

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Melvin Edwards

Born: Houston, Texas, USA, 1937

Lives and works in New York and New Jersey, USA and Dakar, Senegal

Education

1965 BFA, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Solo Exhibitions (selected)

2024

Lots of Work to Do, Alexander Gray Associates, New York

Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany (touring)

2023

B WIRE, BEWARE, ALL WAYS ART, Steel, Paper & Paint, Galerie Buchholz, Berlin, Germany

Lines for the Poet, Alexander Gray Associates, New York

2022

Wire(d) and Chain(ed), Christian-Green Gallery, Austin, Texas

Brighter Days, DeCordova Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts (touring)

Dia Art Foundation, Dia Beacon, New York

2021

Brighter Days, Public Art Fund, City Hall Park, New York (touring)

2020

Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

Crossroads, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, California; and University of Southern California Fisher Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California (touring)

auroras, Museu Nacional da República, Brasília, Brazil and Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo, Brazil (touring)

2019

Crossroads, Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland (touring)

auroras, São Paulo, Brazil; Museu da República, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia (MAM), Salvador, Brazil (touring)

Painted Sculpture, Alexander Gray Associates, New York

2018

Lynch Fragments, Museu de arte de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Melvin Edwards: Festivals, Funerals and New Life, David Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University, Rhode Island

2017

Galerie Buchholz, Berlin, Germany

In Oklahoma, Alexander Gray Associates, New York

2016

Haptic, Alexander Gray Associates, New York

Oklahoma Contemporary, Oklahoma

2015

Five Decades, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas; travels to Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey; and Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio (touring)

Stephen Friedman Gallery

2014

Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris, France
Alexander Gray Associates, New York
Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

2012

Alexander Gray Associates, New York

2010

Sculptures 1964–2010, Alexander Gray Associates, New York

2008

Museu Afrobrasil, São Paulo, Brazil

2005

Georgia Southern University, Georgia
CDS Gallery, New York

2002

Dieu Donne, New York

2001

Hunterdon Museum of Art, New Jersey

2000

Corroborations, Works of the 1990s, CDS Gallery, New York
The Prints of A Sculptor, Jersey City Museum, New Jersey (catalogue)
Conversation with Igun, Bayly Art Museum, University of Virginia, Virginia
Melvin Edwards: Lynch Fragments and Larger Works, Miami University Art Museum, Ohio

1998

Lynch Fragments, Flint Institute of Arts, Michigan

1996

The Way of Fire, CDS Gallery, New York
Lynch Fragments, Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey

1995

Melvin Edwards Sculpture: A Thirty-Year Retrospective 1963–1993, McNay Art Museum, Texas (touring, catalogue)
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indiana
Porter Troupe Gallery, San Diego, California
Parchman Stremmel Gallery, San Antonio, Texas

1994

Melvin Edwards Sculpture: A Thirty-Year Retrospective 1963–1993, Frost Art Museum, Florida; Hood Museum of Art, New Hampshire (touring, catalogue)
Melvin Edwards, CDS Gallery, New York

1993

Melvin Edwards Sculpture: A Thirty-Year Retrospective 1963–1993, Neuberger Museum of Art, New York (touring, catalogue)
Melvin Edwards: Lynch Fragments, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts
Lynch Fragments, CDS Gallery, New York

1992

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Iowa (catalogue)

Stephen Friedman Gallery

The Lynch Fragment Series, Eugene Johnson Gallery of Art, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota (catalogue)

1991

Lynch Fragments: Selected Small Sculptures by Mel Edwards, Hammonds House Galleries and Resource Center of African-American Art, Georgia (catalogue)

Project 1: Melvin Edwards: The "Lynch Fragment Series", Oklahoma City Art Museum on the Fairgrounds, Oklahoma
Sculptures/Drawings, Tomasulo Gallery, New Jersey

1990

Sculpture by Melvin Edwards, Franklin and Marshall College, Pennsylvania

Melvin Edwards Sculpture: Fragments of a Decade 1980–1990, Montclair State College Art Gallery, New Jersey (catalogue)

Melvin Edwards Sculpture, De Luce Gallery Northwest Missouri State University, Montana

