

# NICOLA VASSELL

## Uman

b. 1980, Somalia

Lives and works in Upstate New York

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Uman: In Between*, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, June 27 – November 29, 2026

2025 *I Love You After Everything*, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY  
*Uman: After all the things...*, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT  
*Uman: A Fantastic Woman*, Hauser & Wirth, Zurich, CH

2024 *Darling sweetie, sweetie darling*, Hauser & Wirth, London, UK

2023 *Uman: I want everything now*, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY

2022 *Goodnight, sweetdreams*, Eleni Koroneou Gallery, Athens, GR

2021 *I hope this finds you well*, Fierman, New York, NY

2019 *I will sit here and wait for you*, Fierman, New York, NY

2015 *Uman: 35 Years a Black Sheep*, Louis B. James, New York, NY  
*Uman*, White Columns Gallery, New York, NY

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Outside*, curated by Matthew Higgs, Karma Gallery, Thomaston, Maine, July 19 – September 6, 2026  
*Follow Through*, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY, June 25 – August 7, 2026  
*Spellbound*, Firestorm Foundation, Stockholm, SE, January 23 – April 26, 2026

# NICOLA VASSELL

- 2025 *Making Their Mark: Works from the Shah Garg Collection*, Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, MO  
12<sup>th</sup> Site Santa Fe, Curated by Cecilia Alemani, Santa Fe, NM  
*The Abstract Future*, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, CA  
*Love Poems*, Anton Kern Gallery, New York, NY
- 2024 *The Selves*, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY  
*Abstraction (re)creation – 20 under 40*, Le Consortium, Dijon, FR
- 2023 *MELENCOLIA*, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zürich, CH  
*Supra Nature*, Anne De Villepoix, Paris, FR
- 2022 *Moods & Memories*, Eleni Koroneou Gallery, Athens, GR  
*PERSON(A)*, Venus Over Manhattan, New York, NY  
*Face & Figure*, Anne De Villepoix, Paris, FR  
*Controlled Chaos*, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021 *Heliotropic*, Eleni Koroneou Gallery, Athens, GR  
*The Earth, That Is Sufficient*, Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY  
*The Human Scale*, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN  
*Face-to-Face*, on the occasion of Traversées Africaines, Anne De Villepoix, Paris, FR  
*Cat's Cradle*, in Collaboration with Fierman and Situations, Kristen Lorello, New York, NY
- 2020 *Nothing (but Flowers)*, Karma, New York, NY  
*Flower Power*, Anne De Villepoix Paris, FR  
*Sanctuary*, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada  
*L'afrique Fantôme*, Anne De Villepoix, Paris, FR  
*FUTUREFUTURE*, Hair and Nails, Minneapolis, MN  
*RED TELEPHONE*, curated by Nora Griffin, Fierman, New York, NY
- 2018 *The Universe II*, Anne De Villepoix Paris, FR
- 2017 *Sanctuary*, with For-Site Foundation at Fort Mason Chapel, San Francisco, CA  
*"Ungewohnte Nähe"*, Anne De Villepoix Paris, FR

# NICOLA VASSELL

2016 *"Who Cares?"*, Anne De Villepoix Paris, FR

2015 *I Saw the Earth Like a Broken Egg*, Christian Berst Gallery, New York, NY

2012 *A house to die in*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK Ideal  
*Pole*, Ramiken Crucible New York, NY

## PROJECTS

2026 John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, NY

2022 The Cube Grant, at the inaugural FORMAT Festival by TRIADIC,  
Bentonville, AR

2021 Short film with Eve Fowler

2019 Mural in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance, Callen-Lorde, New York,  
NY

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

## SELECTED PRESS

2026 Scott, Chadd. "3 Unique Women United by Abstraction at CCS, Bard." *Forbes*,  
18 July 2026, [www.forbes.com/sites/chaddscott/2026/07/18/three-unique-women-united-by-abstraction-at-ccs-bard/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/chaddscott/2026/07/18/three-unique-women-united-by-abstraction-at-ccs-bard/).

