

Thedra Cullar-Ledford

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Represented by Heidi Vaughan Fine Art, Houston and Prince Street Gallery, NYC

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Christ Church, Oxford University
Ruskin School of Drawing
& Fine Art Oxford, UK
MA, Printmaking/Sculpture May 1994

California College of Arts
& Crafts Oakland, CA
BFA cum laude, Painting May 1992

Booker T. Washington High
School of the Visual & Performing
Arts Dallas, TX May 1988

Solo Exhibitions

Still-to-be-named solo exhibition
at Heidi Vaughan Fine Art,
Houston, TX, January, 2023

"Smells Like Good Times" Prince
Street Gallery, New York, NY, June,
2021. Curator: Bill Arning

"Dollies and Villains" at Vaughan
Mason Fine Art, Houston, Houston
TX, September - October, 2020.

"Endollenations" at Ivy Brown Gallery,
New York NY, February - March 2019

"Accoutrements" at Vaughan
Mason Fine Art, Houston, Houston
TX, September - October, 2018.

"Right Here, Right Now: Thedra
Cullar-Ledford" at Contemporary Arts
Museum Houston, Houston TX, August
- December, 2016. Curator: Bill Arning

"Drawing the Eye to Nothingness" G
Gallery, Houston, TX, April - May 2015

"Small Stains, Big Problems"
Independence Art Studios,
Houston TX, December 2013

"Living Dolls" New Gallery, Houston,
January – February 2012

"Domicile" Thomas Werner
Gallery New York, New York,
September – October 2003

"Biometrica" McClain Gallery
Houston, Texas July – August 2002

"Other People's Lives" Lawndale Art
Center Houston, Texas April 2000

"Encase: To Wrap Up in
Something Solid" Robert McClain
& Co. Fine Arts Houston, Texas
November – December 1998

"Solo Exhibition" Robert McClain
& Co. Fine Arts Houston, Texas,
October – November 1997

"Contain, Order, Move: The Box as
Fundamental Form" Lawndale Art
and Performance Center Houston,
Texas January – March 1997

"Solo Collection" Ruskin
School of Drawing and Fine Art
Oxford, England May 1993

"Cradle to the Grave" Freud's London
London, England, March 1993

"Cradle to the Grave" Freud's Oxford,
Oxford, England, November 1992

Group Exhibitions

Bill Arning Exhibitions booth
at Outsider Art Fair, New
York, NY, March, 2023

"Transcending" Heidi Vaughan Fine
Art, Houston TX, October 2022

"Right Response" Hardy & Nance
Studios, Houston TX, September 2022

"Inside the Loop" Heidi Vaughan Fine
Art, Houston TX, December 2021

"2020 Biennale: More is More"
Contemporary Art Museum Plainview,
Plainview, Texas, March 2020

"No Trigger Warnings" Bill Arning
Exhibitions at Flatland Gallery,
Houston, Texas, October, 2019

"Powerful Vulnerable" curated by
Mary Magsamen at Aurora Picture
Show, Houston TX, September 2019

"Texas Extravagant Drawing"
Fiendish Plots, Lincoln, Nebraska,
September - October 2019

"bOObs-Wir zeigen Brust" Karl
Oskar Gallery, Berlin, Germany,
February - March 2019

"P-Town Babies" Art Market
Provincetown, Provincetown,
MA, September - Spring 2019

"Art Exhibition of the 2017 National
Women's Conference" University of
Houston, Houston TX, November 2017

"St. Valentine" Zoya Tommy Gallery,
Houston TX, February - March 2017

"Cleave: Thedra Cullar-Ledford and
Charise Isis" Nicole Longnecker Gallery,
Houston TX, August - October 2016

"Powerful Babies: Keith Haring's
Impact on Artists Today" at
Spiritmuseum, Stockholm Sweden,
September 2015 - April 2016.
Curators: Bill Arning and Rick Herron

"Confluence" G Gallery,
Houston TX, January 2014

"Hullabaloo: Holiday ShaBang!"
gallery HOMELAND, Houston TX,
December 2013 - January 2014.
Curator: Paul Middendorf

"Spring Introduction" Avis
Frank Gallery, Houston
TX, March 2013 – April 2013

"10 Houston Artists: An Invasion of
Space for 2011 Contemporary Art
Month" Hilton Palacio Del Rio San
Antonio, Texas March 2011 Curator:
Wayne Gilbert, G Gallery, Houston, TX

"H2O Houston to Hyderabad" Muse
Gallery Hyderabad, India January 2011
– February 2011 Curator: Rahul Mitra

"Five Texas Artists: A Portrait Series"
Enid Street Gallery Houston, Texas
December 2010 – January 2011
Curator: Felix Sanchez, Houston, TX

