

JOHN AHEARN

BIOGRAPHY

- 1951 Born in Binghamton, New York
- 1973 B.F.A. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- The artist lives and works in New York

ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 Works from Dawson Street and Walton Avenue, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2010 Automatic for the People: John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres, Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, Newark
- 2007 John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: Inhotim, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2001 Pan Chiao, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2000 Sculpture from East 100th Street, part II, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 1998 Sculpture from East 100th Street, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 1995 John Ahearn, A Decade of Figurative Sculpture, University Art Gallery, University of California, San Diego
- 1993-94 Sculpture by John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: The South Bronx Hall of Fame and Other Realities, Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery of Reed College, Portland, Oregon and travelling to the Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe (catalogue with essay by Susan Fillin-Yeh)
- Friends and Neighbors: The Art of John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore and travelling to the Lehman College Art Gallery, City University of New York, Bronx, New York (brochure)
- 1992 John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: Face to Face, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC
- Makiki-Kalihi-Manoa, Life Casting in Honolulu, The Honolulu Advertiser Gallery
- 1991-92 South Bronx Hall of Fame, Sculpture by John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Witte de With, Rotterdam; The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu (catalogue with essays by Richard Goldstein, Michael Ventura and Marilyn Zeitlin)

- 1991 John Ahearn, Sculpture 1988-1991, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1990 John Ahearn, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri (brochure)
- 1988 John Ahearn, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1986 John Ahearn with Rigoberto Torres, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1985 John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: Portraits from the Bronx: Life Casts from 1979 to Present, The Bronx Museum of Art, New York, Community Gallery
- Investigations 12: John Ahearn with Rigoberto Torres: Sculpture, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (brochure)
- 1984 John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1983 John Ahearn with Rigoberto Torres: Recent Sculpture from Dawson Street, Brooke Alexander, New York
- 1982 John Ahearn, Galerie Rudolf Zwirner, Cologne, Germany
- 1979 South Bronx Hall of Fame, Fashion Moda, moved to the Con Edison Building, Bronx, New York, Bronx Museum Satellite Gallery

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017-18 Club 57: Film, Performance, and Art in the East Village, 1978–1983, Museum of Modern Art, New York
- The Sweat of their Face: Portraying American Workers, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2016 John and Jonathan, James Fuentes Gallery, New York
- 6s and 7s, Marlborough Gallery, New York
- HARD LOVE, Martos Gallery, New York
- 2015-16 Greater New York, MoMA PS1, New York
- 2015 Unrealism, The Moore Building, Miami
- KIDS, Dorian Grey Gallery, New York
- 2014 lens-based sculpture: The transformation of sculpture through photography, Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg, Berlin
- 2013 Double Hamburger Deluxe, Marlborough Chelsea, New York
- Portikus Under Construction, Tanya Leighton Gallery, Berlin
- 2012 Times Square Show Revisited, Hunter College, New York
- CROSSING HOUSTON, 154 Smart Clothes, New York

- Every Exit is an Entrance: 30 Years of Exit Art, Exit Art, New York
- This Will Have Been: Art, Love, & Politics in the 1980s, MCA, Chicago, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, ICA, Boston
- 2010-11 Ordinary Madness, The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh
- 2009-10 Urban Archives: That Was Then This Is Now, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, New York
- 2009 Beyond Appearances, Lehman College Art Gallery, Bronx, New York
- Martin Wong's Downtown Crossings, Asian/Pacific/American Institute at New York University, New York
- About Face, Adam Baumgold Gallery, New York
- 2008-09 Exquisite Corpse, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Ormeau Gallery, Belfast
- 2006-07 The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974-1984, Grey Art Gallery, New York; The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Austin Museum of Art, Austin
- 2004 John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres: Retratos da Rodoviária de Brumadinho, Casa da Cultura de Brumadinho, Brazil
- Other Aristocrats, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 2003 Celebrating Sculpture: Modern and Contemporary Works from Dallas Collections, Dallas Museum of Art
- 2002 Mask or Mirror? A Play of Portraits, Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts
- 2001 (Self) Portraits, Alexander and Bonin, New York
- The First Ten Years: Selected Works from the Collection, The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
- 2000 Art at the end of the century: Contemporary Art from the Milwaukee Museum of Art, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona
- Expo 2000, Pavilion of the Holy See, Hannover
- 1999 1999 Drawings; Alexander and Bonin, New York
- 1998 Cleveland Collects Contemporary Art, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
- 1996 Intersections: The Personal and the Social in the Permanent Collection, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
- Three Cornell Artists, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca
- 1995 Making Faces, American Portraits, The Hudson River Museum of Westchester, Yonkers,

