

VIELMETTER LOS ANGELES

April Bey

Frieze Los Angeles

Booth B17

February 20 – 23, 2025



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Press Release

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February 20 — 23, 2025



Vielmetter Los Angeles presents a solo booth featuring new works by Los Angeles-based artist April Bey for the 2025 edition of *Frieze Los Angeles*.

Bey's two-dimensional mixed media works and installations are part of her ongoing *Atlantica* series, a manifestation of the artist's alternate universe, where glitter is currency, and visitors travel through plant portals. The concept of *Atlantica* originated from a conversation with Bey's father, who used the language of science fiction to describe experiences of otherness and racial oppression. Drawing inspiration from fantasy, sci-fi, and popular culture, Bey incorporates glitter, beads, and textiles — to craft icons that celebrate figures from her community. Her multimedia installation reflects themes from American and Bahamian culture, feminism, generational theory, social media, Afrofuturism, Afrosurrealism, and post-colonialism.

1700 S Santa Fe Ave #101 Los Angeles, CA 90021 +1 213 623 3280

vielmetter.com

For this presentation, Bey has created an all-encompassing installation that envelops viewers in fur-covered walls, intricately layered woven tapestries, and exuberantly embellished wallworks. This presentation brings to life the ethos of Atlantica—an imagined universe where resilience meets softness, and queerness flourishes without apology.

On a planet (Earth) that often equates strength with hardness, Bey challenges the notion that softness is a form of weakness. Instead, *she* asserts that gentleness, care, and love are radical forces of survival.

"But we will never show fear. Even in my eyes. I will always rise. In Wildfires. I ain't never been scared. Even through my tears. I will always care, In Wildfires."

Sault's song *Wildfires* reminds us that tenderness is not passivity—it is resistance, a quiet yet unshakable defiance against systems built on brutality. Bey's works visualize this ethos, depicting Atlanticans of all genders with their animal companions and exemplifying their harmonious relationships.

About the artist

April Bey (b. 1987) grew up in the Bahamas (New Providence) and now resides and works in Los Angeles as a visual artist and art educator. She is currently a tenured professor at Glendale College. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at The Nevada Museum of Art, Reno NV; The Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA; The California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA, among others. She has been included in group exhibitions at The Modern Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX; The Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ; Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA; The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas, among others. Her work is in the public collections of California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT; Escalette Collection, Chapman University, Orange, CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, Nassau, The Bahamas; Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA; Fullerton College Art Gallery, Fullerton, CA, among others.

The gallery is located at 1700 S Santa Fe Avenue, south of the 10 freeway. Parking is available on the south parking lot adjacent to the building. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and by appointment. For further information and press inquiries, please contact Olivia Gauthier at Olivia@vielmetter.com.

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April Bey

We Will Not Apologize for Being the Universe; Our Own Constellation. Don't You Know Light Lives in Dark Places Too?, 2025

Jacquard woven textiles, sherpa blanket, giant clothespins, beads

84" x 240" [HxW] (213.36 x 609.6 cm)

Gallery Inventory#BEY1128

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Photo credit: Brica Wilcox

Price: 120,000.00 USD

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April Bey, *We Will Not Apologize for Being the Universe; Our Own Constellation. Don't You Know Light Lives in Dark Places Too?*, 2025 (detail)

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April Bey

Girls Outside, Titties Out, 2025

CMYK halftone hand-printed image transfer, crushed marbled velvet hand-sewn into faux fur wrapped wood panel

36" x 36" x 4" [HxWxD] (91.44 x 91.44 x 10.16 cm)

Gallery Inventory#BEY1126

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Photo credit: Brica Wilcox

Price: 32,000.00 USD

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April Bey

Everybody Fancies Us...Don't You Pretend, You Don't Fancy Us., 2025

CMYK halftone hand-printed image transfer, crushed marbled velvet hand-sewn into faux fur wrapped wood panel

36" x 36" x 4" [HxWxD] (91.44 x 91.44 x 10.16 cm)