Recent Sculpture, CDS Gallery, New York

1989

Sculpture of Melvin Edwards, Korn Gallery, Madison College, New Jersey

Memories Forming the Future: Sculpture of Melvin Edwards, Colgate University, New York

Melvin Edwards Sculpture, Extension Gallery, New Jersey

1986

Mel Edwards Sculpture, Atrium Gallery, Connecticut

1985

Lynch Fragment Series, Robeson Center Gallery, New Jersey

The Sculpture of Mel Edwards, Atrium Gallery, Connecticut

Drawings, Monoprints, and Maquettes by Melvin Edwards, Jersey City Museum, New Jersey

1984

The Sculpture of Melvin Edwards, UNESCO, Paris, France

1983

Drawings for Southern Sunrise, Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina

1982

The Sculpture of Melvin Edwards, Sculpture Center Gallery, New York

1981

Sculpture by Mel Edwards, New Jersey State Museum, New Jersey

1980

Recent Sculpture, Fragments, and Larger Works, 55 Mercer Gallery, New York

Sculpture by Mel Edwards, Lusaka, Zambia American Cultural Center, Kenya, Africa

YM-YMHA Greene Lane, Union, New Jersey

1979

Johnson Atelier, Trenton, New Jersey

1978

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens, New York

1974

Lines, Carpenter Gallery, New Hampshire

1972

Wright State University, Ohio

Stephen Friedman Gallery

1970

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

1969

Andrew Dickinson White Museum of Art, New York

1968

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Barnsdall Art Center, Los Angeles, California

1965

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California

Group Exhibitions (selected)

2024

Making Strange: Sacred Imagery and the Self', PAFA, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, 14 November 2024 – 6 April 2025

2023

The Place I Am, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

Sensibilities, Maximilian William, London, England

2022

Black Abstractionists: From Then 'Til Now, Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, Texas

Revisiting 5+1, Zuccaire Gallery, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York

Juan Francisco Elso: Por América, El Museo del Barrio, New York

Rethinking Monuments: American Sculpture in its Time, 1850-2000, Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, Saginaw, Michigan

A Sight of Struggle: Making Meaning of Anti-Black Violence in American Art and Visual Culture' Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama

New York: 1962-1964, The Jewish Museum, New York

Future Bodies from a Recent Past: Sculpture, Technology, and the Body since the 1950s, Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany (catalogue)

A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (catalogue)

Epistrophy, Pace Gallery, New York

This Tender, Fragile Thing, The School, Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, New York

2021

Sarah Maldoror: Tricontinental Cinema, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

C. Ludens Ringnes Sculpture Exhibition, Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts

Nasher Mixtape, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas

Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America, New Museum, New York (catalogue)

African American Art in the 20th Century, Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, Kansas; Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York (touring)

2020

Future Food. Food for the World of Tomorrow, Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden, Germany

25 Years, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

Museum for Preventive Imagination-Editorial, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma, Rome, Italy (catalogue)

Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; de Young Museum, San Francisco, California (touring)

African American Art in the 20th Century, Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, Pennsylvania (touring)

2019

Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991-2011, MoMA PS1, New York

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Generations: A History of Black Abstract Art, Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland
Walking Through Walls, Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany
LA Blacksmith, California African American Museum, California
African American Art in the 20th Century, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC; Dubuque Museum of Art in Dubuque, Iowa; Cornell Fine Arts Museum in Winter Park, Florida (touring)
Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts; Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington DC and Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, Utah
Where the Oceans Meet, Museum of Art and Design at Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, The Broad, Los Angeles, California
The Sensation of Space, The Warehouse, Dallas, Texas
Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, California; Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, South Carolina and Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, Michigan (touring)
Serpentine Fire, Quotidian Gallery, Los Angeles, California

2018

Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn
A Gathering: Sculpture from the Collection, Neuberger Museum, Purchase College, State University of New York, New York
Lydia Cabrera and Édouard Glissant: Trembling Thinking, Americas Society, New York
On Edge, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut
Paper/Print: American Hand Papermaking, 1960s to Today, International Print Center, New York
Art of Protest, Fralin Museum of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
Give Up the Ghost, Baltic Triennial 13, Vilnius, Lithuania
Working Metal in 20th-Century Sculpture, Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, Stanford, California
O Triângulo Atlântico, 11^a Bienal do Mercosul, Museu de Arte do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil
A Page from my Intimate Journal (Part I), Gordon Robichaux, New York
Third Space/shifting conversations about contemporary art, Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama
The Long Run, Museum of Modern Art, New York
Sidelined, Galerie LeLong, New York
Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

