

# Petzel

## JAMES LITTLE

Born 1952, Memphis, TN  
Lives and works in New York, NY

## EDUCATION

1976 MFA, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
1974 BFA, Memphis Academy of Art, Memphis, TN

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 New York, Petzel Gallery, *Conversations*
- 2022 Chicago, Kavi Gupta, *Black Stars & White Paintings*  
Memphis, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, *James Little: Homecoming*
- 2020 West Hollywood, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *James Little: Dots and Slants*
- 2018 New York, June Kelly Gallery, *Slants and White Paintings*
- 2016 West Hollywood, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Informed by Rhythm: Recent Work by James Little*
- 2015 New York, June Kelly Gallery, *Color/Barriers: Recent Work*
- 2013 New York, June Kelly Gallery, *Never Say Never*
- 2011 New York, June Kelly Gallery, *Ex Pluribus Unum: New Paintings*
- 2009 New York, June Kelly Gallery, *De-Classified, Recent Paintings*
- 2007 Houston, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, *James Little: Untold Stories*
- 2005 New York, G. R. N’Namdi Gallery, *Reaching for the Sky*
- 2003 Long Island City, L.I.C.K. Ltd. Fine Art, *Beyond Geometry: New Paintings*
- 1995 New York, Kenkeleba Gallery, *Recent Abstract Paintings*
- 1992 Syracuse, Lubin House Gallery, Syracuse University, *James Little: Selected Works from the Past Decade*  
New York, Sid Deutsch Gallery, *James Little: Ovals and Arbitration Paintings*
- 1990 New York, June Kelly Gallery, *Tondos and Ovals*

# Petzel

- 1989 Boston, Christian Science Church, *James Little: Recent Paintings*
- 1988 New York, June Kelly Gallery, *James Little & Al Loving: New Work*  
Memphis, Alice Bingham Gallery, *New York to Memphis*  
New York, June Kelly Gallery, *New Paintings*
- 1987 Boston, Liz Harris Gallery, *New Paintings*
- 1985 Boston, Harris Brown Gallery, *James Little: Format Paintings*
- 1982 New York, Alternative Museum, *Recent Oil Paintings*
- 1976 Syracuse, Everson Museum of Art, *Paintings by James Little*

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, *Edges of Ailey*
- 2023 New York, Petzel Gallery, *An Apartment of Ghosts*
- 2022 Buffalo, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, *In These Truths*  
New York, Whitney Museum of Art, Whitney Biennial, *Quiet as It's Kept*
- 2021 Chicago, Kavi Gupta, *Abstraction & Social Critique*  
Richmond, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse*. Travels to: Bentonville, Crystal Bridges in March 2022
- 2020 Boca Raton, Rosenbaum Contemporary, *Louise Nevelson and James Little*
- 2018 Boca Raton, Rosenbaum Contemporary, *Color/Line/Form*
- 2017 New York, June Kelly Gallery, *Celebrating 30 Years, Gallery Artists: Drawings and Photographs*
- 2016 New York, Studio Museum in Harlem, *Circa 1970*  
Newark, University Museums, Mechanical Hall Gallery, University of Delaware, *Beyond Borders: Bill Hutson & Friends*
- 2015 New York, Lyons Wier Gallery, *Decoding the Abstract Unlimited Potential*  
Newark, Newark Museum of Art, *Outside the Lines: Color Across the Collections*  
West Hollywood, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Works on Paper: Selections from the Gallery*
- 2014 Chicago, Kavi Gupta, *Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Hard Edges, Soft Curves, Contemporary James Little*  
Houston, Arts Museum Houston

