

Al Loving Biography

1935

Born: Detroit, Michigan

2005

Died: New York, New York

EDUCATION

1959–1963

University of Illinois, Urbana

1963–1965

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1969

Alvin Loving, Gertrude Kasle Gallery, Detroit, June 15–
July 7

1969–1970

Alvin Loving: Paintings, Whitney Museum of American
Art, New York, December 19, 1969–January 25, 1970

1970

Alvin Loving: Recent Paintings, Gertrude Kasle Gallery,
Detroit, September 12–October 7

1971

Alvin Loving, William Zierler, Inc., New York, March 6–27

1972

Alvin Loving, William Zierler, Inc., New York, March 11–
April 1

1973

Alvin Loving, William Zierler, Inc., New York, March 3–31

1974

Alvin Loving, Fischbach Gallery, New York, April 6–24

1976

Alvin Loving, Fischbach Gallery, New York, May–June 12

1977

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

1979

Grippi/Zivian Gallery, New York

1984–1985

Al Loving: Mercer Street Series, Onyx Gallery, New York,
December 18, 1984–January 16, 1985

1986

Al Loving: Departures, The Studio Museum in Harlem,
New York, February 23–June 8

1987

Al Loving, Frank H. McClung Museum, University of
Tennessee, Knoxville, February 6–21

1988

James Little and Al Loving, June Kelly Gallery, New York,
June 11–July 1

1989

Alvin Loving: Life and Continued Growth Series, Bronx
Museum of the Arts, New York, April 20–May 29

1990

Al Loving: Redemption Songs, June Kelly Gallery,
New York, May 12–June 9

1991

Al Loving: Maker of Art, National Academy of Sciences,
Washington, D.C., April 10–June 15
Al Loving, Sande Webster Gallery, Philadelphia,
May 3–31

1992

Al Loving: Material Abstraction, June Kelly Gallery,
New York, November 5–December 1

1993

Al Loving: Rectangular Genesis, Sande Webster Gallery,
Philadelphia, March 3–30
Al Loving, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan,
September 17–October 17

- 1996
Alvin Loving, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan, September 21–November 2
- 1997
Al Loving in the Nineties: The Collaged Wallworks, Fine Arts Center Galleries, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, January 21–March 8
- 1998
Al Loving: Detwiller Visiting Artist, Art Gallery, Williams Center for the Arts, Lafayette College, February 6–March 1
- 1998–1999
Al Loving: Color Constructs, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, September 27, 1998–January 24, 1999
- 1999
Al Loving: Elegant Ideas, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan, April 30–June 4
- 2001
Alvin Loving: Home, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Detroit, September 13–October 20
- 2002
Al Loving: Bird of Birds, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Chicago, September 13–October 12
- 2004
Formal Continuity: Works by Al Loving, The University Museum, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, February 9–March 1
Al Loving: Lighter Than Air, G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Chicago, September 9–October 29
- 2005
Al Loving: Color Weave, Jeffrey Moose Gallery, Seattle, February 11–March 26
- 2005–2006
Al Loving: Affirmations of Life, Kenkeleba House, New York, December 6, 2005–January 11, 2006
- 2012
Al Loving: Torn Canvas, Garth Greenan Gallery, November 8–December 29
- 2015
Al Loving, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, May 21–June 27
- 2017–2018
Spiral Play: Loving in the '80s, Art+Practice, Los Angeles, April 22–July 29; The Baltimore Museum of Art, October 18, 2017–April 15, 2018
- 2018
Space, Time, Light, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, October 25–December 21
Detroit in the World: Selections from a Detroit Art Connoisseur's Collection, Collected Detroit Gallery, December 6–
- 2019
Spilling Over: Painting Color in the 1960s, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, March 29–September 2
- SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
- 1968
Afro-American Art, Detroit Institute of Arts
- 1969
Afro-American Art After 1950, Brooklyn College Art Gallery, City University of New York
5+1, Art Gallery, State University of New York, Stony Brook, October 16–November 8; Art Museum, Princeton University, New Jersey, November 12–23
- 1970
Lamp Black: African-American Artists, New York and Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, May 19–June 23
L'art vivant aux États-Unis, Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul, France, July 16–September 30
- 1971
Contemporary Black Artists in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, April 6–May 16
The Deluxe Show, Deluxe Theatre, Houston, August 15–September 12
- 1972
1972 Annual Exhibition: Contemporary American Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, January 25–March 19