2017

Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, Tate Modern, London, England
20/20, The Studio Museum in Harlem and the Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Say it Loud: Art, History, Rebellion, The Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit
AfroFantastic: Black Imagination and Agency in the American Experience, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Florida
Third Space /Shifting Conversations about Contemporary Art, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, Alabama
Space Force Construction, V-A-C Foundation with the Art Institute of Chicago, Palazzo delle Zattere, Venice, Italy
Black Feast, Simon Lee Gallery, New York
Picturing Mississippi, 1817-2017: Land of Plenty, Pain, and Promise, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Mississippi
We Are Here, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA
An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940-2017, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Origins: The Historical Legacy of Visual Art, Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
CONDO: Collaborative Exhibition across 15 London Galleries, Emalin, London, England

2016

Not New Now, Marrakech Biennale, Morocco
The Lasting Concept, curated by Rob Halverson, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland
Postwar: Art between the Pacific and the Atlantic 1945 - 1965, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
Exposition d'artistes Caraïbeens et des Amériques, Institut du Tout-Monde, Paris, France
Haptic, Alexander Gray Associates, New York

2015

Twentieth Anniversary Exhibition, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England (catalogue)

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Glenn Ligon: Encounters and Collisions, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, England
56th International Art Exhibition - All the World's Futures, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Black SoCal: Art in Practice in an Evolving Landscape, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
A Constellation, The Studio Museum, Harlem, New York
Not New Now, Marrakech Biennale, Marrakech, Morocco
Äppärät, Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, Texas
Necessary Force: Art in the Police State, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, NM All the World's Futures, curated by Okwui Enwezor, 56th Venice Biennale, Italy
Bold Abstractions: Selections from the Collection, 1966–1976, Dallas Museum of Art, TX New Acquisitions, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts
METAL: Sculpture in America, 1945 to 1970, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York
Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas (touring)

2014

Beyond the Spectrum: Abstraction in African American Art, 1950-1975, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York African-American Artists and Abstraction, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba
Viewpoints: 20 Years of Adderley, Bakalar and Paine Galleries, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, Massachusetts
Glenn Ligon: Encounters and Collisions, Tate Liverpool, United Kingdom
Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties, curated by Teresa A. Carbone and Kellie Jones, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York; Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, New Hampshire

2013

African American Art Since 1950: Perspectives from the David C. Driskell Center, Taft Museum of Art, Ohio
Assembly Required: Selections from the Permanent Collection, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Blues for Smoke, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (touring)

2012

Blues for Smoke, Museum of Contemporary Art, California (touring)
Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles, 1960–1980, MoMA PS1, New York
Paper Space: Drawings by Sculptors, Inman Gallery, Texas
African American Art Since 1950: Perspectives from the David C. Driskell Center, David C. Driskell Center, Maryland
Pacific Standard Time: Crosscurrents in L.A. Paintings and Sculpture 1945-1970, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany
African American Art: Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Era, and Beyond, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC
Magical Visions: Ten Contemporary African American Artists, Mechanical Hall Gallery, Delaware

2011

Paper Trails: Selected Works from the Collection, 1934–2001, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Inside & Out: Melvin Edwards and Peter Saul, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Georgia
Pacific Standard Time: Crosscurrents in L.A. Paintings and Sculpture 1945-1970, J. Paul Getty Center, California
Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles, 1960–1980, Hammer Museum, California
Sculpted, Etched and Cut: Metal Works from the Permanent Collection, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

2010

Abstract Relations, David C. Driskell Center, Maryland
Art in Embassies Exhibition, U.S. Embassy Residence, Warsaw, Poland
Art Collection of the United States Embassy, U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
What Matters, Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts
Americanana, Hunter College, New York

2007

Valencia Biennial, Valencia, Spain

2008

Melvin Edwards, Museu Afrobrasil, São Paulo, Brazil

Stephen Friedman Gallery

2006

Energy/Experimentation: Black Artists and Abstraction 1964-1980, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
L.A. Object and David Hammons Body Prints, Tilton Gallery, New York