Yablonsky, Linda. "Northern Soul: Camaraderie and Cool During Upstate Art  
Weekend." *Artform*, 8 July 2026, [www.artforum.com/columns/northern-soul-camaraderie-and-cool-at-upstate-art-weekend-1234754177/](http://www.artforum.com/columns/northern-soul-camaraderie-and-cool-at-upstate-art-weekend-1234754177/).

Mahoney, Brian K. "Three Major Summer Exhibitions Exploring Abstraction,  
Color, and Innovation at CCS Bard - Chronogram Magazine." *Chronogram*, 22  
May 2026, [www.chronogram.com/arts/three-major-summer-exhibitions-exploring-abstraction-color-and-innovation-at-ccs-bard/](http://www.chronogram.com/arts/three-major-summer-exhibitions-exploring-abstraction-color-and-innovation-at-ccs-bard/).

# NICOLA VASSELL

Moment, Matt. "Expansive Survey of Painter Uman Opens at CCS Bard June 2026." *The Daily Catch*, 29 June 2026, [www.bard.edu/news/expansive-survey-of-painter-uman-opens-at-ccs-bard-june-2026-2026-03-23](http://www.bard.edu/news/expansive-survey-of-painter-uman-opens-at-ccs-bard-june-2026-2026-03-23).

O'Neill-Butler, Lauren. "The Artist Uman's Technicolor Paintings of Rural Life." *The New York Times*, 27 June 2026, [www.nytimes.com/2026/06/27/t-magazine/uman-hessel-museum-bard.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/27/t-magazine/uman-hessel-museum-bard.html).

Thomas, Taliesin. "15 Art Shows to See in Upstate New York This Summer." *Hyperallergic*, 19 June 2026, [hyperallergic.com/15-art-shows-to-see-in-upstate-new-york-this-summer/](http://hyperallergic.com/15-art-shows-to-see-in-upstate-new-york-this-summer/).

Moment, Matt. "Uman: After All the Things ..." *The Brooklyn Rail*, 11 Mar. 2026, [brooklynrail.org/2026/03/artseen/uman-after-all-the-things/](http://brooklynrail.org/2026/03/artseen/uman-after-all-the-things/).

Uman. "The Trops Takes Pride in Sharing the Work of Contemporary Artists." *The Trops*, Issue 02, 2026, pp. 102, 104–105.

Kaye, Randy. "Contemporary Art at the Aldrich." *WSHU*, 28 January 2026, [www.wshu.org/arts-culture/2026-01-28/contemporary-art-at-the-aldrich](http://www.wshu.org/arts-culture/2026-01-28/contemporary-art-at-the-aldrich).

Deng, Qingyuan. "Uman's Diasporic Abstraction," *Hyperallergic*, 20 January 2026, <https://hyperallergic.com/umans-diasporic-abstraction/>.

2025 Duray, Dan. "How Uman Channeled a Turbulent Year into Calm Abstraction," *Observer*, 16 December 2025, <https://observer.com/2025/12/artist-interview-uman-aldrich-museum-exhibition/>.

"Uman: After All the Things ...' on View at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum." *Hyperallergic*, Hyperallergic, 17 November 2025 [hyperallergic.com/aldrich-contemporary-art-museum-presents-uman/](http://hyperallergic.com/aldrich-contemporary-art-museum-presents-uman/).