- 1973
1973 Biennial Exhibition: Contemporary American Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, January 10–March 18
Blacks: USA, 1973, New York Cultural Center, New York, September 26–November 15
- 1975
Image, Color, and Form: Recent Paintings by Eleven Americans, Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, January 12–February 9
34th Biennial of Contemporary American Painting, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., February 22–April 6
Selected Works from the Dillard Collection: An Exhibition of Works on Paper from the Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Alabama, April 15–May 18
- 1977
'75, '76, '77: Painting, Part I, Sarah Lawrence College Art Gallery, Bronxville, New York, February 19–March 10; American Foundation for the Arts, Miami, April–May; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, June–July
- 1979
Another Generation, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
- 1981
Afro-American Abstraction, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, July 1–August 30
- 1982
Color, Material, Form: Bowling, Loving, Mohr, Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire, January 9–February 14
- 1983
Seven American Artists, Cleveland Museum of Art, January 11–February 13
New Work, New York: Newcastle Salutes New York, Newcastle Polytechnic Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom, October 8–November 4
- 1984–1985
Since the Harlem Renaissance: 50 Years of Afro-American Art, Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, April 13, 1984–November 1, 1985
- 1985
Recent Acquisitions, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
- 1987
New York, New Venue, Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina, April 10–May 31
- 1989
The Appropriate Object: Maren Hassinger, Richard Hunt, Oliver Jackson, Alvin Loving, Betye Saar, Raymond Saunders, John Scott, Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, March 5–April 23
- 1990
Legacies: African-American Artists, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Summit, September 16–October 27
- 1991
The Search for Freedom: African-American Abstract Painting, 1945–1975, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York, May 19–July 14
- 2000
An Exuberant Bounty: Prints and Drawings by African Americans, Philadelphia Museum of Art, February 5–April 16
- 2002
Six American Masters, Sugar Hill Art Center, New York, May 17–June 27
No Greater Love: Abstraction, Jack Tilton/Anna Kustera Gallery, New York, September 12–October 12
- 2003
Layers of Meaning: Collage and Abstraction in the Late 20th Century, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, February 8–April 27
- 2004
Something to Look Forward to, Phillips Museum of Art, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, March 26–June 27
- 2005
The Chemistry of Color: African-American Artists in

- Philadelphia, 1970–1990, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, January 11–April 10
- 2006
Energy/Experimentation: Black Artists and Abstraction, 1964–1980, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, April 5–July 2
Full House: Views of the Whitney's Collection at 75, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, June 29–September 3
- 2006–2007
High Times, Hard Times: New York Painting, 1967–1975, Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, August 6–October 15, 2006; American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, American University, Washington, D.C., November 21, 2006–January 21, 2007; National Academy Museum, New York, February 13–April 22
- 2008–2009
New Acquisitions: African-American Masters Collection, Sheldon Art Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska, December 16, 2008–March 2, 2009
- 2009
Target Practice: Painting Under Attack, 1949–1978, Seattle Art Museum, June 25–September 7
- 2011
Paper Trails: Selected Works from the Collection, 1934–2001, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, July 19–November 27
- 2012
Full Spectrum: Prints from the Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia Museum of Art, September 7–November 25
- 2014
Make It New: Abstract Painting from the National Gallery of Art, 1950–1975, Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, August 2–October 13
- 2015
New Acquisitions, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, February 11–June 7
America Is Hard to See, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, May 1–September 27
- 2016
Marrakech Biennale 6, Morocco, February 24–May 8 2016–2017
Circa 1970, The Studio Museum in Harlem, November 17, 2016–March 5, 2017
- 2017
Expanding Tradition: Selections from the Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Collection, Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, January 28–May 7
'Elaine, Let's Get the Hell Out of Here.' Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, June 29–August 18
Recollection: Selections from the Permanent Collection, Guild Hall, East Hampton, October 21–December 31, 2017
- 2017–2018
Delirious: Art at the Limits of Reason, 1950–1980, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, September 13, 2017–January 14, 2018
- 2017–2020
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, 1963–1983, Tate Modern, London, July 12–October 22, 2017; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, February 3–April 23, 2018; Brooklyn Museum of Art, September 14, 2018–February 3, 2019; The Broad Museum, Los Angeles, March 23–September 1, 2019; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, June 27–August 30, 2020
- 2018
Reclamation! Pan-African Works from the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, Virginia, March 3–September 2
mark, team (gallery inc.), New York, March 8–April 21
MoMA At NGV, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia, June 9–October 7
The Beautiful Difference, Francine Kelly Gallery, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, August 12–September 3
Have We Met? Dialogues on Memory and Desire, Stamps Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, August 28–November 30
- 2018–2019
Pattern Decoration and Crime, Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Genève, October 9, 2018–February 3, 2019; Consortium Museum, Dijon, France May

