Ferrari Sheppard
Biography

Ferrari Sheppard was born in Chicago in 1983. He lives and works in LA.

Blurring the lines between abstraction and figuration, the contemporary artist Ferrari Sheppard creates mid to large scale paintings celebrating the humanity of Black people in the Americas and within the diaspora. The Los Angeles based artist was born in Chicago and lived in various cities in Africa. His paintings are influenced by memories and lived experience, evoking a sense of nostalgia.

Sheppard's approach to figuration heralds a new visual language, with large acrylic, charcoal, and 24k gold on canvas conveying movement and emotion through his confident brushstrokes and distinctive use of color. His abstract practice brings forth irregularities in each work giving the viewer a sense of activity and excitement. Evocative titles are used in a poetic manner to reflect deeper meanings and cultural references. The abstracted figures are created with an intuitive balance between subtle idiosyncrasies and intentional opacity, holding space for the complexity and expansiveness within each individual being.

Sheppard often incorporates gold leaf adding an iconographical effect throughout his work, catching light and accentuating presence within in his work. As writer Kristina Kay Robinson notes: 'In Bond, we behold a Black Madonna and her golden child. The charcoal and gold work together as earthly material creating a texture and dimension to the visual universe presented. Again, we are reminded of the fierce power of love to transform and preserve the human soul through the ebb and flow of time and circumstance. Sheppard's paintings are substantial in size, giving room for their subject matter to expand and make a home for the largeness of their narratives and implications. This work reflects profoundly on the emotional and intellectual interiority of the figures portrayed. It grapples with the fates of African and Indigenous peoples all over the world and is a welcome and necessary addition to the galaxy of contemporary art'.

Solo exhibitions

2024

2024 - Ferrai Sheppard: Modality, MASSIMODECARLO, Hong Kong, PRC

2023

2023 - TBT, Villa Torlonia, Roma, I

2022

2022 - Positions of Power, UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles, USA
2022 - Dark Bodies Bright Crest, Maruani Mercier, Brussels, B
2022 - Walking together, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F
2022 - Tremendous, MASSIMODECARLO, London, UK

2020

2020 - Heroines of Innocence, Wilding Cran Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

Group exhibitions

2025

2025 - Los Angeles, Give Me a Miracle: Benefit Show for Ruby Neri, MASSIMODECARLO, London, UK

2024

2024 - A Drawing A Day, MASSIMODECARLO Seoul Studio, Seoul, ROK
2024 - West Bund Art & Design, Shanghai, PRC

2022

2022 - Interscope Reimagined, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
2022 - La Vie en Rose, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Chicago, USA

2021

2021 - Where to begin…, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Paris, F

2020

2020 - Black Voices/Black Microcosm, CF HILL, Stockholm, S
2020 - MoAD Benefit Auction, MoAD, San Francisco, USA
2020 - Drawn Together, Unit, London, UK

2018

2018 - Pigment International, Miami Reveal, Miami, USA