Gallery Inventory#BEY1127

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Photo credit: Brica Wilcox

Price: 32,000.00 USD

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April Bey

Y la Verdad es que no Soy Tan Fuerte Como Lo Pensaba (And the Truth is that I'm Not as Strong as I Thought), 2025

Leather, crushed velvet, brocade fabric, metallic sequins, with metallic thread on stretched canvas

36" x 24" [HxW] (91.44 x 60.96 cm)

Gallery Inventory#BEY1129

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Photo credit: Brica Wilcox

Price: 22,000.00 USD

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April Bey

The Gentle Strides of a Tiger Does Not Indicate Cowardice, 2025

Leather, crushed velvet, brocade fabric, metallic sequins, with metallic thread on stretched canvas

36" x 24" [HxW] (91.44 x 60.96 cm)

Gallery Inventory#BEY1130

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Photo credit: Brica Wilcox

Price: 22,000.00 USD

VIELMETTER LOS ANGELES



April Bey

THEY NOT LIKE US, 2025

Leather, crushed velvet, brocade fabric, metallic sequins, with metallic thread on stretched canvas

36" x 24" [HxW] (91.44 x 60.96 cm)

Gallery Inventory#BEY1131

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Photo credit: Brica Wilcox

Price: 22,000.00 USD

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April Bey

***A Fly Perched on the Scrotum is Gently Nudged Off, NEVER Struck!*, 2025**

Leather, crushed velvet, brocade fabric, metallic sequins, with metallic thread on stretched canvas

36" x 24" [HxW] (91.44 x 60.96 cm)

Gallery Inventory#BEY1132

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Photo credit: Brica Wilcox

Price: 22,000.00 USD

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April Bey

When Nobody Cared You Cared for Me, They Say You're a Conspiracy, 2025

Jacquard woven textiles, with hand-sewn fabric and sequins, beads

80" x 60" [HxW] (203.2 x 152.4 cm)

Gallery Inventory#BEY1133

Courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

Photo credit: Jeff McLane

Price: 30,000.00 USD

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April Bey, *When Nobody Cared You Cared for Me, They Say You're a Conspiracy*, 2025 (detail)

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April Bey, *When Nobody Cared You Cared for Me, They Say You're a Conspiracy*, 2025 (detail)

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APRIL BEY

- 1987 Bahamian/American, Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 MFA, California State University Northridge, CA
- 2009 BFA, Ball State University, Muncie, IN

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 "I See All The Way Back to Where I'm Supposed to See," Tern Gallery, Nassau, Bahamas
"We Insist Upon Ourselves, In Perpetuity Throughout the Universe," Two Person Show with Kim Dacres, UTA, Atlanta, GA
"I Know All About What You Want to Know All About," Vielmetter Los Angeles, CA
"Atlantican Opulencscapes Part II," Pasadena City College, Los Angeles, CA
"Atlantican Opulencscapes," Glendale Community College, Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 "Atlantica: The Gilda Region," Nevada Museum of Art, Reno NV
- 2022 "I Believe in Why I'm Here," Simon Lee Gallery, London, UK
"Colonial Swag," Tern Gallery, Nassau, Bahamas
"When You're on Another Planet and They Just Fly," Gavlak Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
"The Opulent Blerd," Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA
"Intersections: Where Art & Activism Meet," Scalehouse Gallery, Bend, OR
- 2021 "April Bey: Atlantica, The Gilda Region," The California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 "April Bey, UNTITLED ART ONLINE," UPFOR Gallery, Portland, OR
"Welcome to Atlantica," Fullerton College Art Gallery, Fullerton, CA
- 2018 "Made in Space," Band of Vices Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 "COMPLY," Coagula Curatorial, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 "Picky Head," Liquid Courage Art Gallery, New Providence, Nassau, Bahamas

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 "Dress Up, Speak Up: Regalia and Resistance," 21C Museum Hotel, Bentonville, AR
- 2024 "Green x Gold: Kingston Biennial 2024," National Gallery of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica
"Crafting The Future/The Shape Of Water," Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Richmond, VA
"REALMS," Carl Freedman Gallery, London, United Kingdom

