

# CHARMAINE WATKISS

b. 1964, London

Lives and works in London

## EDUCATION

- 2018 MA Drawing, UAL Wimbledon College of Art
- 2015 UAL Art and Design Foundation, City Literary Institute
- 1994 BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice, University of Westminster

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2008 Discovering Voices, ICA Cultural Leadership Programme, Institute of Contemporary Art

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 (Upcoming) *Salon*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, West Palm Beach, Florida, USA  
(Upcoming) *The things we hold sacred*, The New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK  
*From the ones who came before...*, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Exeter, UK
- 2024 *Charmaine Watkiss: Legacy*, Abbot Hall Museum, Kirkland, Kendal, UK
- 2022 *Charmaine Watkiss: The Wisdom Tree*, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, UK
- 2021 *The Seed Keepers*, Tiwani Contemporary, Cromwell Place, London, UK

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Becoming America: How Science Shaped a Nation*, The Science Museum, London, UK  
*Roots En Route*, Southnord Art Fest, Kaisaniemi Botanic Garden, Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki, Finland  
Salon show, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, West Palm Beach, FL
- 2025 *Plant Dreaming*, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, UK  
*The Land Sings Back*, Drawing Room London, UK  
*Artists First*, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK  
*Hard Graft: Work, health and rights*, Wellcome Collection, London, UK  
*Earthbound*, The New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK  
*Spirit in the land*, Cummer Museum, Jacksonville, FL  
*Conversations*, Walker Art Gallery Liverpool, UK

- 2024      *Reverb*, Stephen Friedman Gallery London, UK  
*Allegory*, Royal West of England Academy (RWA), Bristol, UK  
*RA Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Art, London, UK  
*Drawing Attention*, Hartlepool Art Gallery, Hartlepool, UK  
*Spirit in the Land*, Perez Museum Miami, FL  
*Drawing Room Biennial*, Tannery Way, Bermondsey, London, UK  
*In Praise of Black Errantry*, Palazzo Pisani S. Marina, Venice, Italy  
*Drawing Attention*, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Litchfield Street, Wolverhampton, UK
- 2023      *1-54 Presents Transatlantic Connections: Caribbean Narratives in Contemporary Art* (curated by caryl ivrisse crochemar & creative renegades society), Christies London, UK  
*Liverpool Biennial - uMoya: The sacred return of lost things*, Khanyisile Mbongwa  
*O Quilombismo*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin, Germany  
*Spirit in the Land*, Nasher Museum at Duke University, USA  
*Your Presence Does Not Escape Me: Charmaine Watkiss, Delita Martin, Tessa Mars*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK
- 2022      *Drawing Attention: emerging British Artists*, British Museum, London, UK  
*The Company She Keeps*, Tiwani Contemporary, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2021      *RA Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Art, London, UK  
*To The Edge of Time*, KU Leuven Libraries, Leuven, Belgium  
*Breakfast Under the Tree* (curated by Russel Tovey), Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate, UK  
*Drawing Biennial 2021*, Drawing Room, London, UK
- 2020      *The Abstract Truth of Things*, Tiwani Contemporary Gallery, London, UK  
*Me, Myself and I*, Collyer Bristow Gallery, London, UK  
*Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize*, The Gallery, De Montford University, Leicester, UK  
*Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize*, 66 Orchard Place, London, UK
- 2019      *Thinking Graphite*, Drawing Projects UK, Wiltshire, UK  
*Figure This!*, Thames Side Studios Gallery, London, UK  
*Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize*, Salisbury Museum, Wiltshire  
*Out of Darkness*, St John on Bethnal Green, London, UK
- 2018      *Wimbledon College of Art MA Degree Show*, Merton Hall, London, UK  
*Against Static* (curated by Tania Kovats), Wimbledon Space, London, UK  
*Lumen Residency Exhibition*, Crypt Gallery, London, UK
- 2017      *New Perspectives*, The Centre for Recent Drawing, London, UK  
*She Says*, Nolia's Gallery, Bankside, London, UK  
*Same Difference*, The ArtSpace, Cass Art Kingston, London, UK  
*East Wing Collective Group Show*, Menier Gallery, London, UK
- 2016      *Art At The Bridge #7*, Tower Bridge Engine Rooms, London, UK

## AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

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| 2024 | Sloane Lab Fellowship, 2024 cohort. Natural History Museum and the British Museum, UK. Subject: <i>Investigating ancestral cures: herbs and healing traditions of the transatlantic Caribbean</i> |
| 2023 | Invited Academician Royal West of England Academy (RWA), Bristol, UK                                                                                                                              |
| 2022 | Launch Pad LaB Residency, La Boissière, Southwest France                                                                                                                                          |
| 2020 | Shortlisted for 198 Gallery Women of Colour Award                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2019 | Shortlisted for the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize                                                                                                                                              |
| 2017 | Lumen Residency, Atina, Italy                                                                                                                                                                     |

## PRESS

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| 2024 | <i>Charmaine Watkiss: Legacy</i> - Review - Corridor8<br>"A tapestry of new possibilities..." <i>Charmaine Watkiss: Legacy</i> reviewed – The Double Negative magazine                                                                                                                      |
| 2023 | <i>The Winds of Past and Present (Liverpool Biennial)</i> – Artists Responding To... magazine<br><i>Women artists shaping British art</i> , written by Shasti Lowton - Gov/Art/Col                                                                                                          |
| 2022 | <i>Review of The Wisdom Tree</i> - The Double Negative Magazine<br><i>Artlyst Interview of the month</i> , written by Paul Carey-Kent – Artlyst<br><i>Contemporary Art Society has acquired two paintings by Charmaine Watkiss for Abbot Hall, Lakeland Arts</i> – Contemporary Art Society |
| 2021 | <i>The Seed Keepers</i> , commissioned article by Victoria Adukwei Bulley – Tiwani Contemporary<br><i>Charmaine Watkiss on reconstructing the image of black womanhood</i> – Freize magazine<br><i>Pick of October '21 Essential Artists</i> – Elephant Magazine                            |
| 2020 | <i>Review: The Abstract Truth of Things</i> – Eye on Art<br><i>Review: The Abstract Truth of Things</i> , written by Aida Amoako – Freize magazine                                                                                                                                          |

## PUBLICATIONS

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| 2026 | <i>Art and the Critical Medical Humanities</i> , Fiona Johnstone, Allison Morehead and Imogen Wiltshire (editors) - Bloomsbury Publishing<br><i>The Primacy of Drawing</i> , Deanna Petherbridge - Thames and Hudson |
| 2025 | <i>Black Earth Rising</i> , Ekow Eshun - Thames and Hudson                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2024 | <i>Crafted Kinship</i> , Malene Barnett - Hachette<br><i>FUKT Magazine</i> , #22 The Nature Issue                                                                                                                    |
| 2023 | <i>Spirit in the Land</i> , Trevor Schoonmaker - Duke University Press                                                                                                                                               |
| 2021 | <i>Big Bang Imagining The Universe</i> , Hannibal Books<br><i>Vitamin D3: Today's Best in Contemporary Drawing</i> , Phaidon                                                                                         |
| 2019 | <i>Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize Catalogue</i> , edited by Anita Taylor                                                                                                                                           |

## COLLECTIONS

The British Museum, London, UK

The Wellcome Collection, UK

Leeds Art Gallery, UK

The Government Art Collection, UK

Cartwright Hall Museum, Bradford, UK

Abbot Hall Museum, Kendal, UK

Nasher Museum at Duke University, NC, USA

Holburne Museum Bath, UK

Lincoln Museum Lincoln, UK

Katrin Bellinger Collection, UK

Harry David Art Collection

International private collections