"Red Velvet" Vine Street Studios,
organized by Rudolph Projects
Houston, Texas June 2007 – July
2007 Curator: Volker Eisele,
ArtScan Gallery Houston, TX

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"Book Works" Galveston Arts Center
Galveston, TX January 2007 – March
2007 Curator: Clint Willour

"Texas Dialogues: Houston-San
Antonio" Blue Star Art Space
San Antonio, Texas December
2001 – January 2002

"Small Works" McClain Gallery
Houston, Texas December 2001

"Daily Life" ArtScan Gallery
Houston, Texas September 2001

"Sculpture 2000" Robert McClain & Co.
Fine Arts Houston, Texas June 2000

"Urban Girls" El Museo Francisco
Oller y Diego Rivera Buffalo,
New York April – May 2000

"Mania Art Car Museum" Houston,
Texas December 1999 – January 2000

"Dadayou Dadahou" ArtScan Gallery
Houston, Texas September 1999

"Little Treasures" Robert McClain
& Co. Fine Arts Houston,
Texas December 1997

"Revelation" Dallas Visual Arts
Center Dallas, Texas December
1997 – February 1998 Curator: Diana
Block, Director, University Art Gallery,
University of North Texas, Denton

"Open Door Arts Fest" The Art Center
of Waco Waco, Texas October 1997

"Talented Americans" The Art
League of Houston Houston, Texas
October – November 1997 Curator:
Kelly Klassmeyer, artist and critic

"Spirit in the Flesh" Stuart Levy Gallery
New York, New York June – July 1996

"Edith Lambert Gallery" Edith
Lambert Gallery Santa Fe, New
Mexico November – December 1994

"Final Collections" Ruskin
School of Drawing and Fine Art
Oxford, England July 1994

"House Work" Christ Church
Picture Gallery Oxford, England
February – March 1994

"Ruskin Exhibition" Byam Shaw School
London, England February 1993

"Ruskin School Exhibition" Christ
Church Upper Library Oxford,
England February 1993

"Group Collection" Ruskin School
of Drawing and Fine Art Oxford,
England December 1993
"Senior Show" 1992 Tecoa
Bruce Gallery, Oliver Arts Center
Oakland, California May 1992

Juried Exhibitions

"Seattle Erotic Art Festival" Seattle
Center, Seattle, Washington, April 2017

"SITE Houston" The Silos on
Sawyer, Houston, Texas, November
2015 - February 2016, Jurors: Bill
Arning, Director of the Contemporary
Arts Museum Houston and Jillian
Conrad, professor of sculpture
at the University of Houston.

"2010 Big Show" Lawndale
Art Center Houston, Texas July
-August, 2010 Jurors: Paul
Middendorf, Co-Director for gallery
HOMELAND, Portland, Oregon

"2000 Critic's Choice" Dallas Visual
Art Center Dallas, Texas June – July
2000 Jurors: Sara Kellner, Director of
DiverseWorks, Houston; Carla Stellweg,
Director of Blue Star Art Space, San
Antonio, and Chris Cowden, Director
of Women and Their Work, Austin

"Transcending Limits" Jones Center for
Contemporary Art Austin, Texas April
1999 – April 2001 Toured through Texas
Jurors: Don Bacigalupi, Director of the
Blaffer Gallery, Houston and Michael
Ray Charles, artist and professor at
the University of Texas at Austin

"The 173rd Annual Exhibition"
National Academy Museum New
York, New York April 1998

"New American Talent: The Thirteenth
Exhibition" (prize awarded) Texas
Fine Art Association Austin, Texas
Sept. 1997 – Sept. 1999 Tour through
Texas (Univ. of North Texas Art Gallery,
Blue Star Art Space, San Antonio,
Jones Center for Contemporary Art,
Austin Juror: Robert Storr, Curator,
Dept. of Painting and Sculpture,
Museum of Modern Art, New York
"Women's Work" A.I.R. Gallery, New
York, New York June – July 1996
Juror: Charlotta Kotik, Curator of
20th Century Art, Brooklyn Museum

"New American Talent: The
Twelfth Exhibition" Texas Fine Art
Association, Austin, Texas June 1996 –
July 1998 Tour through Texas (Univ. of
North Texas Art Gallery, Blue Star Art
Space, San Antonio, Austin Museum
of Art, Austin, Texas A&M University Art
Gallery, College Station, and the Art
League of Houston) Juror: Lisa Phillips,
Curator, Whitney Museum of American
Art, Organizer of '97 Whitney Biennial

"Healing Works" Woman-Made
Gallery, Chicago, Illinois May
1996 Juror: Hollis Sigler, artist

"Bags and Baggage: New Form/New
Function" Arrowmont School of Arts &
Crafts Gatlinburg, Tennessee November
– December 1995 Juror: Ruth
Cloudman, Chief Curator, J.B. Speed
Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky

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"December Competition '95" (prize awarded) Lubbock Fine Arts Center Lubbock, Texas November – December 1995 Juror: Jeffrey Moore, Director Blue Star Art Space, San Antonio, Texas

"11th Annual Competition" Berkeley Art Center Berkeley, California July – August 1995 Jurors: Renny Pritikin, George Rivera, Tere Romo

"North American Sculpture Exhibition" Foothills Art Center Golden, Colorado April – June 1995 Juror: Peter Shelton, artist, Malibu, California

"First Cut" The Cut Gallery London, England July 1994 Selected by Mark Segal, Dealer, London, England

"66th Annual Crocker-Kingsley Exhibition" Crocker Museum Sacramento, California April 1991 Juror: Karen Tsujimoto, Associate Curator, The Oakland Museum

Installations

"Go Big" The George Hotel, College Station TX. Installed October 2017 A wall of 9,000 Texas-themed books arranged to form the Texas flag in the lobby of a newly-built boutique hotel adjacent to the campus of Texas A&M University. Dedicated to former First Lady Barbara Bush in November 2018.

"Obama" Station Museum of Contemporary Art June 2009 Houston, TX

"Hoopla!" Vine Street Studios September 2000 Houston, TX Sculpture/performance piece for Downtown Stomp Around

Hillcrest Professional Development School August 1998 Waco, TX Supervised fabrication and installation of concrete and earth sculpture

The Art Center of Waco October 1997 Waco, TX Installed (and explained) a 450-gallon pool of red jello at Waco's Open Door Arts Fest

Christ Church Upper Library February 1993 Oxford, England Installed exhibit of large prints in a 250-year-old library

Visiting Artist/Residencies

Doe House Residency, Oshkosh, WI, February, 2021

Visiting Artist, St Mary's Calne, Calne, Wiltshire, UK, October 2019

EastOver Residency, Rochester MA, August, September 2019

Herekeke Artist Residency Program, Lama NM, June 2019

Visiting Artist, St Mary's Calne, Calne, Wiltshire, UK, October 2018

Artist Residency, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson VT, February - March 2018

Visiting Artist, St Mary's Calne, Calne, Wiltshire, UK, October 2017

Flat & Fabulous Residency, Berlin Germany September 2015

Hillcrest Professional Development School March 1998 – May 1998 Waco, TX

Taught art and worked with kids to create a permanent outdoor sculpture

HS for the Performing and Visual Arts March 1998 Dallas, TX Taught conceptual sculpture courses and shared professional experiences with high school artists

Texas Commission on the Arts 1997 – 1998 Austin, TX Artists-In-Education program participant

Teaching

Lone Star Community College Adjunct faculty August 2010 - May 2012

Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies at Rice University Lecturer September 2007 - December 2007

The Art Institute of Houston Full-time faculty October 2006 – December 2009

The Art Institute of New York City Full-time faculty January 2003 – October 2005

The Art Institute of Houston Adjunct faculty October 2000 – December 2002

The School of the Austin Museum of Art Part-time teacher June 1996 – October 1998

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Biography

Thedra Cullar-Ledford, the only child of two struggling artists, was born in Abilene, Texas, later moved to Mexico City and then to Eagle Pass, a dusty little noplac on the Texas/Mexico border. At just 16, she was emancipated in order to move to Dallas by herself to attend the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. From there, she received a full scholarship to California College of the Arts where she met Stephen on the very first day. They were married by age 21. She received a BFA cum laude in painting and then attended the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art at Oxford University in the UK for a masters in printmaking and sculpture. The family moved 16 times in 20 years before settling in Houston to establish her practice and build Independence Art Studios which provides studio spaces to other Houston artists. They have two sons (one grown, the other in high school), a dog, two cats, and six chickens.

“Thedra has been one of the biggest personalities and presences on the Houston scene for over a decade. A quintessential bad girl, her humorously aggressive feminist statements and explorations of the perversity of Texas’ masculinist iconography have been widely exhibited and collected. She uses the familiar deformities of plastic doll bodies to speak to the way girls are indoctrinated into their social roles.” Bill Arning, Executive Director, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Things got real in 2013 when, in her attempt to donate a kidney to a friend, she was found to have breast cancer and required a double mastectomy. Suddenly she found herself learning a sociopolitical landscape in which a largely male medical establishment was telling women patients what to do, think, and feel about their bodies. She encountered a community of like-minded breast cancer activists who, in the her words, felt no compunction to reconstruct their bodies to erase their post-surgery differences and thereby allow others ‘the freedom to not think about cancer.’”

“I think as I get further from the intensity of being in the moment of dealing with cancer, it becomes more and more abstract. I can still talk about breast cancer specifically, but I think my work will go back to the same themes I’ve talked about for a while — cultural impositions on women — with unreconstructed breast cancer survivors like myself being Exhibit A of things gone too far.”