
Cristea Roberts Gallery

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Artist Biography

Barbara Walker MBE (b. 1964)

Barbara Walker MBE RA is a British artist based in Birmingham, England, where she studied at the University of Central England. She completed post-graduate studies at Wolverhampton University. Her figurative drawings and paintings are informed by the social, political and cultural realities that affect her life and the lives of those around her. Growing up in a Black community, her experiences have directly shaped a practice concerned with issues of class and power, gender, race, representation and belonging. Her works tell contemporary stories hinged on historical circumstances, making them universally understood. Walker was awarded an MBE in 2019, was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 2023 and in the same year nominated for the Turner Prize.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure*, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Turner Prize 2023*, Towner Eastbourne, Eastbourne, UK
Black Atlantic: Power, People, Resistance, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
New Acquisitions, British Museum, London, UK
Sharjah Biennial 15, Sharjah Foundation, UAE
- 2022 *Vanishing Point*, Cristea Roberts Gallery, London, UK
Broken Angel, Coventry Cathedral, Coventry, UK
Space Is A Place, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol, UK
Dialogues Across Disciplines, Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, New York, New York, US
- 2021 *Life Between Islands*, Tate Britain, London, UK; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
- 2020 *Everyday Heroes*, Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, London, UK
Between The Sun and The Moon, Lahore Biennale 02, Pakistan
- 2019 *Open Your Eyes*, Art Exchange, Essex, UK
Place, Space and Who, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
Frederick Douglass: Embers of Freedom, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA, US
Protest and Remembrance, Alan Cristea Gallery, London, UK
- 2018 *Vanishing Point*, Jerwood Gallery, Hastings, UK
Zeichen, MEWO Kunsthalle, Memmingen, Germany
A Slice Through The World, The Drawing Room, London; Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, UK
Reformation, Guest Project, London, UK
The Gallery of Small Things, Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
- 2017 *The Gallery of Small Things*, Cultural & Design Festival, Lagos, Nigeria, Africa
Diaspora Pavilion, 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2016 *Shock and Awe*, MAC, Birmingham, UK
Jamaican Pulse, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, UK
- 2015 *Sub Urban: New Drawings*, James Hockey Gallery, University of Creative Arts, Farnham, UK

- 2015 *One Day Something Happens*, A Hayward Touring and Arts Council Collection exhibition, travelled to Leeds, Nottingham, Southport, Eastbourne, UK and Drogheda, Ireland
- 2014 *Pause*, C&C Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 *As Seen*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK
Here and Now, Wallner Gallery, Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham, UK
End of the Line, Paper Gallery, Manchester, UK
Luminous Language, Launch F18, New York, NY, US
- 2012 *Pursuit of the real*, Deptford x Fringe, London, UK
Bread and Roses, Fehily Contemporary Art Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2011 *Show and Tell*, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall, UK
Mostyn Open 11, Llandudno, Wales, UK
- 2009 *Louder Than Words*, Vane Contemporary Art, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
Rotate, Contemporary Art Society (with Vane Contemporary), London, UK
- 2008 *Fragments*, The Bag Factory Residency, Johannesburg, South Africa
Hawkins & Co, Contemporary Urban Centre, Liverpool, UK
Say it as it is, Signal Gallery, London, UK
- 2006 *Louder Than Words*, UNIT 2, London Metropolitan University, London; MAC, Birmingham, UK
Families, Oxford House Gallery, UK
- 2005 *Testimony*, Queens Hall Gallery, Hexham, Northumberland and Suffolk College, Ipswich, UK
- 2003 *True Stories*, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton, UK; Museu de Arte Contemporanea, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 2002 *Private Face*, MAC, Birmingham; 198 Gallery, London, UK
- 2000 *Communication*, The Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK
Black Artists Exhibition, Q-arts, Derby, UK

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- UK The Usher Gallery, Lincoln
Arts Council England, London
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham
Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol
Facebook, London
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Government Art Collection, London
Guest Project Collections, London
Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester
Pallant House Gallery, Chichester
Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton
- USA Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut
Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, New York