# Petzel

- 2012 Mobile, Mobile Museum of Art, *Today's Visual Language: Southern Abstraction, A Fresh Look*  
Brooklyn, Triangle Arts Association, *What Only Paint Can Do*
- 2011 Philadelphia, The Ice Box, Crane Arts, *ABSTRACTION (Abstraction to the Power of Infinity)*
- 2010 Newark, Mechanical Hall Gallery, Mineralogical Museum, University of Delaware  
collaboration of the University of Maryland David C. Driskell Center and the University of  
Delaware Museums, *Abstract Relations*  
Brooklyn, Sideshow Gallery, *It's A Wonderful 10th*
- 2008 Pembroke, The A.D. Gallery, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, *Shape Shifters: New  
York Painters*
- 2007 Houston, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, *Three One-Man Exhibitions: James Little,  
Aimé Mpane, George Smith*
- 2006 New York, National Academy of Design, *The 181st Annual Invitational Exhibition of  
Contemporary American Art*  
New York, Elizabeth Harris Gallery, *Neo-Plastic Redux*
- 2005 Oceanville, Noyes Museum of Contemporary Art, *Different Ways of Seeing: The Expanding  
World of Abstraction*  
Newburgh, Yellow Bird Gallery, *Optical Stimulations: American Abstract Artists*  
Brooklyn, Netherlands Tunnel Gallery, *50 Plus*  
Brooklyn, Sideshow Gallery, *Raising the Bar: James Little and Thornton Willis*
- 2004 New York, The Studio Museum in Harlem, *Seeds and Roots: Selections from the Permanent  
Collection*  
Newark, University of Delaware, *A Century of African American Art: The Paul R. Jones Collection*  
New York, Pelham Art Center, *Abstract Identity*
- 2003 Chicago, Roger Ramsay Gallery, *Theories: Abstract New York*
- 2002 New York, Jack Tilton/Anna Kustera Gallery, *No Greater Love, Abstraction*  
Houston, The Station, *Ajita – Unconquerable*  
New York, Gary Snyder Fine Art, *500 Works on Paper*  
Amsterdam, Chapel, Plantage, Doklaan 8-12, *Amplified Abstraction*
- 2001 Hempstead, Hofstra Museum, Hofstra University, *Painted in New York City: Viewpoints of  
Recent Developments in Abstract Painting*  
Locust Valley, Dolan Center Gallery, Friends Academy, *Dialog and Discourse*
- 2000 Brooklyn, Smack Mellon Studios, *Significant Pursuits: Paint and Geometry*  
New York, The Painting Center, *Straight Painting*

# Petzel

- 1999 New York, The Puffin Room, The Puffin Foundation, *Straight No Chaser*  
New York, 450 Broadway, *The Art of Absolute Desire*  
New York, Westbeth Gallery, *The Power of Drawing*
- 1998 Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County Art, Association, Barrett Art Center, *New Directions '98: 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Juried Fine Arts Exhibition*  
New York, Luise Ross Gallery, *New York Eight*  
Brooklyn, Sideshow 195, *Works On, With and Made Out of Paper*  
Trenton, New Jersey State Museum, *The African-American Fine Arts Collection of the New Jersey State Museum*  
Breda and Haarlem, De Beyerd Center for Contemporary Art and the Frans Hals Museum, *Postcards from Black America*  
Amsterdam, Arti et Amicitiae, *de leugenaars/the liars (I) Helder en Verzadigd Clear and Saturated*  
Amsterdam, Galerie Maria Chailloux, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, *Color, Matter, Energy*

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2023 Oliver, Valerie Cassel. *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art. Material Culture, and the Sonic Implus*. Richmond: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, pp. 113, 251.  
Hill, John. "Tom Lee Park Opens." *world-architects.com*, September 4.  
Sheets, Hilarie M. "Installations by Theaster Gates and James Little reinvigorate riverfront park in Memphis." *The Art Newspaper*, September 25.  
"A Panorama of Design." *The New York Times*, August 31.  
Rigou, Vasia. "Contextualizing Black Exceptionalism: James Little's Black Stars & White Paintings at Kavi Gupta." *New City Art*, February 9.  
Wilkin, Karen. "At the Galleries." *The Hudson Review*, vol. LXXVI, No. 2, Summer.
- 2022 Yerebakan, Osman Can. "James Little: Fear and transcendence in abstract painting." *Artforum*, November 30.  
Samarov, Dmitry. "James Little's Constructed Abstractions." *Frieze*, November 29.  
"See Inside James Little's Studio, Where He Combines Pigment, Beeswax, And Varnish To Create Layered Geometric Abstractions." *MENAFN*, November 28.  
Cascone, Sarah. "See Inside James Little's Studio, Where He Combines Pigment, Beeswax, and Varnish to Create Layered Geometric Abstractions." *Artnet News*, November 27.  
Sheets, Hilarie M. "James Little, Unapologetic Abstractionist Painter, Catches the Limelight." *New York Times*, October 20.  
"What To Do in New York City in August." *New York Times*, August 4.  
"What To Do in New York City in July." *New York Times*, July 13.  
Davis-Marks, Isis. "With a Whitney Biennial feature and newfound commercial representation, James Little's commitment to abstraction is finally paying off." *The Art Newspaper*, June 21.  
Morici, Abigail. "James Little: Homecoming." *Memphis Magazine*, June 20.  
Yates, Christin. "Dixon's 16 Gallery Spaces Each Hosting a Mini-Exhibition." *Daily Memphian*, June 6.