2005

The Bristol-Myers Squibb Sculpture Project, Bristol-Myers Squibb Park, New Jersey
Something to Look Forward To, Heckscher Museum, New York (touring)
Reaction (1945-1963), Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, California
African American Masters: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Utah

2004

Something to Look Forward To, The Phillips Museum of Art, Pennsylvania (touring)
How Sculptors See, Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts
African American Masters: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio (touring)

2003

African American Masters: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum (touring)
Watts: Art & Social Change in Los Angeles, 1965-2002, Haggerty Museum of Art, Wisconsin

2001

Expanding on a Legacy: American Art From the Montclair Art Museum, UBS Paine Webber Art Gallery, New York
American Identities: A New Look, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York
Material and Matter, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

2000

Welded Sculpture of the Twentieth Century, Neuberger Museum of Art, New York
Public Voices, Private Visions: African American Art 2000, Rockland Center for the Arts, New York
Project Row Houses, Houston, Texas

1999

26 Sculptors in Their Environments, Rockland Center for the Arts, New York
New Jersey Fine Arts Annual, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey

1998

Histories (Re)membered, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York
African American Art from the New Jersey State Museum Collection, New Jersey State Museum, New Jersey
Stages of Creation: Public Sculpture by National Academicians, National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts, New York
Sculpture From New Jersey, New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts, New Jersey
Sculpture: New Jersey, Ramapo College Art Gallery, New Jersey
Twentieth Century American Sculpture at the White House, The White House, Washington DC
Tragic Wake: The Legacy of Slavery and the African Diaspora in Contemporary American Art, Spirit Square Center for Arts and Education, North Carolina

1997

CDS Gallery, New York
Sculpture Biennial, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York

1996

Texas Modern and Post-Modern, Museum of Fine Arts, Texas

1995

Editions, Skoto Gallery, New York
Melvin Edwards, Richard Hunt, Lester Johnson, Stephen Prokuniar Editions 1974-1991, Pharos Gallery, New York
The Listening Sky, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Civil Rights Now, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, North Carolina
The Iguana Hat: The Artist's Quest for Symbols of the Self, SciosNova, Florida

Stephen Friedman Gallery

1994

Dream Singers, Story Tellers: An African-American Presence New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey (touring, catalogue)

Melvin Edwards, Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, New Jersey

25th Anniversary Exhibition, Cinque Gallery, New York

Sources, Art Gallery, Art-Sociology Building, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

1993

The Mask in Contemporary Art, Sewall Art Gallery, Texas

New Jersey Arts Annual, The Newark Museum, New Jersey

Recollections/Resistances/Reconstruction, Hillwood Art Gallery, New York

Fujisankei Biennial, Utsukushi-Ga-Hara Museum, Nagano, Japan

Dream Singers, Story Tellers: An African-American Presence, Tokushima Modern Art Museum; Otani Memorial Art Museum, Japan (touring, catalogue)

1992

Present Tense, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union Art Gallery, Wisconsin (catalogue)

The Expanding Circle: A Selection of African-American Art, The Gallery at Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Princeton, New Jersey (catalogue)

The Order of Things: Toward a Politic of Still Life, Real Art Ways at Widener Gallery, Connecticut (catalogue)

John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Gifted Visions: African American Artists, Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, Connecticut (catalogue)

Bridges and Boundaries: African-Americans and American Jews, The Jewish Museum, New York

Three Voices: Thirty Years of Afro-American Expression, Shircliff Gallery of Art, Indiana

In Plural America: Contemporary Journeys Voices and Identities, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York

Warriors: The Guerreros, Atrium Gallery, Connecticut (catalogue)

Dream Singers, Story Tellers: An African-American Presence, Fukui Fine Arts Museum, Japan (touring, catalogue)

Ante America, curated by Gerardo Mosquera, Rachel Weiss, and Carolina Ponce de León, Biblioteca Luis-Ángel Arango, Bogotá, Colombia; Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela; Queens Museum of Art, New York; Centro Cultural de la Raza, San Diego, CA; Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA; Spencer Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo, San José, Costa Rica (catalogue)

