

# NICOLA VASSELL

## Adebunmi Gbadebo

(b. 1992, Livingston, NJ)  
Lives and works Philadelphia, PA

### EDUCATION

2017 B.F.A., School of Visual Art, New York, NY

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Watch Out for the Ghosts*, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY, September 4 – October 18, 2025
- 2023 *Adebunmi Gbadebo: Remains*, Claire Oliver Gallery, New York, NY, January 13 – March 11, 2023
- 2020 *Adebunmi Gbadebo: A Dilemma with Inheritance*, Claire Oliver Gallery, New York, NY, September 17 – November 14, 2020  
*Uprooted*, New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ, January 30 – March 5, 2020
- 2019 *Adebunmi Gbadebo: Connected by a Strand*, Therese A Maloney Gallery, College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ, January 15 – February 28, 2019
- 2016 *The Ade Series*, Paul Robeson Gallery, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, April 4, 2016 – April 4, 2017

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Clay Has Memory: Creative Lineages from Africa*, curated by Perrin M. Lathrop, Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ, July 19, 2026 – July 3, 2027  
*Revelation: A Journey into Abstraction*, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C., June 12, 2026 – June 2028  
*tierra*, Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA, May 31 – October 25, 2026

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- 61<sup>st</sup> International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, *In Minor Keys*, by Koyo Kouoh, Venice, Italy, May 9 – November 22, 2026  
*Unbraided: Hair, Clay, and Craft*, MFA Boston, Boston, MA, March 21 – July 26, 2026  
*Legacies: Contemporary Art Dialogues with Clay*, curated by Srimoyee Mitra, Stamps Gallery in partnership with NCECA, Detroit, MI, March 13 – 28, 2026  
*Absence Takes Form*, curated by Adrienne Spinozzi in partnership with NCECA, Wasserman Projects, Detroit, MI, January 31 – April 4, 2026
- 2025 *Body Vessel Clay: Black Women, Ceramics & Contemporary Art*, Ford Foundation, New York, NY  
*Rise Up: Resistance, Revolution, Abolition*, The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, UK  
*A to Sze: Collecting at MAM (2000-2005)*, Montclair Art Museum, NJ
- 2024 *Ten Thousand Suns*, 24th Biennale of Sydney, Artspace, Sydney, AU  
*Collage/Assemblage Part II: 1990-Now*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN  
*Blues People*, curated by Alliyah Allen, Express Newark, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ  
*SUBSTRATE/SUBSTRUCTURE*, The Delaware Contemporary, Wilmington, DE
- 2023 *Image Impressions*, FF Projects at The Vaughn-Richards House, Lagos, NG  
*Hairitage*, curated by Favour Ritiro, Dekalb Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY  
*Elevation: Kaneko and Contemporary Ceramics*, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI  
*Inventing the Rest: New Adventures in Clay*, Maximillian William, London, UK  
*Songs for Ritual and Remembrance*, Arthur Ross Gallery, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
*Seeing America: 19th & 18th Century*, Permanent Gallery, Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ
- 2022 *Art and Design from 1900 to Now*, RISD Museum, Providence, RI  
*Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; Traveled to MFA Boston, Boston, MA (2023); University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI (2023) and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA (2024)  
*SALT to CATCH GHOST*, Slash Art Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Future Perfect*, Claire Oliver Gallery, New York, NY

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- 2021 *Shifting North*, The Clay Studio Resident Artist's at Allens Lane Art Center, Philadelphia, PA  
*Substance*, Pace University Art Gallery, New York, NY (online)  
*Painting Abstraction: 197X – Today*, Ziet Contemporary Art Gallery, New York, NY (online)
- 2020 *Abstraction in the Black Diaspora*, curated by Tariku Shiferaw & Ayanna Dozier, Queens, NY  
*False Flags*, Queens, NY  
*Four Now*, Claire Oliver Gallery, New York, NY  
*Dhaka Art Summit: Seismic Movements*, Dhaka, BD
- 2019 *Let Me Tell You A Story*, Drawing Rooms, Newark, NJ  
*Mapping Black Identities*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN  
*Between Wisdom and Madness: Works in Sculpture*, curated by Agnes Deja and Sarah Walko, Index Art Center Newark, NJ
- 2018 *Nice/Nasty*, Newark Arts Festival, Newark, NJ  
*Compassion*, Morris Arts/Dodge Foundation, Morris, NJ  
*Same Difference*, Miranda Kuo Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017 *Intertwined*, ChaShaMa Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*She Speaks*, Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ  
*Women In The World... A Visual Perspective*, Monmouth University, Pollak Gallery, West Long Branch, NJ
- 2016 *Say Her Name*, Newark Open Doors, Newark, NJ  
*BlackLivesMatter*, Kean University, Union, NJ  
*Surrogate*, SVA Chelsea Gallery, New York, NY  
*Cross-Cultural Dialogue*, curated by the Central Academy of Fine Arts China, Jacob Javits Center, New York, NY
- 2015 *Newark Open Doors*, Yendor Arts, Newark, NJ  
*Hi-Rez / Lo Rez*, SVA Flatiron Gallery, SVA, New York, NY
- 2013 *Stigmata*, Yendor Arts, Newark Open Doors, Newark, NJ