# Petzel

- “A Long Overdue Recognition: James Little Finally Gets His Turn in the Spotlight at this Year’s Whitney Biennial.” *ARTnews*, May 2.
- Chiu, Vivian. “The 2022 Whitney Biennial Expands the Scope of ‘American’ Art.” *OCULA*, April 27.
- Gordon, Dana. “The Single Best Work in the Whitney Biennial.” *The New York Sun*, April 18.
- Fisher, Simon; Fuchs, Eva; Mitchell, Rory. “Whitney Biennial 2022: Artist Installations that Stole the Show.” *OCULA*, April 8.
- Marius, Marley. “A Glimpse into this Year’s Whitney Biennial.” *Vogue*, April 2.
- Dozier, Ayanna. “At the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Compelling Works Are Overshadowed by an Inaccessible Space.” *Artsy*, March 31.
- Cotter, Holland. “A Whitney Biennial of Shadow and Light.” *New York Times*, March 31.
- Greenberger, Alex. “A Sharp Understated Whitney Biennial Looks to the Past to Process the Grief of the Present.” *ARTnews*, March 30.
- Durón, Maximiliano. “12 Standouts at the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Where Poetic Reflections on Past Two Years Shine Brightly.” *ARTnews*, March 29.
- 2021 *James Little*, Kavi Gupta  
*Chromatic Rhythm | James Little: Paintings on Paper*, Sarah Moody Gallery of Art  
Voon, Claire. “Chicago: Six Must-See Exhibitions.” *Art Basel*, December 18.
- 2020 *Louise Nevelson + James Little*, Rosenbaum Contemporary  
*James Little | Beyond Geometry—Selections*, The Lobby Gallery Park Avenue and 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
*The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection*, St. Louis Art Museum  
Valentine, Victoria L. “James Little’s Black Paintings are a ‘Volley of Minimalist Ideals’ Exposing the Drama, Richness, and Contrasting Values of Black.” *Culture Type*, October 22.  
Corwin, William. “Going Beyond Geometry: James Little’s Social Abstraction.” *Arcade Project*, August 15.  
Sheets, Hilarie M. “Color and Design Matter. So Does Optimism.” *New York Times*, March 19.
- 2019 Kistner, Matthew. “Interview: James Little Talks ‘The Shape of Abstraction: Selections from the Ollie Collection’ at Saint Louis Art Museum.” *ReviewSTL*, October 23.  
Duff, Gary. “A Curator Finds Inspiration In Abstract Expressionism at The American Fine Arts Society Gallery.” *Gotham*, April 3.  
Corwin, William. “ArtSeen: New York-Centric.” *Brooklyn Rail*, March 5.
- 2018 *Color / Line / Form*, Rosenbaum Contemporary
- 2017 Brooks, Leronn P. “James Little by LeRonn P. Brooks.” *BOMB*, April 19.
- 2013 Panero, James. “Studio Visit: James Little.” *New Criterion*, May 3.
- 2011 McGee, Celia. “Driven to Abstraction.” *ARTnews*, January 1.

# Petzel

- 2009 Cotter, Holland. "NY Times Art in Review: James Little." *New York Times*, June 5.  
La Rocco, Benjamin. "James Little with Benjamin La Rocco." *Brooklyn Rail*, May 1.
- 2007 Harithas, James. *James Little: Untold Stories*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art.
- 2005 N’Namdi, George, Al Loving, Robert Costa, Horace Brockington, Robert C. Morgan, and James Harithas. *James Little: Reaching for the Sky*. G.R. N’Namdi Gallery.
- 1981 Kingsley, April, *Afro-American Abstraction*.

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock  
AT&T, New York and Florida  
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse  
Gucci Corporation, Boston  
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
Maatschappij Arti Et Amicitiae, Amsterdam  
Memphis Academy of Art, Memphis  
Menil Collection, Houston  
Moody Arts Center, Rice University, Houston  
Mutual of New York Assurance Company, New York  
New Jersey State Museum, Trenton  
Newark Museum, Newark  
Occidental Petroleum Company, Aberdeen  
Phillips/Schwab Inc., New York  
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis  
Sherbourne, Powers and Needham, Inc., Boston  
State University of New York at Albany, Albany  
Stephen Mallory Associates, New York  
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York  
Tennessee State Museum, Nashville  
The Twentieth Century Fund, New York  
U.N.C. Ventures, Boston  
Veryss Corporation, Boston  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York