1991

Sculpture: Seven Artists of the 90's, CDS Gallery, New York

Espiritu & Materia; Estetica Alternativa Norteamericana, Museo de Artes Visuales Alejandro Otero, Caracas, Venezuela (catalogue)

Discarded, The Emerson Gallery, Rockland Center for the Arts, West Nyack, New York (catalogue)

The Harlem Renaissance Remembered, Brownson Art Gallery, New York (catalogue)

Spirit Calls, Artworks Gallery, Connecticut

Spiritual Cargo: Shamanistic Manifestations, Atrium Gallery, Connecticut

Artists of Conscience: 16 Years of Social and Political Commentary, Alternative Museum, New York

African American Works on Paper from the Cochran Collection, New Visions Gallery, Georgia

Bertoia, Buchanan, Edwards, Mitchel: Sculpture Update, Diggs Gallery, Winston-Salem University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina (catalogue)

1990

The Blues Esthetic: Black Culture and Modernism, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

Formulation and Representation: Recent Abstract Sculpture, Bertha and Karl Luebsdorf (catalogue)

Steelworks, USX Tower, Pennsylvania

CDiverse Representations 1990, The Morris Museum, New Jersey

The Decade Show: Frameworks of Identity in the 1980s, Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art; The New Museum of Contemporary Art; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (catalogue)

Inaugural Exhibition, Abington Art Center Sculpture Garden, Pennsylvania (catalogue)

A Force of Repetition, New Jersey State Museum, New Jersey (catalogue)

New History: Sculptural Installations, Atlanta College Art Gallery, Georgia

Legacies: African American Artists, New Jersey Center for Visual Art, New Jersey

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Painted Forms: Recent Metal Sculpture, Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, New York (catalogue)
Two Generations of Sculptors, The Gallery at Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, New Jersey

1989

Bronze and Steel: Sculpture by Melvin Edwards and Robert T. Cooke, Pyramid Gallery, New York
Introspective: Contemporary Art by Americans and Brazilians of African Descent, California African American Museum, California
Traditions and Transformations: Contemporary Afro-American Sculpture, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York (catalogue)
Afro American Abstractions in Printmaking, California African American Museum California
The Blues Aesthetic: Black Culture and Modernism, Corcoran Gallery, Washington DC
Melvin Edwards, Newton Art Center, Massachusetts

1988

Committed to Print, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Sculpture: Inside, Outside, Walker Art Center, Minnesota
Affinities: Idioms/Aesthetics/Intents, Jamaica Art Center, Queens, New York (catalogue)
Traces of History: Art of Afro-America, Robeson Gallery, New Jersey
The Law & Order Show, Gladstone Gallery, New York
Outside In, New York Cultural Center, New York
Making The Main Stream, Melvin Gallery, Florida
Public Art, California African American Museum, New York

1987

The Law & Order Show, Gladstone Gallery, New York
The Afro-American Artist in the Age of Cultural Pluralism, The Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey
Outside In, New York Cultural Center, New York
Making the Mainstream, SVC Fine Arts Gallery, Florida
Public Art, The Museum of African American Art, Los Angeles, California

1986

Black Visions, City Hall, New York
Liberty and Justice, Alternative Museum, New York
Irons in the Fire, Memorial Arch at Grand Army Plaza, New York
Contemporary Sculpture Selection, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Inaugural, Socrates Sculpture Park, New York

1985

Traditions and Conflict: Images of a Turbulent Decade, 1963–1973, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

1984

Since the Harlem Renaissance, Center Gallery, Pennsylvania
Art: For and Against, Thorpe Intermedia Gallery, New York
Celebration: Eight Afro-American Artists Selected by Romare Bearden, Louis Abrons Arts of Living Center, Henry Street Settlement, New York (catalogue)
Contra-Apartheid, UNESCO, Paris, France
East-West: Contemporary American Art, California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles, California
Artists in Celebration of Black History Month, Trenton State College Art Gallery, New Jersey
Sculpture, Gallery of Murphy Fine Arts Center, Maryland
Sticks and Stones: Modern and Post-Modern Sculpture, Kenkeleba House, New York (catalogue)
Sculpture from Rutgers, Robeson Center Gallery, New Jersey
New Jersey Arts Inclusion Program 1978-84, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Jersey
Melvin Edwards, Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, New York
3 Artists in Celebration of Black History Month, Trenton State College Art Gallery, New Jersey