New York

- 1994-95 From Beyond the Pale, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
- 1994-95 New York Realism Past and Present, Odakyu Museum, Tokyo; Kogoshima City Museum of Art; Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art; The Museum of Art, Kintetsu, Osaka; Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art; Tampa Museum of Art (catalogue)
- 1993 Contemporary Public Art in the Bronx, Lehman College Art Gallery, New York
In and Out of Place: Contemporary Art and the American Social Landscape, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
42nd Street Art Project, Creative Time, New York
- 1992 Americas, Convento de Santa Clara, Huelva
Devil on the Stairs: Looking Back on the Eighties, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, California
- 1991 Experiencing Sculpture: The Figurative Presence in America 1870-1990, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York
- 1990 The Decade Show, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; The Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art, New York
- 1989 Urban Images, Madison Art Center, Wisconsin
- 1988 People Figures, The Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, New York
Democracy: Education, Group Material, Dia Art Foundation, New York
Urban Figures, The Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, New York
The World of Art Today, Milwaukee Art Museum
- 1987 Out of the Studio, Art with Community, Part I, Institute for Art and Urban Resources, P.S. 1, Long Island City, New York
- 1986 Life in the Big City: Contemporary Artists Responses to the Urban Experience, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
Correspondences: New York Art Now, Laforet Museum, Harajuku, Tokyo; Traveled to Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Utsunomiya and Tagaki Hall Espace Media, Kobe, Japan
- 1985 1985 Biennial Exhibition, Group Material, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Visions of Childhood: A Contemporary Iconography, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Content: A Contemporary Focus 1974-1984, Tenth Anniversary Exhibition, Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

1984 The Heroic Figure, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Traveled to: Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Tennessee; Alexandria Museum/Visual Art Center, Los Angeles; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California; Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago

1983 New York Now, Kestner-Gesellschaft e.v., Hanover; Kunstverein, Munich; Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne; Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf

New Art at The Tate Gallery, 1983, Tate Gallery, London

1982 Fourth Biennial of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Urban Kisses, Institute of Contemporary Art, London, England

1981 Figures: Forms and Expressions, Albright Knox Gallery, Buffalo, New York
Westkunst, Cologne, Germany

1980 Fashion Moda, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York
Times Square Show, New York

PUBLIC WORKS AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2016 Coney Art Walls, Coney Island, Brooklyn

2012 South Bronx Hall of Fame with Rigoberto Torres, Frieze Projects at the Frieze Art Fair, Randall's Island, New York

2005 Public Project with Rigoberto Torres, Centro de Arte Contemporânea, Bello Horizonte, Brazil

2004 Sports Center with Rigoberto Torres, Caguas, Puerto Rico

2000-2002 Pan Chiao Train Station Public Art Project, Pan Chiao, Taiwan

2000 Phoenix Day School for the Deaf, in collaboration with the Scottsdale Museum of Art, Scottsdale, Arizona

1996-97 General Services Administration, commission for Health Care Finance Administration with Rigoberto Torres, Baltimore

1996 East 100th Street Sculpture Project with Rigoberto Torres, New York.

- Percent for Art Fountain Project, Juvenile Detention Center, Richmond, Virginia (not realized)
- 1995 Residency, Weatherspoon Art Museum and Carolina Tattoo Lee Street Sculpture Workshop, Greensboro, North Carolina
- 1994 Education & Community Department, Artists Work Programme, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Royal Hospital, Dublin (Fall)
- Institut für Lippische Landeskunde, Lemgo, Germany, and Schwalenberg Community (Summer)
- Tempe, Arizona Boys and Girls Club, sculpture mural in gymnasium, with ASU Art Museum (Spring)
- 1993 42nd Street Art Project with Rigoberto Torres, in collaboration with Creative Time, New York
- 1992 Washington Project for the Arts with Rigoberto Torres, Washington, DC
- 1991 The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Cool Project, Buurthuis Cool with Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 1984-86 Walton Avenue Sculpture Workshop with Rigoberto Torres life casting done publicly in neighborhood
- 1985 Back to School, outdoor mural, Walton Avenue at 172nd Street, Bronx, New York
- City College of the City of New York, Commissioned eight painted life casts of CCNY students and teachers, on permanent display above student cafeteria
- 1984 Greenville, South Carolina, Permanent Installation of life cast portrait sculptures made in cooperation with the Greenville County Art Museum
- 1981-83 Intervale Avenue Outdoor Arts Project with Rigoberto Torres, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Fashion Moda, the Bronx Council on the Arts, and the Federal Housing and Urban Development fund; low relief sculpture mural
- 1982-1983 Life on Dawson Street, outdoor mural, Longwood Avenue at Dawson Street, Bronx, New York
- 1981-1982 We Are Family, outdoor mural, 877 Intervale Avenue at Fox Street, Bronx, New York
- Double Dutch at Kelly Street, outdoor mural, Intervale Avenue at Kelly Street, Bronx, New York (Reconstructed in 1986)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essays in Books and Catalogues

