Ellen Gallagher Biography

Born in 1965, Providence, RI.
Lives and works in New York, NY and Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Education:

1993       Skowhegan School of Art, Skowhegan, ME.
1992       School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.
1989       Studio 70, Ft. Thomas, KY.
1986–87  S.E.A. (Sea Education Association), Woods Hole, MA.
1982–84  Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH.

Solo Exhibitions:

2022  Ellen Gallagher with Edgar Cleijne. Centro Botín Centre, Santander, Spain; travels to Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid, Spain.
Ellen Gallagher with Edgar Cleijne: Liquid Intelligence. WIELS, Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels.
Are We Obsidian? Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL. 
Ellen Gallagher: Nu-Nile. CAPRI, Düsseldorf, Germany.
2017  Accidental Records. Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles, CA.
AxME. Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany.  
2013  ice or Salt. SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA.  
Ellen Gallagher: Don’t Axe Me. New Museum, New York, NY.  
Moby Dick. CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA.
2007  Ellen Gallagher: Coral Cities. Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, England; traveled to Dublin City Gallery; Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.
DeLuxe. Hauser & Wirth Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland.
2004
Ellen Gallagher. Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck, Austria.
Preserve/Murmur (with Edgar Cleijne). Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA.
2003
Murmur (with Edgar Cleijne). Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin, Germany.
POMP-BANG. Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO.
2001
Watery Ecstatic. ICA, Boston, MA. Traveled to Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia (through 2002).
Preserve. Des Moines Art Center, IA; traveled to Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; Drawing Center, New York (through 2002).
Blubber. Gagosian Gallery West 24th Street, New York, NY.
2000
Murmur – Drawings from the series Watery Ecstatic; Murmur—Animation. Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin, Germany.
1999
Ellen Gallagher. Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston, MA.
1998
1996
1994
Ellen Gallagher. Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston, MA.

Group Exhibitions:

2021
Daydreams and Nightmares. Gagosian, online.
Invisible Sun. The Broad, Los Angeles, CA.
Mirrors and Windows. Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf, Germany.
Icons. Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium.
2020
1 Million Roses for Angela Davis. Kunsthalle im Lipsiusblau, Dresden, Germany.
UNTITLED 2020. Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy.
La rivoluzione siamo noi. Collezionismo italiano contemporaneo. XNL Piacenza Contemporanea, Piacenza, Italy.
Gagosian

2019

Beyond Infinity: Contemporary Art After Kusama, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA.
World Exhibition. Johann Jacobs Museum, Zürich, Switzerland.
Straying from the Line. Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin, Germany.
Black models: from Géricault to Matisse. Musée d’Orsay, Paris, France.

2018

Graphic Revolution: American Prints 1960 to Now. Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO.
Posing Modernity: The Black Model from Manet to Matisse and Beyond. Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University, New York, NY; traveling to Musée d’Orsay, Paris, France.
Histórias afro-atlânticas. Museu de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil.
Chaos and Awe: Painting for the 21st Century. Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN; travelling to the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA.
Praying for Time. Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.
Generations Female Artists in Dialog Part 1. Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany.

2017

ICA Collection: Entangled in the Everyday. Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA.
Prospect 4. Prospect New Orleans, New Orleans, LA.
We Are Everywhere. Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL.
Elements of Vogue. Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid, Spain.
I am you, you are too. The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.
Diaspora Pavilion. Palazzo Pisani a Santa Marina, Venice, Italy.
The Absent Museum. Wiels, Brussels, Belgium.
Power. Sprüth Magers, Los Angeles CA.
The Beguiling Siren is Thy Crest. Museum of Modern Art Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland.
La vie aquatique. Musée régional d’art contemporain, Sérignan, France.

2016

Creature. The Broad, Los Angeles, CA.
First Light: The Barbara Lee Collection of Art by Women. Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA.
Her Crowd: New Art by Women from Our Neighbors’ Private Collections. Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT.

Blacksness in Abstraction. Pace Gallery, New York, NY.


MashUp: The Birth of Modern Culture. Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada.

Black Pulp! 32 Edgewood Avenue Gallery, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT; traveled to Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT; Contemporary Art Museum at the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL; International Print Center, New York, NY.

Racial Violence and Resilience. Auckland Museum, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

Audacious: Contemporary Artists Speak Out. Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO.

2015

Random Sampling – Painting from the Goetz Collection. Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany.


Das Als-ob-Prinzip (The as-if-principle). Magazin4 — Bregenzer Kunstverein, Bregenz, Austria.

The Bottom Line. Stedelijk Museum Voor Actuele Kunst (SMAK), Gent, Belgium.

All the World’s Futures. 56th International Art Exhibition, Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy.

Speaking Back. Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

Cape Whale: A New Look Through Art, Science and Culture. SEASpace Gallery, Provincetown, MA.


This Is No Less Curious: Journeys Through the Collection. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.


Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s. Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ; traveled to Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, GA; University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI; Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

Collecting and Sharing: Trevor Fairbhorther, John T. Kirk and the Hood Museum of Art. Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

2014

Civil Rights. Void, Derry, Ireland.

Speaking of People. Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY.

Under Pressure. Contemporary Prints from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation. Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA.


2013

FLAG’s 5th Anniversary Group Exhibition. FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY.

The Shadows Took Shape. Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.

In the Cut. Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. Southbank, Australia.

2012

The Living Years: Art After 1989. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN (through 2013).
The Master Printer and the Collaborative Process: Conversations from the Print Studio. International Print Center, New York, NY.
Under Pressure. Contemporary Prints from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation. Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE.
Medals of Dishonour. State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia.
La Triennale. Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France.

2011

AD LIB. Gagosian Gallery, Beverly Hills, CA.
After Hours: Murals on the Bowery. Art Production Fund in Collaboration with the New Museum, New York, NY.
Six Yards Guaranteed Dutch Design. Museum of Modern Art, Arnhem, the Netherlands (through 2012).
Pace Prints Chelsea: Publisher Spotlight. LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies, Columbia University School of the Arts, New York, NY.
Cleijne + Gallagher, Curry, Höller, Huyghe, Kusama, Warhol, Wright. Gagosian Gallery, Beverly Hills, CA.
Wunder. Diechtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany (through 2012).

2010

Afro Modern: Journeys through the Black Atlantic. Centro Galego de arte Contemporanea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
Brune/Blonde: Une exposition Arts et Cinéma. La Cinematheque francaise, Paris, France.
Afro Modern: Journeys through the Black Atlantic. Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, England.
Disquieted: Contemporary Voices from out of the Shadows. Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR.
Huckleberry Finn. CCA Wattis Institute of Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA.
Ab / Fig. William Shearburn Gallery, Saint Louis, MO.
Les Mutantes/ I Mutanti. Villa Medici, Rome, Italy.


Take me to your leader! The Great Escape Into Space. National Museum of Art, Oslo, Norway.

elles@centrepompidou. Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France (through 2010).


Artist Rooms. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Scotland.


Der Schmerz sitzt tief/ The Pain Runs Deep. Stiftung Opelvillen, Russelsheim, Germany.


Connect the Dots...The Warhol Legacy: Tom Friedman, Ellen Gallagher, Vik Muniz, Rob Pruitt. University Museum of Contemporary Art, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

Moby-Dick. CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA.

Exposed! – Revealing Sources in Contemporary Art. Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE.

Constellations: Paintings from the MCA Collection. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.

Topographies. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.


For What You Are About To Receive. Gagosian Gallery/Red October Chocolate Factory, Moscow, Russia.

Paper Trail II: Passing Through Clouds. Rose Art Museum, Waltham, MA.


Attention to Detail. FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY.


Collection Highlights. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.

Contemporary Art from the Harvard University Art Museums. Fogg Museum, Cambridge, MA.

Paper Trail: A Decade of Acquisitions. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.


Heart of Darkness. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.

Naturalia. Unosunove Art Contemporanea, Rome, Italy.

Contemporary Masterworks: St. Louis Collects. Contemporary Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO.

Skin is a Language. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

Black Panther Rank and File. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA.

Having New Eyes. Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO.

Selections from the LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies, Columbia University. Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY.

Infinite Painting. Contemporary Painting and Global Realism. Villa Manin Centre for Contemporary Art, Codroipo, Italy.

See into Liquid. Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO.

The Fluidity of Time: Selections from the MCA Collection. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL (through 2006).


Figures of thinking. Convergences in Contemporary Cultures. Richard E. Peeler Art Center, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN.

Works on Paper. Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin, Germany.

90-Day Loans. From the Broad Art Foundation and the Ovitz Family Collection. Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ.

Looking at Words. Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, NY.


Sets, Series, and Suites: Contemporary Prints. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.


Non Taccare la Donna Bianca. Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy.

Disparities and Deformations: Our Grotesque. SITE Santa Fe’s Fifth International Biennial: (curated by Robert Storr), SITE Santa Fe, NM (through 2005).


Fabulism. Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE.

Silvia Bächli, Ellen Gallagher, Jana Sterbak. Barbara Gross Galerie, Munich, Germany.


Keys to the Koop. Humor and Satire in Contemporary Printmaking. Boise Art Museum, Boise, ID.


Copy It, Steal It, Share It (curated by Michele Thursz). Borusan Culture and Art Center, Istanbul, Turkey.


Black Belt. Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.

50th International Art Exhibition (directed by Francesco Bonami). Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy.

...and der Wand. Barbara Gross Galerie, Munich, Germany.

Cartoon Noir: Contemporary Investigations. Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
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2001

From Rembrandt to Rauschenberg, Building the Collection. Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
The Mystery of Painting. Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany.