1983

Var for New York, Futura Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
The War Show, University Art Gallery, New York

Stephen Friedman Gallery

5 Sculptors, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York
Art in Public, Chicago Sculptural Society, Illinois
Celebrating Contemporary American Black Artists, Fine Arts Museum of Long Island, New York
4 Sculptors, Sid Deutsch Gallery, New York
Young Talent Awards 1963–83, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California
Environmental Sculpture, Chicago Sculptural Center, Illinois

1982

Mayor Byrnes' Mile of Sculpture, Navy Pier, Illinois
The 4 Directions, Gallery of the American Indian Community House, New York
Sacred Artifacts: Common Objects of Devotion, Alternative Museum, New York
Ritual and Myth: A Survey of African American Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (catalogue)
Works on Paper, Woodson Regional Library, Illinois
Black Artists: Recent Attitudes II, California State University, California
Visual Politics, Alternative Museum, New York
Afro-American Abstraction, Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, California

1981

Mel Edwards and Greg Edwards: Sculpture and Works on Paper, University Art Gallery, New York
Outdoor Sculpture at the Aquarium, Niagara Falls, New York
Cinque Gallery, New York
Focus Southern Africa: Details of the Struggle, Countee Cullen Library, New York
Melvin Edwards, Westbeth Gallery, New York

1980

YW-YMHA, Green Lane, Union, New Jersey
Sculpture Today: Tradition and Non-Traditional, The Art Gallery, University of Maryland, Maryland (catalogue)
Afro-American Abstraction, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York
Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, California

1979

3 Sculptors, The Bronx Museum of Arts, New York
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

1977

Florida International University, Florida
Henry O. Tanner Gallery, New York
Drawn and Matched, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Environmental Sculpture, Robert Moses Plaza, Fordham University at Lincoln Center, New York (catalogue)
The Concept as Art, Just Above Midtown Gallery, New York
Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture: FESTAC '77, Lagos, Nigeria
Fisher Gallery, California

1976

Resonance: Williams/Edwards/Gilliam, Morgan State University, Maryland

1975

76 Jefferson, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Sculpture Invitational, Gallery Ariadne, New York
Cinque Gallery, New York

1974

Gilliam / Edwards / Williams: Extensions, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum, Connecticut (catalogue)
Carpenter Gallery, New Hampshire

1973

Arnot Art Museum, New York

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Sculpture Three: New York Artists on Tour, World Trade Center, New York

1972

Edwards, Gilliam, Williams, Wabash Transit Gallery, Illinois
New York Artists at Storm King, Storm King Art Center, New York

1971

Artist as Advocate, The Museum of Modern Art, New York (catalogue)
Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Connecticut
Contemporary Black Artists in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (catalogue)

1970

Paperworks, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
The William Benton Museum of Art, Connecticut
Dimensions of Black Art, La Jolla Museum of Art, California
Rental Gallery, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Whitney Annual – Contemporary American Sculpture, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (catalogue)

1969

California Crafts Survey, Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego, California
Five + 1, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York; Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey (catalogue)
X to the 4th Power, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (catalogue)

1968

New Voices, American Greeting Gallery, Pan Am Building, New York
Thirty Contemporary Black Artists, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota (catalogue)

1967

San Fernando Valley State College, California
Esther Bear Gallery, California

1966

Esther Bear Gallery, California
The Negro in American Art, University of California, California

1965

Esther Bear Gallery, California
Richard Grey Gallery, Illinois
Five Younger Los Angeles Artists, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California (catalogue)

1962

Annual, La Jolla Museum of Art, California

1960

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California

Catalogues and Publications (selected)

2022

Future Bodies from a Recent Past: Sculpture, Technology, and the Body since the 1950s, Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany
A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

2021

Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America, New Museum, New York

Stephen Friedman Gallery

2020

Editorial: An Exhibition in Words, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma, Rome, Italy
25 Years, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