"I'd Love To See You," Juxtapoz 30th Anniversary Show at Rusha & Co, Los Angeles, CA

"The Golden Thread," BravinLee Programs, New York, NY

"Poly/Graphic Triennial," Institute de Cultura Puertorriqueña, San Juan, Puerto Rico

"Backstage Engelberg," Engelberg, Switzerland

"Surrealism and Us: Caribbean African Diasporic Artists Since 1950," The Modern Forth Worth, Fort Worth, TX

2023 "UNTITLED," TERN Gallery, Nassau, Bahamas

"The Threads We Follow," The Southwestern Center for Contemporary Art, NC

"(En)gendered Agency", LH Horton Jr. Gallery, Stockton, CA

"The Speed of Grace," Simões de Assis Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

"ROOTED," Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center, Anaheim, CA

"WITNESS," WACO Theater Center, Los Angeles, CA

"We Are Enough," 193 Gallery, Paris, France

"Queer Threads," San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, San Jose, CA

"Weaving Data," Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Portland State University, Portland, OR

"A Love Letter to LA," PHILLIPS, Los Angeles, CA

"A Room Full of Mirrors", Fragment Gallery, New York, NY

2022 "TEXT MESSAGES," Grace Ross Shanley Gallery, The Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT

"New Pop Stars," 21C Museum Hotel Chicago, Chicago, IL

"HAIRTAGE: Continuum," Cypress College Art Gallery, Cypress, CA

"Common Ground: Artists Reimaging Community," California Lutheran University Art Gallery, Thousand Oaks, CA

"Portraits of Metro Riders," LA Metro, Los Angeles, CA

"Adornment Artifact," The Getty, Los Angeles, CA

"Louder Now," Fragment Gallery, Moscow, Russia (online)

"Salt to Catch Ghosts," Slash Arts, San Francisco, CA

"Language in the Times of Miscommunication," Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ

"Cantos of the Sibylline Sisterhood," Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA

"Terms of Endearment", Hilger Gallery, Vienna, Austria

2021 "She Says: Women, Words, and Power in Art," Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA

"HAIRTAGE: Tangled," Twisted & Black, Cypress College Art Gallery, Cypress, CA

"TEXTURES: The History and Art of Black Hair," Kent State Museum, Kent, OH

"Floating Rib," The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas

2020 "Show Me the Signs," Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA

"INVOCATION DEMOCRACY: A Political and Mystical Virtual Exhibition," Presented by Pro Arts Commons

"Nasty Women," Gavlak Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

"SPACELAND IV WAR," Bermudez Projects, Los Angeles, CA

"Access," Reflect Space Gallery, Glendale, CA

"Sanctuary," California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA

"Breathe/Breath," Seer Virtual Gallery curated by: The Association of Hysteric Curators

2019 "Welcome to the AfroFuture," New Orleans African American Museum, New Orleans, LA

"Dear Lucy," UPFOR Gallery, Portland, OR

"Black, Brown and Beige," Self-Help Graphics, Los Angeles, CA

"From the Head to the Heart," The Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT

"Atlantica," Chimento Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA

"LA Painting Survey," Museum of Art History, Lancaster, CA

"BLACK HISTORY 365," University of La Verne College of Law, Ontario, CA

"AMERICAN," Golden West College Art Gallery, Huntington Beach, CA

"Black on Black III," Raleigh Arts, Raleigh, NC

"NE9: The Fruit and the Seed," The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas

2018 Shika Shika Art Fair, Brazil House Gallery, Accra, Ghana

Visual Resistance, Fullerton College Art Gallery, Fullerton, CA

Glendale Community College Faculty Exhibition, Glendale, CA

"Back to Black," Avenue 50 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

"Eye Forward," Curating Our Narratives, Fresno State University, Fresno, CA

"Dis...Miss," Freewaves Los Angeles, CA

"Eyes Forward," LA Art Show, Los Angeles, CA

"MANIFESTO: A Moderate Proposal," Pitzer College Art Gallery, Claremont, CA

2017 "The Fabulous 7," Feral Projects, Los Angeles, CA

"Dis...Miss," Freewaves, Los Angeles, CA

"CHALE WOTE," Jamestown, Ghana

"ICONIC: Black Panther," Gregorio Escalante Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2016 "NE8," The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas

"Shift and Fade," BLAM Projects, Los Angeles, CA

"Dis...Miss," Freewaves, Los Angeles, CA

"Reflections on the Self: Selections from the Permanent Collection," California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA

"SKIN," Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2015 "Colored Girls," Autonomie Projects, Los Angeles, CA

"Hard Edged: Geometric Abstraction and Beyond," The California Africa American Museum, Los Angeles, CA

"CA 101," Redondo Beach Power Plant, Redondo Beach, CA

"Out of Nothing," Glen Echo Park Gallery, Washington DC

"We Choose Art: A Feminist Perspective," Los Angeles, CA

"50 Years and I Still Can't Breathe," Watts Towers Arts Center, Watts, Los Angeles, CA

"Pulse of LA," Southern California Women's Caucus of Art, Los Angeles, CA

2014 "Fresh," South Bay Contemporary, Southbay, CA

"Antillean: An Ecology (NE7)," National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas

"GLAMFA," California State University, Long Beach, CA

"#Whodoyouworship?," Graduate Thesis Show, California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA

Bibliography

2024 Frieze Los Angeles Staff. "Eight Standout Solo Shows at Frieze Los Angeles 2025," Frieze, December

Baker, Cheona. "Crafted Kinship: Inside the Creative Practices of Contemporary Black Caribbean Makers," The Brooklyn Rail, December

Orozco, Jonathan. "April Bey Asks Us 'Will you watch me win?'," WhiteHot Magazine, October 28

Boucher, Brian. "Why Fiber Art Is (Still) Having a Moment as Prices and Recognition Continue to Climb," Artnet, June 18

Carlo, Pier. "April Bey," Thomas S. Kenan Institute For The Arts, March 18

Novoa, Gabriel. "April Bey's 'Atlantica': An alien planet with a human story," PCC Courier, March 18

Pasadena Now Staff. "PCC Galleries Unveils Dazzling Exploration Of Afrofuturism By Bahamian Artist," The Pasadena Now, March 10

2023 Modern Luxury Dallas Magazine Staff. "State Of The Arts: 9 Visual Artists Leading The Cultural Conversation Right Now," Modern Luxury Dallas Magazine, November 15

Morrison, Alexander. "In pictures: focus on Caribbean artists," The Art Newspaper, December 8

"Wide-Eyed and Dreaming—A Season of Seeing in Four Acts," e-flux, October 28

"TERN Gallery at The Armory Show 2023," Artsy, September 8

"Wide-Eyed And Dreaming: A Season of Seeing at the Nevada Museum of Art," Nevada Today, August 29

Bean, Jason. "Artist April Bey talks about fantasy and undercover aliens in 'Atlantica, The Gilda Region'," Reno Gazette Journal, August 28

Holmes, Brent. "Q+A with April Bey," Double Scoop, August 21

- 2022 Bochicchio, Sarah. "Thriving on Atlantica: April Bey & her Speculative Futurism," Art&Object, September 15
 Eddy Frankel. "April Bey: 'I Believe in Why I'm Here,'" Time Out, September 8
 Donoghue, Katy. "April Bey Brings the Story of Atlantica to The Bahamas and Beyond," Whitewall, August 3
- 2023 Jackson, Leigh-Ann. "'Few people ask us what we think about ourselves': This L.A. art show elevates Black women and nonbinary artists," The LA Times, May 8
- 2022 Orozco, Jonathan. "On Atlantica: April Bey's Utopian Planet," Whitehot Magazine, May
 Lawrence, Gabrielle. "Brimming with Lush Texture, Mixed-Media Tapestries by April Bey Envision an Afrofuturist World," Colossal, May 5
 Stromber, Matt and Elisa Wouk Almino. "Your Concise Los Angeles Art Guide for March 2022," February 28
 Piejko, Jennifer. "Los Angeles: seven must-see shows on view now," Art Basel, Feb
- 2021 Ortiz, Maria Elena. "Colonial Swag Fashion: A Conversation between April Bey and María Elena Ortiz" Pérez Art Museum Miami, Caribbean Cultural Institute
 Dexter, Henry. "April Bey Is an Emissary for the Unseen," Cultured Magazine, November 23

