

Folayemi Wilson

artist/maker | educator | independent curator | writer

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Education

2005 Masters of Fine Arts, Rhode Island School of Design, Department of Furniture Design with a concentration in Art History, Theory & Criticism

Solo Exhibitions

2020 *The Commons Table* (blkHaUS Studios), Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois

2019 *Dark Matter: Celestial Objects of Love for These Troubled Times*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois

2016 (ongoing) *Eliza's Peculiar Cabinet of Curiosities*, Lynden Sculpture Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2014 *Nesting Chair for Charlie (Yardbird), Sun Ra and the Urban Thrush*, Terrain Exhibitions, Oak Park, Illinois

2013 *Fo Wilson: Talking in Tongues*, Wesley House Gallery, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

2011 *Uncommon Adornments, One From Wisconsin*, Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend, Wisconsin

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 *Otherwise/Revival*, Bridge Projects, Los Angeles, California

2020 *Craft Futures 2099*, Center for Craft, Asheville, North Carolina

2019 *Making a Seat at The Table*, Center for Art in Wood, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2018 *ICON: Black Panther*, Stony Island Arts Bank, Rebuild Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

2018 *Gold*, Aspect/Ratio Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

2018 *Infinite Games 50/50*, Ogden House Contemporary, Chicago, Illinois

2017 *The Annual: An Exhibition of New Chicago Art*, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, Illinois

2017 *50 x 50 Invitational: The Subject is Chicago: People, Places. Possibilities*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois

2016 *Framing Beauty: Intimate Visions*, Grunwald Gallery, Indiana University

2016 *Synapse*, Center for Book, Paper & Print, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

2015 *Warm Kitty, Soft Kitty*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois

2015 *The Chicago 77*, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

2014 *Offense And Dissent: Image, Conflict, Belonging*, Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery, New York, New York

2014 *Wading in the Water of the Sweet Forever*, Studio 1906, Chicago, Illinois

2014 *Pulling the Gesture*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois

2013 *Hair*, Paul Robeson Galleries, Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey

2013 *Construction*, Averill and Bernard Leviton A+D Gallery, Columbia College Chicago

2010 *Progeny Two*, Harvey Gantt Center for African American Arts & Culture, Charlotte, North Carolina

2010 *Materiality* (juried), ARC Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

2010 *LaGrange National Biennial XXVI* (juried with printed catalog), LaGrange Art Museum, LaGrange, Georgia

2010 *Metamorphosis: The Transformation of Everyday Objects* (invitational), Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2009 *Makers Without Borders: Furniture Makers, Sculptors and the Artists Who Have Contributed to Their Creative Lives* (invitational with printed catalog), Penland Gallery, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, North Carolina

2008 *Two x Two: John Rais & Fo Wilson, Artists in Residence*, Richard & Dolly Maass Gallery, Purchase College/SUNY Purchase, New York

Selected Awards, Commissions, Fellowships, Grants, & Residencies

2020 3Arts Next Level Awardee, 3Arts, Chicago, Illinois

2020 DCASE Individual Artist grant, City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago Illinois

- 2019 Graham Foundation Individual Artist Grant
- 2019 Public Art Commission for Damen/Lake CTA Greenline Station
- 2019 Nomination, United States Artists (USA) Fellowship award
- 2019 Nomination, Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculpture Grant
- 2019 Residency Indigo Arts, Portland, Maine
- 2018 Visiting Artist, Oxbow School of Art & Artist Residency, Saugatuck, Michigan
- 2018 Djerassi Artist-in-Residence, Woodside, California
- 2018 MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, New Hampshire
- 2018 John Michael Kohler Arts/Industry Artist-in-Residence, Kohler, Wisconsin
- 2018 QDance Gathering, QDance, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2018 Columbia College Faculty Development, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2017 International Curatorial Workshop, Valetta University, Valetta Malta
- 2016 Graham Foundation Individual Artist Grant
- 2016 *Sounding Bronzeville*, public art commission from the Chicago Parks District & The Field Museum
- 2016 Artist-in-Residence, Pullman National Monument, Chicago Illinois
- 2016 Nomination, United States Artists (USA) Fellowship award
- 2015 3Arts Awardee, 3Arts, Chicago, Illinois
- 2013 Propeller Fund Grant, Chicago, Illinois
- 2013 Faculty Fellow, Center for Black Music Research (CBMR), Chicago, Illinois
- 2013 ACRE Artist Residency, Chicago, Illinois & Steuben, Wisconsin
- 2013 Visiting Artist, Drake University Des Moines, Iowa
- 2012 Community Arts Assistance Program (CAAP) Cultural Grant, City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago Illinois
- 2012 New Works Residency, Haystack Mountain Center for Craft, Deer Isle, Maine
- 2011 Nomination, United States Artists (USA) Fellowship award
- 2008 Artist-in-Residence, Purchase College/SUNY, Purchase, New York

Selected Publications

Books & Exhibition Catalogues

- 2022 *The Black Experience in Design: Identity, Expressions and Reflection*. Editors, Allworth Press, New York, New York.
- 2022 *Joinery, Joints, and Gender: A History of Woodworking for the 21st Century*. Routledge, New York.
- 2021 *Otherwise/Revival*, Bridge Projects, Los Angeles, California
- 2020 *Dark Matter: Celestial Objects of Love for These Troubled Times*, Candor Press, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018 *Eliza's Peculiar Cabinet of Curiosities*. Lynden Sculpture Garden, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 2017 *Framing Beauty: Intimate Visions*, Grunwald Gallery, Indiana University
- 2017 *Due Influence*, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2013 *Hair*, Paul Robeson Galleries, Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey
- 2013 *The Beaded Prayers Project*, Sonya Clark, Richmond, Virginia and Doha, Qatar: Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2009 *Makers Without Borders: Furniture Makers, Sculptors and the Artists Who Have Contributed to Their Creative Lives*, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, North Carolina