- 15–October 20, 2019
Outliers and American Vanguard Art, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., January 28–May 13, 2018; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, June 24–September 30, 2018; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, November 18, 2018–March 18, 2019
- 2019
Alteronce Gumby/Al Loving: Catching the Holy Ghost, Parrasch Heljnen Gallery, Los Angeles, February 12–March 23
New York Centric, Art Students League, New York, March 5–May 1
Spilling Over: Painting Color in the 1960s, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, March 29–September 2
Cut: Abstraction in the United States from the 1970s to the Present, Frost Art Museum, Florida International University, June 1–August 25
An Essential Presence: The Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African-American Art, Allentown Art Museum, Pennsylvania, June 2–September 1
Landlord Colors: On Art, Economy, and Materiality, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, June 21–October 6
Painters Reply: Experimental Painting in the 1970s and Now, Lisson Gallery, New York, June 27–August 10
- 2019-2020
Black Refractions: Highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem, Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, South Carolina, May 24–August 18, 2019; Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Michigan, September 13–December 8, 2019; Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, January 23–April 11, 2021; Frye Art Museum, Seattle, May 22–August 15, 2021
The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection, St. Louis Art Museum, September 17, 2019–March 22, 2020
Direct Message, MCA Chicago, October 26, 2019–January 12, 2020
Detroit Collects: Selections of African American Art from Private Collections, Detroit Institute of Arts, November 12, 2019–March 1, 2020
With Pleasure: Pattern and Decoration in American Art, 1972–1985, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, October 27, 2019–March 30, 2020; CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, June 26–November 28, 2021
- 2020
My Way: The Gee's Bend Quiltmakers and Contemporary Abstraction, Parts & Labor, Beacon, New York, June 27–August 9, 2020
Young Artists: One, Fridman Gallery, New York, July 7–September 9, 2020
- 2020–2022
Robert Blackburn & Modern American Printmaking, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, September 12–November 11, 2020; Detroit Institute of Arts, March 20–June 13, 2021; Figge Art Museum, Davenport, Iowa, October 16, 2021–January 9, 2022; The Hyde Collection, Glens Falls, New York, January 29–April 24, 2022; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, May 14–August 7, 2022
- 2021
Creating Community: Cinque Gallery Artists, the Art Students' League of New York, May 3–July 4
The De Luxe Show, Karma, New York, New York, August 12–September 25; Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, California, August 12–September 15
Colliding with History: African American Works on Paper from the Collection of Wes and Missy Cochran, The Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery, Georgia State University, Atlanta, September 13–November 12
Nanette Carter: 30 Years of Her Work: A Survey and Her Contemporaries Al Loving, Sam Gilliam, Gregory Coates, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, Michigan, October 15, 2021–January 15, 2022
- 2021–2022
Abstraction & Social Critique, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, Illinois, October 23, 2021–January 1, 2022
- 2022
Al Loving: Emperor's Clothing, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, New York, March 24–May 7, 2022
- 2022–2023
In the Balance, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York, October 19, 2022–March 5, 2023
Revisiting 5+1, Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery, Stony Brook, New York, November 10, 2022–March 31, 2023
- 2023

Creative Haven: Black Artists of Sag Harbor, Long Island Museum, Stony Brook, New York, February 17–August 27, 2023

The Feminine in Abstract Painting, Milton Resnick and Pat Passlof Foundation, New York, New York, March 16–July 15, 2023

Tales of Brave Ulysses: Al Loving, Howardena Pindell, Alan Shields, Richard Van Buren, Garth Greenan Gallery and Van Doren Waxter, New York, New York, November 9 – December 16, 2023

Papel Papel: Works on Paper, Zürcher Gallery, New York, New York, November 10–December 23, 2023

2023–2024

Glory of the World: Color Field Painting (1950s to 1983), NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, November 21, 2023–June 30, 2024

2024

Century: 100 Years of Black Art at MAM, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey, February 9–July 7, 2024

SELECTED MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Akron Art Museum, Ohio

Cleveland Museum of Art

Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire

Detroit Institute of Arts

Empire State Plaza Art Collection, Albany

Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York

Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York

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

Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey

Museum of African-American Art, Detroit

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Museum of Modern Art

National Gallery of Art

Newark Museum, New Jersey

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton

Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia

Pérez Art Museum, Miami

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University

Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, Nebraska

St. Louis Art Museum

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio

Tucson Museum of Art

University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Selected Bibliography

BOOKS AND CATALOGUES

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- Anderson, Dennis and Glenn Lowry. *The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Art Collection and Plaza Memorials*. New York: Rizzoli, 2002.
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- Center Gallery, Bucknell University. *Since the Harlem Renaissance: 50 Years of Afro-American Art*. Lewisburg, PA: Center Gallery, Bucknell University, 1985.
- Cleveland Museum of Art. *Seven American Artists*. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1983.
- Cochran, Rebecca Dimling. *Colliding with History: African American Works on Paper from the Collection of Wes and Missy Cochran*. Exhibition catalogue. Atlanta: Georgia State University, 2021.
- Collischan, Judy and April Kingsley. *Al Loving: Color Constructs*. Purchase, NY: Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, 1998.
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- Cooper, Harry. *Make It New: Abstract Painting from the National Gallery of Art, 1950–1975*. Williamstown: Clark Art Institute, 2014.
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- English, Darby. *1971: A Year in the Life of Color*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2017.
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- Goodman, Abigail Ross, Molly Epstein, and Laura Beshears. *Art for Rollins: The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, Volume III*. Winterpark, Florida: Cornell Fine Arts Museum, 2018.
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PERIODICALS

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- . "Motown Merry-Go-Round." *Art Gallery* 15, no. 2 (1971): 57.
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- . "The Artist and His Arty Wall." *Detroit News*, September 10, 1971.
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