Teaching Experience

- 2015 Tenured Professor, Glendale Community College, Glendale, CA
- 2015-2016 Inglewood Cultural Arts Instructor, Inglewood, CA
- 2014-2015 Adjunct Professor, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
 Instructor, artworxla, Los Angeles, CA
 Ryman Teaching Artist, Fullerton, CA
- 2012-2014 Adjunct Professor California, State University Northridge, CA

Exhibition Catalogues and Publications

- 2024 Barnett, Malene. "Crafted Kinship: Inside the Creative Practices of Contemporary Black Caribbean Makers," Hatchett Book Group, New York, NY (2024)
- 2023 Minnis, Jodi. "April Bey: The Opulent Blerd," The Lancaster Museum of Art and History (MOAH), Lancaster, CA (2023)

Visiting Artist/Lectures

- 2022 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles, CA
 Chadwick School, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

	Kent State University, Kent, OH
	Cypress College, Cypress, CA
2021	Cypress College, Cypress, CA
	Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA
	Pomona College, Pomona, CA
	Glendale Hoover High, Glendale, CA
2020	University of the Bahamas, Nassau, The Bahamas
	Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL
	Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA
	Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA
	California State University Fullerton, Fullerton, CA
	Fullerton College, Fullerton, CA
	Women Painter's West, Laguna Beach, CA
2019	Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
	University of Alaska, Anchorage, Anchorage, AK
	Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles, CA
	Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA
	Chapman University, Orange, CA
2018	Art+Practice, Los Angeles, CA
	The MAIN Museum, Los Angeles, CA
	California African American Museum (CAAM), Los Angeles, CA

Residencies, Scholarships, & Prizes

2024	"UNION Fellowship," The Union for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE
2020	Self-Help Graphics, Los Angeles, CA
	Fullerton College Artist in Residency, Fullerton, CA
2019	Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Artist in Residence, Norwalk, CT
	Nkyinkyim za, Ada, Ghana
2018	The Current, Nassau, Bahamas
	In-Flux Artist Residency, Ghana, West Africa
2017	In-Flux Artist Residency, Bali, Dubai, Senegal, Morocco, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana
	CHALE WOTE, Jamestown, Ghana
2012	Can Serrat Artist in Residence, El Bruc, Spain

Awards & Grants

2020	Center for Cultural Innovation Artist Grant
2019	GCC Foundation Grant Student Equity Grant
2017	Rema Hort Mann Foundation Grant Nominee
2015	Melvin Best Award
2014	CSUN Arts Council Award

Public Art Projects

2022	For Freedoms, Inglewood Mural
2021	Fringe Projects MiamiDesign District Glendale Library Arts and Culture
2020	Destination Crenshaw Outdoor Museum Finalist Census Campaign East LA: Make It Count! LA METRO Willowbrook Through the Artist's Eyes

Public Collections

21C Museum Hotels
 California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA
 Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT
 The Current Bahamas Tradewinds, Marsh Harbour, Bahamas
 Escalette Collection, Chapman University, Orange, CA
 Fullerton College Art Gallery, Fullerton, CA
 Inter-American Development Bank, Los Angeles, CA
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA
 METRO Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
 Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA
 National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, Nassau, The Bahamas
 Newfelds Indianapolis Art Museum, Indianapolis, IN
 Self-Help Graphics, Boyle Heights, CA