- 2011 Pantheon: A History of Art from the Streets of NYC, ex. cat. New York: Pantheon Projects
- 2010 McCormick, Carlo and Marc and Sara Schiller, Ethel Seno. Trespass. A History of Uncommissioned Urban Art. New York: Taschen
- 2008 Espèce d'espace, ex. cat. Grenoble: MAGASIN - National Contemporary Art Center
- 2006 McCormick, Carol. "A Crack in Time." in The Downtown Book: The New York Art Scene 1974-1984. Princeton: Princeton University Press
- 2005 Nieves, Marisol and Matthias Winzen. The Figurative Impulse: Works from the UBS Art Collection, ex. cat. San Juan: Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico and Zürich: The UBS Art Collection
- 1995 Lacy, Suzanne (ed). Directional Signs: A Compendium of Artists Works. Mapping the Terrain: New Genre Public Art (Seattle: Bay Press): 194-195
- 1994 Kramer, Jane. Whose Art is It? Durham & London: Duke University Press/Public Planet Books, 1994
- 1991 Goldstein, Richard, Michael Ventura and Marilyn A. Zeitlin, South Bronx Hall of Fame: John Ahearn/Rigoberto Torres Houston: Contemporary Arts Museum, 1991
- 1987 Lippard, Lucy, New Art in a Multicultural America New York: Pantheon Books, 1990
Frank, Peter and Michael McKenzie, New and Improved: Art for The Eighties New York: Abbeville press, 1987

Reviews and articles

- 2016 Kitnick, Alex. "Greater New York" Artforum (January 2016): 236 - 237
- 2013 Kennedy, Randy. "A Feast of Street Art, Luminous and Legal: Graffiti Art of the City, From the Bronx to Brooklyn." The New York Times (August 30, 2013): C20
Pincus-Witten, Robert. "Times Square Show Revisited." Artforum (December 2012): 274-275
- 2012 Maloney, Jennifer. "British Art Carnival Wakes a Big Apple Isle." The Wall Street Journal (May 5-6, 2012): C14
Cotter, Holland. "On an Island, Worker Bees Fill a Long White Hive." The New York Times

(May 5, 2012): C1

Russeth, Andrew. "John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres Cast Portraits at Frieze." GalleristNY

(May 5, 2012) <<http://www.galleristny.com/2012/05/john-ahearn-and-rigobertotorres-cast-as-frieze/>>

Hegert, Natalie. "Some Full Circle on Randall's Island: John Ahearn at Frieze Projects."

ARTslant (May 3, 2012) <<http://www.artslant.com/ny/articles/show/30691>>

Russeth, Andrew. "Casting Call." The New York Observer (April 30, 2012): B1

Budick, Ariella. "Spirit of the Bronx." Weekend Financial Times (April 28/29, 2012):

2012 Corbett, Rachel. "John Ahearn Revival at Frieze." Artnet (March 5, 2012)

<<http://www.artnet.com/magazineus/news/artnetnews/john-ahearn-revival-at-friezeny.asp>>

2009 Leffingwell, Edward. "The Empty Biennial." Art in America (March 2009): 59-64

2007 Baker, R.C. "Best in Show:John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres."Village Voice (June 20-26, 2007): 47

2001 Schjeldahl, Peter. "John Ahearn." The New Yorker (December 24 & 31, 2001): 22

2000 Dannatt, Adrian. "Our Choice of New York contemporary galleries; John Ahearn" The Art Newspaper (July-August 2000): 78

1998 Taplin, Robert. "John Ahearn at Alexander and Bonin." Art in America (November 1998): 124-25

1993 Forty-Second Street Art Project. The New Yorker (September 20, 1993): 29

1988 Hess, Elizabeth. Working the Street. Village Voice (November 29, 1988)

1986 Larson, Kay. Body and Soul. New York (February 10, 1986): 72

1984 Wolff, Theodore F. The Home Forum: Neighbors as Art. The Christian Science Monitor (September 13, 1984): 47

1983 Glatt, Cara. "Sculptors look at human form" The Hyde Park Herald, vol. 102, issue 21 (May 25, 1983): 10, 22

1980 Goldstein, Richard. First Radical Art Show. Village Voice (June 16, 1980): 1, 31-32

GRANTS, AWARDS AND HONORS

2009 The Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Baltimore Museum of Art

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York

Australian National Gallery, Canberra

Art Institute of Chicago

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati

Museum Ludwig, Cologne

Dallas Museum of Art, Texas

Greenville County Art Museum, South Carolina

Museum of Contemporary Art, Iowa City

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

Eli Broad Family Foundation, Los Angeles

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

Milwaukee Art Museum

The Newark Museum, New Jersey

City College of New York

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The New School Art Collection, New York

The New York Historical Society

Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh

Witte de With, Rotterdam

St. Louis Art Museum

Arizona State University, Tempe

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

Museum of Modern Art, New York