

ALLIE MCGHEE

b. 1941, Charleston, WV

Lives and works in Detroit, MI

EDUCATION

1965 BA, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

SELECTED AWARDS AND ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2021 Honoree, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Detroit, MI
 2018 Honoree, Detroit Art Week, Detroit, MI
 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award, Festival of African Art and Culture, Detroit City Council, Detroit, MI
 Alain Locke Award, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
 1986 Artist in Industry, Kohler Corporation, Kohler, WI
 1985 Grant, Michigan Council for the Arts
 1982 Artist-in-residence, Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills, MI
 1976 Links International Detroit Art Award
 1975 Artist-in-residence, Your Heritage House, Detroit, MI
 Artist-in-residence, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
 1974 Artist-in-residence, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI
 1973 Artist-in-residence, Saginaw Valley College, Saginaw, MI
 1971 Artist-in-residence, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

SELECTED SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2022 *Parallax*, Harper's, New York, NY
 2021 *Allie McGhee: Banana Moon Horn*, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Allie McGhee: The Ritual of The Mask, Belle Isle Viewing Room, Detroit, MI
 2019 *Allie McGhee*, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI
 2018 *Repetition, Rhythm, and Vocab*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI (with Carole Harris)
Cosmic Images 2000, Rotunda Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
 2016 *Now & Then*, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
 2005 *Rhythms: Micro to Macro*, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, New York, NY
 2004 *Parallel*, Heritage Museum, Detroit, MI
 2002 *Nu Kind of Science*, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Detroit, MI and Chicago, IL
 2001 G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Birmingham, MI
 1999 J. Rainey Gallery, Detroit, MI
 G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Chicago, IL
 1994 Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI
Retrospective Show, 1964-1994, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI
 1993 G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Birmingham, MI
 1992 June Kelly Gallery, New York, NY
 1991 City Arts Gallery, Detroit, MI
 1985 Pewabic Pottery, Detroit MI
 1984 Sheldon Ross Gallery, Birmingham, MI
 1983 Jazzonia Gallery, Detroit, MI
 1981 Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
 1979 Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI
 1976 Gallery 7, Detroit, MI

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Kinship: The Legacy of Gallery 7*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, MI
36 Paintings, Harper's, East Hampton, NY
- 2023 *Get Together*, Reyes I Finn, Detroit, MI
RIPE, Harper's, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 NADA Miami, Harper's booth, Miami, FL
Harper's X Galerie 75 Faubourg, Galerie 75 Faubourg, Paris, FR
Popup exhibition, The Shilla, Seoul, KR
Ground Up: Reflections on Black Abstraction, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, MI
25 Years, Harper's, East Hampton, NY
EXPO Chicago, Harper's booth, Chicago, IL
- 2021 NADA Miami, Harper's booth, Miami, FL
Melrose, Harper's, Los Angeles, CA
Harold Neal and Detroit African American Artists, 1945 Through the Black Arts Movement, Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw, MI; Wayne State University, Detroit, MI; Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI
Enunciated Life, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Experience & Expression, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
Zero Gravity Persuasions: Painting, Sculpture & Multiples 1962-2020, Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
- 2020 *Shapeshifters: Transformations in Contemporary Art*, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Private Contemplations, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI
- 2019 *Detroit Collects*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection, Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO
SPECTRA, Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI
Working Paper, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI
Call & Response, Stamps Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI
Landlord Colors, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Skoto Gallery, New York, NY
- 2018 *For the Culture*, August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh, PA
McArthur Binion Curates in Detroit, Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI
- 2017 *Consider Detroit*, Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY
Art of the Rebellion, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
Say it Loud: Art, History, Rebellion, Charles H. Wright Museum, Detroit, MI
- 2016 *De Facto Detroit: Selections from the N'Namdi Collections*, CCS Center Galleries, Detroit, MI
- 2014 *Another Look at Detroit*, Marlborough Chelsea & Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013 *50 Years of Abstraction*, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
- 2012 *Ménage a Detroit: Three Generations of Detroit Expressionist Art, 1970-2012*, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
Looking Ahead, Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, Biloxi, MS
Visions of Our 44th President, Charles H. Wright Museum, Detroit, MI
- 2011 *Eyes A-Wide*, Compuware World Headquarters, Detroit, MI
Looking Ahead, Las Cruces Art Museum, Las Cruces, NM
- 2009 *I Have a Dream—Tengo un sueño*, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI; Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery AL; Matt Lamb Museum of Art, Chicago, IL; Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Atlanta, GA
- 2008 *In Context, The Language of Abstraction Continues*, Abrons Arts Center, New York, NY
Reflections of the Spirit, University of Michigan, Dearborn, MI
4 Kamitic Visonariez, Kwame Nkrumah University, Kumasi, GH
Considering Detroit, Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI

- 2007 *Detroit: Contemporary Works on Paper*, Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
- 2004 *25th Anniversary Exhibition: Forms of Abstraction*, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 *Forms of Abstraction*, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, New York, NY
- 2003 *Works from the Collection of George N'Namdi*, Diggs Gallery, Winston Salem State University, Winston Salem, NC
- Then and Now: A Selection of 19th and 20th Century Art by African American Artists*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
- 2001 *Eighty Years of African American Art—A Survey*, Dayton Cultural Center, Dayton, OH
- Take 5 Group Exhibition*, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Chicago, IL
- A Cultural Heritage: Selected works of African American Art from the Collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
- 1997 *Celestial Landscape*, G.R. N'namdi Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1996 *At the Foreground of Paths*, Skoto Gallery, New York, NY
- Spiritual Visions*, Kenkeleba House, New York, NY
- 1995 *Three Artists*, G.R. N'namdi Gallery, Birmingham, MI
- 1993 *Diversity and Style: African American Artists*, University of Michigan, Dearborn, MI
- 1992 *Forms of Abstraction*, G.R. N'namdi Gallery, Columbus, OH
- Inaugural Exhibition*, The Mingo Group Fine Arts Gallery, New York, NY
- 1991 *Forms of Abstraction*, G.R. N'namdi Gallery, Birmingham, MI
- 1988 Kresge Art Museum, Lansing, MI
- Michigan Council for the Arts Grant Exhibition*, Detroit, MI
- 1987 *New Territories: Five Artists in Residence*, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, MI
- 1984 *Artists Against Apartheid*, Michigan Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 1982 *Individuals*, Detroit Artists Market, Detroit, MI
- 1979 Union Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 1977 Focus Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 1976 Underground Museum, Amherstburg, ON
- 1975 *Source III*, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 1974 Battle Creek Civic Arts Center, Battle Creek, MI
- 1972 *Source II*, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 1971 *Black American Artists*, Illinois Bell, Chicago, IL
- 1970 Kalamazoo Arts Center, Kalamazoo, MI
- 1969 *Afro-American Artist*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
- Seven Black Artists*, Detroit Artists Market, Detroit, MI
- Scarab Club, Detroit, MI
- 1968 Pontiac Art Center, Pontiac, MI
- Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

SELECTED PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

- 2015 *ART and SCIENCE*, Taubman Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2004 *Delray a New Horizon*, Delray United Action Council, Detroit, MI
- 2001 *Spirit in the Door*, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Detroit, MI
- 1987 *Voyage*, Michigan-Cass Station, Detroit People Mover, Art in the Stations, Detroit, MI
- 1981 Mural, Martin Luther King Center, Holtzman & Silverman, Detroit, MI
- 1979 *Roadshow: Art on Billboards*, First Federal Savings and Loan, Detroit, MI
- 1975 Lions International, Toyota City Hall, Toyota, JP
- 1973 General Hospital, Detroit, MI

SELECTED PRESS

- 2025 Laura Mott, "An Oral History Project Excerpt with Allie McGhee," *BOMB*, January 2025
- 2024 Sarah Rose Sharp, "Half a Century of Black Art in Detroit," *Hyperallergic*, September 1, 2024
K.A. Letts, "Kinship: The Legacy of Gallery 7... @ MOCAD," *Detroit Art Review*, July 2, 2024
- 2022 D. Dominick Lombardi, "Allie McGhee: Parallax," *Brooklyn Rail*, October 22, 2022
Sarah Rose Sharp, "The Cass Corridor Movement's Salvation Through Salvage," *Hyperallergic*, January 25, 2022
- 2021 Maureen Feighan, "A pillar of Detroit's art scene, painter Allie McGhee keeps bending the rules," *The Detroit News*, November 10, 2021
Megan Swoyer, "A Cranbrook Exhibit Tracks the Artistic Evolution of the Prolific Allie McGhee," *Hour Detroit*, November 10, 2021
Emma Klug, "New Exhibit Explores the Work of Harold Neal and Other African American Artists from Detroit," *Hour Detroit Magazine*, September 13, 2021
Ashley Cook, "The Ritual of the Mask: Allie McGhee at the Belle Isle Viewing Room," *runner magazine*, March 29, 2021
"DIA features selection of contemporary works in 'Experience & Expression,'" *Grosse Pointe News*, March 2, 2021
- 2020 "Selected Works from the Inaugural Art Mile in Detroit," *WWD*, July 30, 2020
"Shapeshifters: Transformations in Contemporary Art' to Open at Cranbrook Art Museum," *ARTFIXdaily*, July 9, 2020
- 2019 Victoria L. Valentine, "On View: 'Detroit Collects: Selections of African American Art from Private Collections' at Detroit Institute of Arts," *Culture Type*, December 8, 2019
Michael H. Hodges, "Powerful show of African American art at DIA," *Detroit News*, November 13, 2019
"Gallery: African American Art Goes on View Today in 'Detroit Collects' at DIA," *Deadline Detroit*, November 11, 2019
Stephanie Sokol, "Detroit artist constructs 3-D paintings on display in Birmingham," *The Oakland Press*, October 11, 2019
Claire Voon, "As Detroit's Art Scene Grows, Local Artists Face New Challenges," *Artsy*, August 13, 2019
- 2018 Taylor Renee Aldridge, "The Detroit Undercommons," *Open Space*, September 24, 2018
Sarah Rose Sharp, "The Deeply Shared Rhythms and Patterns of Paintings and Quilts," *Hyperallergic*, September 11, 2018
Loney Abrams, "Detroit Art Week Illuminates the Artists of 'Old' and 'New' Detroit—And the Complexities of a Gentrifying Art Hub," *Artspace*, July 27, 2018
Rozalia Jovanovic, "The Definitive Guide to Detroit Art Week," *Galerie Magazine*, July 19, 2018
Michael H. Hodges, "Detroit Art Week invites world to Motor City," *The Detroit News*, July 17, 2018
K.A. Letts, "A Heavenly Gaze: Allie McGhee's 'Cosmic Images 2000' at Rotunda Gallery," *Pulp*, June 4, 2018
- 2017 "Artists reflect pain and consequences of Detroit riots," interview, *PBS News Hour*, July 28, 2017
Sarah Rose Sharp, "Five can't-miss pieces in DIA's 'Art of Rebellion' exhibit," *Detroit Free Press*, July 23, 2017
- 2016 Ron Scott, "Allie McGhee @ N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art," *Detroit Art Review*, April 25, 2016
- 2012 David Sands, "'Ménage À Detroit' Show at N'Namdi Gallery Joins 3 Generations of Detroit Expressionist Artists," *Huffington Post*, April 27, 2012
- 2006 Joe Wallentini, "New York Views," *Abstract Art Online*, 2006
Vince Carducci, "Meeting Place," *Detroit Metro Times*, February 8, 2006
- 2004 Joy Hakanson Colby, "People Mover is City's Monorail Museum," *The Detroit News*, November 6, 2004