Selected Reviews & Articles

- 2022 Oral History Project, *Bomb Magazine* Winter 2023. Interview by Ayanah Moor
- 2021 "Making the Nation," Glenn Adamson, *Smithsonian Magazine*, January/February 2021
- 2020 "Questioning Value: A Review of Commons Artist Project at MCA," *New City*, Ciera McKissick, January 10, 2020
- 2019 "Space is a Place: Fodayemi Wilson at the Hyde Park Art Center," *Sixty Inches From Center*, Tesh Silver, November 14, 2019
- 2019 "Imagining a Future Back to Itself," *Terremoto*, Jeffreen M. Hayes, October 28, 2019
- 2019 "Message of Love: A Review of Fo Wilson at Hyde Park Art Center," *New City*, Luke Fidler, May 9, 2019
- 2018 *Immersive, Afrofuturist exhibition Opens at HPAC*, *Hyde Park Herald*, April 3, 2019.
- 2016 Designed Objects Issue, *New City*, November 18 - 30, 2016.

- 2016 "Art City: Using Objects to Explore, Reimagine a Slave's World," Shelleen Greene, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 12, 2016.
- 2015 "Onward Fo!," Anita Bateman, *The International Review of African American Art*, June 12, 2015.
- 2015 "Sara's Story in her Own Words and a Message for Today's Video Girls," Margaret Rose Vendryes, *The International Review of African American Art*, June 12, 2015
- 2015 "Performing Tables," Caroline Picard, *ArtSlant*, March 25, 2015.
- 2012 "Profile: Fo Wilson," Liz Glass, *Art Practical*, March 9, 2012.
- 2011 "The New Materiality: Digital Dialogues at the Boundaries of Contemporary Craft," Kate Smith, *The Journal of Modern Craft*, Vol. 4, Issue 3, November 2011.
- 2011 "Progeny II-On Art, Family Race & Culture," Frank Martin, *The Daily Serving*, January 2011.
- 2010 "Data Processing," Christy DeSmith, *American Craft* magazine, December/January.
- 2010 "When Handmade Meets Digital, Sparks Fly," Cate McQuaid, *The Boston Globe*, June 20.
- 2010 "Craft Goes Digital," Bill Van Siclen, *The Providence Journal*, July 11.

Selected Invited Public Lectures and Panels

- 2022 Panelist, Pathways to Design, AICAD Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD), Providence, Rhode island
- 2022 Panelist, Center for Craft, *Joinery, Joints, and Gender: A History of Woodworking for the 21st Century*, Center for Craft, Asheville, North Carolina
- 2021 Artist Talk, Milwaukee Art Museum, AAA African American Maker Series, Milwaukee Wisconsin
- 2020 Lecture, California College of the Arts, Design Lecture Series, San Francisco, California
- 2020 Visiting Artist & Critic, Department of Art, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2020 Panelist, "Curating on the Margins: Women & Praxis," College Art Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois
- 2019 Artist presentation, Indigo Project Think Tank, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2019 Panelist, "Making A Seat at the Table: Women Transform Woodworking," American Craft Council Present Tense Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2019 Artist Talk, Indigo Art Alliance, Portland, Maine
- 2019 Panelist, "Speculative Fictions as a Strategy to Animate Herstories," Craft and Legacy, Preserving a Field, Haystack Summer Conference, Deer Isle, Maine
- 2019 Artist Talk with Scholar Chelsea Frazier, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2019 Artist Talk, Art Now! Series, Art & Art History Department, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago Illinois
- 2017 Panelist, "Lost, Abundant, and Fugitive Sound: Listening, Seeing, Meaning, Experience," CAA National Conference, New York, NY
- 2017 Panelist, "Collective Knowing," The Gathering Conversation series, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 2015 Panelist, "Fashioning Technology: The Tactile Life of Makers," Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2015 Panel moderator, "Black Women Space Matters: Public Interventions," Glass Curtain Gallery, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2015 Artist Lecture and Performance, Sector 2337, Chicago, Illinois
- 2014 Panelist, "The Color of Diversity: A Response to the CHGO Design Exhibition," Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2014 The Decorative Impulse and the New Aesthetic Democracy, CAA panel co-chair, CAA National Conference, Chicago, Illinois
- 2013 Panel co-chair, FATE Biennial National Conference, "From Bauhaus to Posthaus: Introducing a New Value Set into to Foundations," Savannah Georgia
- 2013 Paper, FATE Biennial National Conference, "New Values for Teaching and Learning," Savannah Georgia
- 2011 Lecture, "What Really Matters," Society of Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2010 Paper, "The New Materiality, Digital Dialogues at the Boundaries of Contemporary Craft" *Design and Craft, A History of Convergences and Divergences*, 7th Conference of the International Committee for Design History and Design Studies (ICDHS), Brussels, Belgium
- 2010 Lecture, "The New Materiality, Digital Dialogues at the Boundaries of Contemporary Craft," UK Craft Council Curator's Council Forum, Whitechapel Gallery, London, England

- 2010 Panel moderator: "The New Materiality, Digital Dialogues at the Boundaries of Contemporary Craft," Furniture Society Conference, MIT, Boston Massachusetts
- 2010 Lecture, "The New Materiality", Fuller Museum of Craft