2019

Melvin Edwards: Painted Sculpture, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
Melvin Edwards: Lynch Fragments, Museo de Arte São Paulo, Brazil

2017

Melvin Edwards: In Oklahoma, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
Third Space /Shifting Conversations About Contemporary Art, Al-Khudhairi, Wassan, ed., Birmingham Museum of Art

2015

Melvin Edwards: Five Decades, Nasher Sculpture Center, Texas
20 Years, essays by Stephen Friedman and Sarah Thornton, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

2014

Melvin Edwards, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties, curated by Teresa A. Carbone and Kellie Jones, Brooklyn Museum and The Monacelli Press, New York

2012

Magical Visions: Ten Contemporary African American Artists, Newark, Mechanical Hall Gallery, University of Delaware, Delaware

2004

Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of Black American Artists, ed. Tonya Bolden, Abrams Books for Young Readers, New York

2000

Melvin Edwards: The Prints of a Sculptor, Jersey City Museum, New Jersey

1993

Melvin Edwards Sculpture: A Thirty-Year Retrospective, The Neuberger Museum of Art, New Jersey
Ante America, Biblioteca Luis-Ángel Arango, Bogotá, Colombia

1992

The Expanding Circle: A Selection of African American Art, The Gallery at Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, New Jersey
Gifted Visions: African American Artists, Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, Connecticut
In Plural America: Contemporary Journeys, Voices and Identities, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York
Melvin Edwards, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Mel Edwards: "The Lynch Fragment Series", Eugene Johnson Gallery of Art, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota
Present Tense, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union Art Gallery
Dream Singers, Story Tellers: An African American Presence, New Jersey State Museum, New Jersey
The Order of Things: Toward a Politic of Still Life, Widener Gallery at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut

1991

Discarded, The Emerson Gallery, Rockland Center for the Arts, West Nyack, New York
Espíritu & Materia: Estética Alternativa Norteamericana, Museo de Artes Visuales Alejandro Otero, Caracas, Venezuela
Bertoia, Buchanan, Edwards, Mitchel: Sculpture Update, Diggs Gallery, Winston-Salem University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Fragments: Selected Small Sculpture by Mel Edwards, Hammonds House Galleries and Resource Center of African-American Art, Atlanta, Georgia
The Harlem Renaissance Remembered, Brownson Art Gallery, New York

1990

The Inaugural Exhibition, Abington Art Center, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Formulation and Representation: Recent Abstract Sculpture, The Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery, Hunter College, New York

A Force of Repetition, The New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey

Painted Forms: Recent Metal Sculpture, Whitney Museum of Art at Phillip Morris, New York

Melvin Edwards Sculpture: Fragments of a Decade: 1980–1990, Montclair State College Art Gallery, New Jersey

The Decade Show: Frameworks of Identity in the 1980s, Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art; The New Museum of Contemporary Art; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

Two Generations of Sculptors, The Gallery at Bristol–Myers Squibb, Princeton, New Jersey

1989

Bronze and Steel: Sculpture by Melvin Edwards and Robert T. Cooke, Pyramid Gallery, New York

Introspectives: Contemporary Art by Americans and Brazilians of African Descent, Afro-American Museum Foundation, Los Angeles, California

Traditions and Transformations: Contemporary Afro-American Sculpture, essay by George Nelson Preston, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York

1988

Affinities: Idioms/Aesthetics/Intentions, Jamaica Art Center, Queens, New York

1984

Sticks and Stones: Modern and Post-Modern Sculpture, Kenkeleba House, New York

Celebration: Eight Afro-American Artists Selected by Romare Bearden, Henry Street Settlement Urban Life Center, New York

1982

Ritual and Myth: A Survey of African American Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

1980

Sculpture Today: Traditional and Non-Traditional, University of Maryland, Maryland

1978

Contextures, Just Above Midtown, New York

Melvin Edwards: Sculptor, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

1977

Environmental Sculpture, Fordham University, New York

1974

Gilliam / Edwards / Williams: Extensions, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum, Connecticut

1973

Photographers, Sculptors, Painters, Printmakers 1972–73, Visual Artists selected for CAPS award, Harlem Double Circles

1971

Contemporary Black Artists in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