- 2002 George Tysh, "Science of Pleasure," *Detroit Metro Times*, November 6, 2002
- 2001 Joy Hakanson Colby, "Free Style makes this McGhee's Best Show," *The Detroit News*, March 30, 2001
- Liz DiDonna, "Soothing the Easel," *Detroit Metro Times*, January 17, 2001
- 1995 Joy Hakanson Colby, "Detroit Artist Allie McGhee gets a Big Boost," *The Detroit News*, June 9, 1995
- 1994 Veronica Pasfield, "Studio Visit: McGhee's World," *Detroit Monthly*, August 1994
- 1992 Julie Hinds, "Domestic Arts," *The Detroit News*, September 30, 1992
- 1989 Marsha Miro, "Eye On Art: G.R. N'namdi Gallery," *Detroit Free Press*, November 1, 1989
- Carol Howard, "Allie Ways," *Detroit Monthly*, April 1989
- 1987 Dolores S. Slowinski, "Art in the Stations," *Detroit Focus Quarterly*, Vol. 6-No. 3, Fall 1987
- Joy Hakanson Colby, "Sparkling Artwork Brightens Ride," *Detroit News*, July 31, 1987
- 1985 Marsha Miro, "People Mover's Dream Murals," *Detroit Free Press*, October 6, 1985
- Joy Hakanson Colby, "With Luck, A Peek at People Mover Art," *Detroit News*, October 4, 1985
- 1984 Marsha Miro, "Art and the Message are Moving," *Detroit Free Press*, November 30, 1984
- 1983 Marsha Miro, "The Art of a Healing Place," *Detroit Free Press*, August 2, 1983
- 1982 Joy Hakanson Colby, "McGee and McGhee: A Good Show to See," *Detroit News*, January 10, 1982
- 1980 Marsha Miro, "The Problem of Definition," *Detroit Free Press*, December 11, 1980
- 1978 Claudia Capos, "People to Watch," *Detroit News Sunday Magazine*, September 3, 1978
- Joy Hakanson Colby, "Critics Look Back on 1977: We Came Out Even," *Detroit News*, January 1, 1978
- 1977 Joy Hakanson Colby, "2 Artists—Their Bad and Their Beautiful," *Detroit News*, December 25, 1977
- 1973 Alan Franklin, et al., *riverrun: a journal of the arts*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Detroit, MI: Detroit Printing Co-op, 1973)
- 1969 Joy Hakanson Colby, "Detroit's New School of Black Artists," *Detroit News Sunday Magazine*, November 16, 1969
- 1968 Aaron Ibn Pori, *Black Graphics International*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Detroit, MI: Julian Richardson Associates, Publishers, 1968)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2021 Laura Mott and Taylor Renee Aldridge, *Allie McGhee: Banana Moon Horn* (Bloomfield Hills, MI: Cranbrook Art Museum, 2021)
- 2020 Julia R. Myers, *Harold Neal and Detroit African American Artists: 1945 through the Black Arts Movement* (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, December 2020)
- 2019 Laura Mott, *Landlord Colors: On Art, Economy, and Materiality* (Bloomfield Hills, MI: Cranbrook Art Museum, 2019)
- 2018 Dennis A. Nawrocki et al., *Essay'd 3: 30 Detroit Artists* (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, October 2018)
- 2017 Cara Catallo, *Pewabic Pottery: A History Handcrafted in Detroit* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2017), 117
- 2016 Dennis A. Nawrocki et al., *Essay'd: 30 Detroit Artists* (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, August 2016)
- 2008 Dick Goody, *Seminal Works from the N'namdi Collection of African American Art* (Rochester, MI: Oakland University Press, September 2008)
- 2005 Kembra N'namdi, *Allie McGhee, Rhythms: Micro to Macro* (G.R. N'namdi Gallery, 2005)
- 1977 Bill Harris, *From These Roots: Photographs and Artifacts from Africa: Paintings by Alma W. Thomas, Charles McGee, Allie McGhee* (Detroit, MI: Your Heritage House, 1977)

J. Kline Hobbes, *American Black Art: The Known and the New* (Battle Creek and Midland, MI: Battle Creek Civic Art Center and Midland Center for the Arts, 1977)

DISCOGRAPHY

2021 Allie McGhee, *Red Tango Blue* (detail), 2019, acrylic and enamel on canvas, 36 x 30 inches, reproduced in Skeeter Shelton & Hamid Drake, *Slupperbep*, Detroit: Two Rooms Records, 2021, Compact Disc and LP

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Barfield Companies, Livonia, MI
Detroit Council of the Arts, Detroit, MI
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
Detroit Receiving Hospital, Detroit, MI
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI
Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI
Hooven-Dayton Corporation, Dayton, OH
Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL
Koichiro Iwasaki, Kagoshima, JP
Martin Luther King Center, Detroit, MI
Kohler Corporation, Kohler, WI
Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD
Mott-Warsh Collection, Flint, MI
National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
The T.L.C. Beatrice Food International, New York, NY
Toyota City Hall, Toyota, JP
Washington State University, Seattle, WA
Your Heritage House, Detroit, MI