2000


KIN. Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.


Visual Memoirs: Selected Paintings and Drawings. Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

American Artists. Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

1999

(Corps) Social. École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France.

Negotiating Small Truths. Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX.
Collectors Collect Contemporary: 1990–99. Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston. MA.

1998

Cinco Continentes y una Ciudad. Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico.


Postcards from Black America. De Beyerd Centre of Contemporary Art, Breda, the Netherlands.

Half Dust. IMMA Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland.

1997


The Body of Painting. Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston, MA.

T-Race. Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago, IL.


1996


1995

Altered States. Forum for Contemporary Art, Saint Louis, MO.


Degrees of Abstraction. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.

1994

Airborne/Earthbound. Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston, MA.

In Context. Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA.

1993

Traveling Scholars’ Exhibit. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.

Artists Select. Artists Space, New York, NY.
Gagosian

African American Perspectives. Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

1992
Autopia. Akin Gallery, Boston, MA.
Faces. Clark Gallery, Lincoln, MA.
Salon. Akin Gallery, Boston, MA.
Word and Images. Boston Public Library, Boston, MA.
Symphony of Prosperity. Akin Gallery, Boston, MA.

Awards and Fellowships

2001 Medal of Honor, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.
2000 American Academy Award in Art.
1996 MacDowell Colony, NH.
1995 Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center Fellow, Provincetown, MA.
1993 Traveling Scholar Award, School of MFA, Boston, MA.
Ann Gund Scholarship, Skowhegan School of Art, Skowhegan, ME.

Public Collections:

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
Bowes Foundation, San Francisco, CA.
Broad Family Foundation, Los Angeles, CA.
Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO.
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA.
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI.
Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany.
Irish Museum of Modern Art — IMMA, Dublin, Ireland.
Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX.
Joslyn Museum of Art, Omaha, NE.
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.
Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA.
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada.
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA.
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.
Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MI.
Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany.
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA.
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA.
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY.
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.  
Ellen Gallagher Selected Bibliography

Books and Catalogues:

2021


2020


2019


2018


2017


2016


2015


2014  

2013  

2012  

2011  

2010  
Rowe, Matthew (et al.). *Underwater*. Eastbourne: Towner.  
2009

2008

2007

2006

2005

2004

2003

2002

2001

---------. *The Mystery of Painting*. Munich: Sammlung Goetz.
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2000

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1995

1994

Selected Articles and Reviews:

2021

2020

2019

2018
---. “Kanske är afrofuturismen vår enda möjlighet.” Expressen, Apr. 27.
Bradshaw, Joseph. “I-10 corridor inspires artwork at the CAC.” The Times-Picayune, Feb. 9.
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2017


2016


2015


2014


2013


2012


2011


2010


2009


2008

Latimer, Quinn, Ellen Gallagher. Modern Painters, Mar.

2007

Abbe, Mary. “Art on and off the walls.” Minneapolis Star Tribune, Mar 22.
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Bonetti, David. “Bombshells Exhibits here show the fascination we have with blondes.” St. Louis Post Dispatch, Dec 16.

Budick, Ariella. “In the style of comics but none of the humor.” Newsday, Mar 16.

Key, Philip. “New Exhibition explores the realities and myths surrounding slavery.” Liverpool Daily Post, Jan 19.


2006

Graham, Renee. “Artist Ellen Gallagher proves that beauty is more than skin deep.” Essence, Jul.


2005


Cliff, Michelle. “Oblique Brilliance.” Parkett, No. 73, cover, 16-31.


Goodeve, Thyrza Nichols. “The History Lesson: Flesh is a texture as much as a color.” Parkett, No. 73, cover, 39-55.


Winston, Sherri. “Some Original Ideas on Beauty.” Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL), 1E, Mar 9.

Turner, Elisa. “No one can outwit — or out-wig — vintage advertisements for wigs quite the way Ellen Gallagher does.” Miami Herald, 7, Feb 27.


2004


Gallagher, Ellen with Suzanne P. Hudson. “1,000 Words: Ellen Gallagher Talks about Pomp-Bang, 2003.” Artforum, cover, 128-131, Apr.


-----------. Joslyn Exhibits Features Five Artists.” Omaha World Herald, 6, Jan 29.


2003


2002


2001


2000


Shave, Stuart. “Ellen Gallagher.” i-D, May.
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Coomer, Martin. Modern Painters.

1999
Fricke, Harald. “Jeder Mund is eine kleine Bohne.” Die Tageszeitung, Mar 19.

1998

1997

1996
Tate, Greg. “Ghosting.” Vibe, Mar.

Enwezor, Okwui. *Nka Magazine*, fall/winter.

Duffy, Robert W. "Art of the 90s." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Apr 2.


Stapen, Nancy. “Milena Dopitova at the ICA.” *Flash Art*, No. 177, 37, summer.