## COMMISSIONS

# NICOLA VASSELL

2021 Harriet Tubman Monument project, Community Apprenticeship, Clemson University, SC, and Newark, NJ

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2025 Thomas, Alexandra M. "How Black Women Ceramicists Shaped Art History." *Hyperallergic*, 24 November 2025, [hyperallergic.com/how-black-women-ceramicists-shaped-art-history-ford-foundation-gallery/](https://hyperallergic.com/how-black-women-ceramicists-shaped-art-history-ford-foundation-gallery/).

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2019 Abrams, Loney. “Highlights from UNTITLED, Art Miami Beach 2019,” *Artspace*, 3 December 2019, [https://www.artspace.com/magazine/news\\_events/art-fairs/highlights-from-untitled-art-miami-beach-56342](https://www.artspace.com/magazine/news_events/art-fairs/highlights-from-untitled-art-miami-beach-56342).

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## PUBLICATIONS

- 2026 Commander, Michelle D., et al. *Revelation: A Journey into Abstraction*. Rizzoli Electa with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, 2026, pp. 30-33, 35, 42-43
- 2025 Avery, et al. *Rise up: Resistance, Revolution, Abolition*, Philip Wilson Publishers, 2025, pp. 176-189.  
Perry, Imani. *Black in Blues: How Color Tells A Story of My People*, HarperCollins Publishers, 2025.
- 2024 Le Feuvre, et al. *Great Women Sculptors*, Phaidon Press, 2024, p. 114.  
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- 2022 Spinozzi, Adrienne (ed.). *Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2022, pp. 168-169, and back cover.

## WRITING

- 2025 Gbadebo, Adebunmi. "A Letter to Jack Whitten (Our Egun), Written from my Woodshed (In North Philly)," *The Brooklyn Rail*, 28 May 2025, <https://brooklynrail.org/2025/06/criticspage/a-letter-to-jack-whitten-our-egunwritten-from-my-woodshed-in-north-philly/>.

## LECTURES AND ARTIST TALKS

- 2026 Woodward Lecture Series: Adebunmi Gbadebo in Conversation with Ashara Ekundayo, College of Creative Studies, Detroit, MI
- 2024 Artist Talk: Adebunmi Gbadebo, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
- 2023 In Conversation with Theaster Gates, Free To Speak: A Convening on Art, Slavery & Reconciliation, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI  
Keynote Speaker, American Ceramic Circle Conference, Winterthur Museum,

# NICOLA VASSELL

Garden & Library in Wilmington, DE

Learning From Edgefield; In Conversation, MFA Boston, Boston, MA

2022 Learning from Edgefield Panel, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
Salt to Catch Ghost, Slash Art gallery, San Francisco, CA

2021 Abstraction: Investigations of Social Change panel talk, Galerie Lelong & Co.,  
New York, NY  
Lunch & Learn, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

2020 Artists in the Studio, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA  
Art and Lunch, Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ  
Artist Talk, Spence School, New York, NY

2019 Artist in Conversation, College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ

2018 "Crown your Head" workshop, Newark Museum, Newark NJ

2017 Mother & Muse Talk, Newark Museum, Newark, NJ

2016 Ade Series Talk, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

## RESIDENCIES

2025 Fabric Workshop Museum, Philadelphia, PA  
Highpoint Print Shop, Minneapolis, MN  
Brandywine Workshop and Archive, Philadelphia, PA

21-25 Clay Studio, Philadelphia PA

2024 Brandywine Workshop and Archives  
Highpoint Center for Printmaking  
Denniston Hill

2018 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT

2016 Classical Painting Fellowship, Mario Camano Studio, Madrid, SP SVA  
Bronze Casting Fellow, Keating Foundry, Jersey City, NJ

# NICOLA VASSELL

## AWARDS

2023 Rising Star Award, Newark Public Library Annual Gala, Newark, NJ Award  
in Craft, Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, San Francisco, CA

2022 Pew Fellow, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage

2021 Finalist, 1858 Southern Art Prize, Gibbes Museum of Art Society, Charleston, SC

## COLLECTIONS

Brooklyn Museum, NY

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul, MN

Montclair Art Museum, NJ

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ

Rhode Island School of Design, RI

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture,  
Washington, D.C.

Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C.

South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC

Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN