York
Outside the Lines: Color Across the Collections, Newark Museum of Art, Newark, New Jersey
Works on Paper: Selections from the Gallery, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California

2014 *Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Hard Edges/Soft Curves (Outside the Lines series),* Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston,Texas
James Little, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois

2012 *Today's Visual Language: Southern Abstraction, A Fresh Look*, Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, Alabama
What Only Paint Can Do, Triangle Arts Association, Brooklyn, New York

2011 *ABSTRACTION (Abstraction to the Power of Infinity),* Crane Arts, The Ice Box, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2010 *Abstract Relations*, University of Delaware Museums, University of Delaware collaboration with the University of Maryland David C. Driskell Center, Mineralogical Museum, Mechanical Hall Gallery, Newark, New Jersey
It's A Wonderful 10th, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, New York

2008 *Shape Shifters: New York Painters,* The A.D. Gallery, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke, North Carolina

2007 *Three One-Man Exhibitions: James Little, Aimé Mpane, George Smith,* Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, Texas

2006 *The 181st Annual Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art,* National Academy of Design, New York, New York
Neo-Plastic Redux, Elizabeth Harris Gallery, New York, New York

2005 *Different Ways of Seeing: The Expanding World of Abstraction,* Noyes Museum of Contemporary Art, Oceanville, New Jersey
Optical Stimulations: American Abstract Artists, Yellow Bird Gallery, Newburgh, New York
50 Plus, Netherlands Tunnel Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
Raising the Bar: James Little and Thornton Willis, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, New York

2004 *Seeds and Roots: Selections from the Permanent Collection,* The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York

A Century of African American Art: The Paul R. Jones Collection, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware
Abstract Identity, Pelham Art Center, New York, New York

2003 *Theories: Abstract New York*, Roger Ramsay Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

2002 New York, Jack Tilton/Anna Kustera Gallery, *No Greater Love, Abstraction*
Ajita – Unconquerable, The Station, Houston, Texas
500 Works on Paper, Gary Snyder Fine Art, New York, New York
Amplified Abstraction, Doklaan 8-12, Plantage, Chapel, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2001 *Painted in New York City: Viewpoints of Recent Developments in Abstract Painting,* Hofstra Museum, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York
Dialog and Discourse, Friends Academy, Dolan Center Gallery, Locust Valley, New York

2000 *Significant Pursuits: Paint and Geometry*, Smack Mellon Studios, Brooklyn, New York
Straight Painting, The Painting Center, New York, New York

1999 *Straight No Chaser*, The Puffin Room, The Puffin Foundation, New York, New York
The Art of Absolute Desire, 450 Broadway, New York, New York
The Power of Drawing, Westbeth Gallery, New York, New York

1998 *New Directions '98: 14th Annual National Juried Fine Arts Exhibition*, Barrett Art Center, Duchess County Art Association, Poughkeepsie, New York
New York Eight, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, New York
Works On, With and Made Out of Paper, Sideshow 195, Brooklyn, New York
The African-American Fine Arts Collection of the New Jersey State Museum, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey
Postcards from Black America, De Beyerd Center for Contemporary Art and the Frans Hals Museum, Breda and Haarlem, Netherlands
de leugenaars/the liars (I) Helder en Verzadigd Clear and Saturated, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Color, Matter, Energy, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, Galerie Maria Chailloux, Amsterdam, Netherlands

1992 *Malcolm X: Man, Ideal, Icon*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

1980 *Afro-American Abstraction*, MoMA PS 1, Long Island City, New York

PUBLICATIONS

2026 Oliver, Valerie Cassel, Aruna D'Souza, Gavin Delahunty, and Carrie Cooperider. *James Little.* New York: Petzel

2023 Oliver, Valerie Cassel. *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art. Material Culture, and the Sonic Impluse.* Richmond: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, pp. 113, 251.

2021 *James Little*. Chicago: Kavi Gupta.
Chromatic Rhythm | James Little: Paintings on Paper. Tuscaloosa: The Sarah Moody Gallery of Art.

2020 *Louise Nevelson + James Little*. Boca Raton: Rosenbaum Contemporary
James Little | Beyond Geometry–Selections. New York: The Lobby Gallery Park Avenue and 59t Street.
The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection. St. Louis: St. Louis Art Museum.

2018 *Color / Line / Form*. Boca Raton: Rosenbaum Contemporary.

2007 Harithas, James. *James Little: Untold Stories, Station Museum of Contemporary Art.*

2005 N'Namdi, George, Al Loving, Robert Costa, Horace Brockington, Robert C. Morgan, and James Harithas. *James Little: Reaching for the Sky*. G.R. N'Namdi Gallery.

1981 Kingsley, April, *Afro-American Abstraction: An Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Scuplture by Nineteen Black American Artists*. New York: P.S. 1.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2024 "MTA and Whitney Museum of American Art Celebrate Art in the Subway." *The City Life Org,* May 31.
Stirling, Diane. "American Artist James Little G'76 Gifts Painting to Syracuse University Art Museum." *Syracuse University News,* March 8.
"'A Survey Exhibition: Louis Stern Fine Arts Through the Decades' celebrates 30th year of Louis Stern Galleries." *artdaily.com,* February 19.

2023 Sheets, Hilarie M. "Installations by Theaster Gates and James Little reinvigotate riverfront park in Memphis." *The Art Newspaper,* September 25.
"A public park to revitalize the Mississippi river bank in Memphis." *Domus,* September 5.
Hill, John. "Tom Lee Park Opens." *world-architects.com,* September 4.
"A Panorama of Design." *The New York Times,* August 31.
Dreith, Ben. "Studio Gang and SCAPE add timber canopy to 'inclusive' park on Memphis waterfront." *Dezeen,* August 31.
Genzlinger, Neil. "April Kingsley, Curator Who Championed Unsung Artists, Dies at 82." *The New York Times,* June 29.
Rigou, Vasia. "Contextualizing Black Exceptionalism: James Little's Black Stars & White Paintings at Kavi Gupta." *New City Art,* February 9.
Wilkin, Karen. "At the Galleries." *The Hudson Review,* vol. LXXVI, No. 2, Summer.

2022 Yerebakan, Osman Can. "James Little: Fear and transcendence in abstract painting." *Artforum,* November 30.
Samarov, Dmitry. "James Little's Constructed Abstractions." *Frieze,* November 29.
"See Inside James Little's Studio, Where He Combines Pigment, Beeswax, And Varnish To

Create Layered Geometric Abstractions." *MENAFN,* November 28.
Cascone, Sarah. "See Inside James Little's Studio, Where He Combines Pigment, Beeswax, and Varnish to Create Layered Geometric Abstractions." *Artnet News,* November 27.
Sheets, Hilarie M. "James Little, Unapologetic Abstractionist Painter, Catches the Limelight." *New York Times*, October 20.
"What To Do in New York City in August." *New York Times*, August 4.
"What To Do in New York City in July." *New York Times*, July 13.
Davis-Marks, Isis. "With a Whitney Biennial feature and newfound commercial representation, James Little's commitment to abstraction is finally paying off." *The Art Newspaper*, June 21.
Morici, Abigail. "James Little: Homecoming." *Memphis Magazine*, June 20.
Yates, Christin. "Dixon's 16 Gallery Spaces Each Hosting a Mini-Exhibition." *Daily Memphian,* June 6.
"A Long Overdue Recognition: James Little Finally Gets His Turn in the Spotlight at this Year's WhitneyBiennial." *ARTnews*, May 2.
Chiu, Vivian. "The 2022 Whitney Biennial Expands the Scope of 'American' Art." *OCULA*, April 27.
Gordon, Dana. "The Single Best Work in the Whitney Biennial." *The New York Sun*, April 18.
Fisher, Simon; Fuchs, Eva; Mitchell, Rory. "Whitney Biennial 2022: Artist Installations that Stole the Show." *OCULA*, April 8.
Marius, Marley. "A Glimpse into this Year's Whitney Biennial." *Vogue*, April 2.
Dozier, Ayanna. "At the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Compelling Works Are Overshadowed by an Inaccessible Space." *Artsy*, March 31.
Cotter, Holland. "A Whitney Biennial of Shadow and Light." *New York Times*, March 31.
Greenberger, Alex. "A Sharp Understated Whitney Biennial Looks to the Past to Process the Grief of the Present." *ARTnews*, March 30.
Durón, Maximilíano. "12 Standouts at the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Where Poetic Reflections on Past Two Years Shine Brightly." *ARTnews*, March 29.

2021 Voon, Claire,"Chicago: Six Must-See Exhibitions." *Art Basel*, December 18.

2020 Valentine, Victoria L. "James Little's Black Paintings are a 'Volley of Minimalist Ideals' Exposing the Drama, Richness, and Contrasting Values of Black." *Culture Type,* October 22.
Corwin, William. "Going Beyond Geometry: James Little's Social Abstraction." *Arcade Project*, August 15.
Sheets, Hilarie M. "Color and Design Matter. So Does Optimism." *New York Times*, March 19.

2019 Kistner, Matthew. "Interview: James Little Talks 'The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection' at Saint Louis Art Museum." *ReviewSTL,* October 23.
Duff, Gary. "A Curator Finds Inspiration In Abstract Expressionism at The American Fine Arts Society Gallery." *Gotham,* April 3.
Corwin, William. "ArtSeen: New York-Centric." *Brooklyn Rail,* March 5.

2017 Brooks, Leronn P. "James Little by LeRonn P. Brooks." *BOMB*, April 19.

2013 Panero, James. "Studio Visit: James Little." *New Criterion*, May 3.

2011 McGee, Celia. "Driven to Abstraction." *ARTnews*, January 1.

2009 Cotter, Holland. "NY Times Art in Review: James Little." *New York Times*, June 5.
La Rocco, Benjamin. "James Little with Benjamin La Rocco." *Brooklyn Rail,* May 1.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas
AT&T, New York and Florida
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York
Gucci Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Maatschappij Arti Et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Memphis Academy of Art, Memphis, Tennessee
Memphis Art Museum, Memphis, Tennessee
Menil Collection, Houston, Texas
Moody Arts Center, Rice University, Houston, Texas
Mutual of New York Assurance Company, New York, New York
New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey
Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey
Occidental Petroleum Company, Houston, Texas
Phillips/Schwab Inc., New York, New York
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri
Sherbourne, Powers and Needham, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts
State University of New York at Albany, Albany, New York
Stephen Mallory Associates, New York, New York
The Studio Museum, Harlem, New York
Syracuse University Art Museum, Syracuse, New York
Tennessee State Museum, Nashville, Tennessee
The Twentieth Century Fund, New York, New York
U.N.C. Ventures, Boston, Massachusetts
University of Delaware Museums, Newark, Delaware
Veryss Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York