17 BLACK ARTISTS TO KNOW

MARK BRADFORD
Bradford constructs massive works with everyday materials and multiple layers and then digs down to find incredible abstractions.
LEARN MORE: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/22/what-else-can-art-do

MICKALENE THOMAS
Thomas creates huge portraits with acrylic, enamel, and her signature rhinestones, usually with an eye toward art history.
LEARN MORE: https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/arts-and-culture/a29762435/mickalene-thomas-artist-interview/

JULIE MEHRETU
Mehretu creates layered, expressive, and beautiful large-scale paintings of abstracted landscapes.
LEARN MORE: https://art21.org/artist/julie-mehretu/

BETYE SAAR
Saar utilizes assemblage, printmaking, and a lot of storytelling in her work that highlights politics and directly fights racism.
LEARN MORE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7CFz9xzhIM

NICK CAVE
Cave is a joyful artist who works with sound, music, sculpture, and more.
LEARN MORE: https://publicdelivery.org/nick-cave-soundsuits/

RASHID JOHNSON
Johnson works with 2D and 3D materials, installations, and videos dealing with racial and cultural identity and contemporary issues.
LEARN MORE: https://art21.org/artist/rashid-johnson/

SAM GILLIAM
Gilliam pushes the envelope with painting and fibers, creating gorgeous tapestries that blur the line between 2D and 3D work.
LEARN MORE: https://americanart.si.edu/artist/sam-gilliam-1811

KARA WALKER
Walker creates room-size black paper silhouettes that explore issues of race, identity, violence, sexuality, and gender.
LEARN MORE: https://walkerart.org/collections/artists/kara-walker
CARRIE MAE WEEMS
Weems is one of the most incredible photographers in art history.
LEARN MORE: http://carriemaeweems.net/bio.html

KEHINDE WILEY
Wiley designs beautiful, hyperrealistic portraits that celebrate black identity and culture while critiquing art history.
LEARN MORE: https://kehindewiley.com/

MARTIN PURYEAR
Puryear is a sculptor who works within the traditions of craft but challenges materials to create unique, evocative sculptures.
LEARN MORE: https://art21.org/artist/martin-puryear/

TATYANA FAZLALIZADEH
Fazlalizadeh produces thought-provoking street art and portraits, including her campaign Stop Telling Women to Smile.
LEARN MORE: http://tlynnfaz.com/

MAYA FREELON
Freelon uses tissue paper, texture, and color to compose wonderfully vibrant works.
LEARN MORE: https://www.mayafreelon.com/

FAITH RINGGOLD
Ringgold paints, writes, sculpts, incorporates mixed media and creates iconic quilts, including Tar Beach.
LEARN MORE: https://www.faithringgold.com/

GLENN LIGON
Ligon is a conceptual artist who deals with race and sexuality, bringing in elements of language, literature, and history.
LEARN MORE: http://www.glennligonstudio.com/

AMY SHERALD
Sherald breaks tradition with her unique style of portraiture.

KERRY JAMES MARSHALL
Marshall creates paintings that capture the black experience from the civil rights movement up to contemporary culture.