1970

Artist as Advocate, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Melvin Edwards: Works, statement by William T. Williams, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Whitney Annual – Contemporary American Sculpture, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

1969

Five + 1, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York

X to the Fourth Power, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

1968

Thirty Contemporary Black Artists, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis

Stephen Friedman Gallery

1965

Five Younger Los Angeles Artists, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California

Grants and Awards

2020

United States Artists Fellowship, Chicago

2014

Honorary Doctorate, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston

2006

Rockefeller Foundation Research Award for Work on Sculpture and Architecture

2000

Papermaking Fellowship, Dieu Donne

1998

Grant for Artist Residency for Inauguration of Print Workshop for Goree Institute, Senegal

VanDer Zee Artist Award

1997

Phillis Wheatley Award for Life's Work in Sculpture

1995

Artist Award, Studio Museum in Harlem

National Endowment for the Arts Grant

1994

Joan Mitchel Foundation Award

1993

Historic Hudson Valley "African American Heritage Award" for Art

The Fujisankei Biennale Grand Prize, The Utsukushi-ga-hara Open-Air Museum

1989

Fulbright Fellowship to Zimbabwe

1985

New Jersey State Arts Council Individual Artist Grant

1984

National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist's Fellowship

1975

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Award

1973

New York State Council on the Arts Creative Artists Public Service Fellowship

1971

National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artists Fellowship

1969

Cassandra Foundation Award

Santa Barbara Art Association Small Sculpture Award

Stephen Friedman Gallery

1967

Long Beach Museum of Art Award

1965

Los Angeles Contemporary Art Council Award

1964

John Hay Whitney Fellowship

1958

Scholarship to Los Angeles County Art Institute

Public Sculptures (selected)

2021

Searching for the Word, Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts

2012

Column of Memory, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba

2008

Transcendence, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania

2003

Transformations in the Light, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

1993

Safe Journey, Department of Motor Vehicles, Eatontown, New Jersey

1991

Passage, Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn, New York

Tomorrow's Wind, Thomas Jefferson Park, New York

1990

Asafokra, The Utsukushi-Ga-Hara Open-Air Museum, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

1989

Confirmation, Joseph P. Addabbo Federal Building, Jamaica Queens, New York

1987

Education Is an Open Book, Livingston College of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

1986

Gate of Ogun, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York

Along the Way, Peat, Marwick, and Mitchell, Montvale, New Jersey

1985

Holder of the Light, Lafayette Gardens, Jersey City, New Jersey

1983

Southern Sunrise, Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1982

Out of the Struggles of the Past to a Brilliant Future, Mount Vernon Plaza, Columbus, Ohio

Stephen Friedman Gallery

1970

Double Circles, Bethune Towers, New York

1969

Homage to My Father and the Spirit, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

1967

Homage to Billie Holiday and the Young Ones of Soweto, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland

Public Collections

Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama
Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, California
Long Beach Museum of Art, California
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California
Martin Luther King, Jr. Promenade, California
Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Connecticut
Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Florida
Center for the Arts, Florida
Miami University, Florida
The Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois
The Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Pennsylvania
Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland
James E. Lewis Museum of Art, Maryland
University of Maryland, Maryland
Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts
Detroit Institute of Arts, Michigan
Flint Institute of Arts, Michigan
Mott-Warsh Collection, Michigan
Lafayette Gardens, New Jersey
Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey
New Jersey State Museum, New Jersey
Newark Museum, New Jersey
Peat, Marwick, and Mitchell, Montvale, New Jersey
Rutgers University, New Jersey
Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, New York
Bethune Towers, New York
Bronx Museum of Art, New York
Brooklyn Museum, New York
Chase Manhattan Bank, New York
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, New York
Joseph P. Addabbo Federal Building, New York
Kingsborough Community College, New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Museum of Modern Art, New York
National Academy Museum, New York
Neuberger Museum of Art, New York
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Thomas Jefferson Park, New York
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Mount Vernon Plaza, Ohio
Lafayette College, Pennsylvania
The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Texas

Stephen Friedman Gallery

rennie museum, Vancouver, Canada

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia

University of Virginia, Virginia

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC

Tate, London, England

United States Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Museo de Artes Visuales Alejandro Otero, Caracas, Venezuela