Heinrich, Will. "Art Gallery Shows to See in November," *The New York Times*, 13 November 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/30/arts/art-gallery-shows-to-see-in-november.html>

Little, Colony. "Uman's kaleidoscopic journeys," *Art Basel*, 13 November 2025, <https://www.artbasel.com/stories/uman-nicola-vassell-gallery-hauser-wirth>

# NICOLA VASSELL

“Uman: After all the things..., Seeking complexity, and woodworkers of the Hudson Valley”, *Upstate Diary*, 3 November 2025, <https://www.upstatediary.com/art-picks/2025/11>

Stewart, Alison (host), 'Non-Binary Coming of Age Film; Ledisi's Tribute to Dinah Washington; Solo Shows From Artist Uman; Hania Rani Previews Her New Piano Concerto' [audio podcast], in: All Of It, WNYC, 29 October 2025.  
Ahmed, Sahir. “Dream Logic”, *Family Style*, 24 October 2025, <https://www.family.style/art/uman-aldrich-museum-nicola-vassell-exhibition>

“Fall Art Shows at Museums and Galleries Across the United States”, *The New York Times*, 14 October 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/14/arts/design/art-exhibitions-united-states-fall-schedule.html>

Sheets, Hilarie M. “Artist to Watch: Uman’s Intuitive Paintings Shimmer with Color and Meaning”, *Galerie*, 3 October 2025, <https://galeriemagazine.com/artist-tohttps://galeriemagazine.com/artist-to-watch-uman/watch-uman/>

“Uman on Art, Life & Everything In Between”, *Phaidon*, October 2025, <https://www.phaidon.com/en-us/blogs/stories/uman-on-art-life-everything-in-between>

Valdesolo, Fiorella. “15 Women-Led Art Shows to See in New York This Fall,” *Vogue*, 22 September 2025, <https://www.vogue.com/article/women-led-artshowsnew-york-fall-2025>.

Saltz, Jerry. “10 Art Shows We Can’t Wait to See This Fall,” *Vulture*, 10 September 2025, <https://www.vulture.com/article/10-art-shows-we-cant-waittosee-this-fall.html>.

Rabb, Maxwell. “11 Must-See Museum Shows This Fall”, *Artsy*, 2 September 2025, <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-11-must-see-museum-fall>

Westall, Mark. “Uman. A Fantastic Woman, Her First Solo Show in Switzerland,” *FAD Magazine*, 10 January 2025, <https://fadmagazine.com/2025/01/10/umanhttps://fadmagazine.com/2025/01/10/>

# NICOLA VASELL

uman-afantastic-woman-her-first-solo-show-in-switzerland/afantastic-woman-her-first-solo-show-in-switzerland/.

2024 Sheets, Hilarie M. "Move Over, La Guardia and Newark: 18 Artists to Star at New J.F.K Terminal," *The New York Times*, 16 July 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/16/arts/design/artists-commissionedjfkairport.html>.

"Uman releases Valentine, 2024, a new edition with Artspace and Independent Art Fair," *Artspace*, 5 May 2024, [https://www.artspace.com/magazine/interviews\\_features/meet\\_the\\_artist/umanreleases-valentine-2024-a-new-edition-with-artspace-and-independent-artfair57376](https://www.artspace.com/magazine/interviews_features/meet_the_artist/umanreleases-valentine-2024-a-new-edition-with-artspace-and-independent-artfair57376).

Sheets, Hilarie M. "The Independent Art Fair Looks Back in a Special Exhibition," *The New York Times*, 4 May 2024, Section S, pp. 7, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/03/arts/design/independent-art-fairanniversaryshow.html>.

Gerlis, Melanie. "Art galleries turn to fresh forms of collaboration as market splinters," *Financial Times*, 27 April 2024, <https://www.ft.com/content/6c7e97c41887-485f-b9f1-326fdee4b4c2>.

Dwamena, Anakwa. "On View: A Painter Inspired by Islamic Art and Rural New York Life," *The New York Times*, 28 March 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/03/28/t-magazine/umanhauserwirth.html>.

"Commissions," *Family Style*, Spring 2024, pp. 155.

"Uman on Art, Life & Everything In Between," *Artspace*, 6 March 2024, [https://www.artspace.com/magazine/interviews\\_features/meet\\_the\\_artist/umanon-art-life-everything-in-between-57352](https://www.artspace.com/magazine/interviews_features/meet_the_artist/umanon-art-life-everything-in-between-57352).

Gapper, John. "Hauser & With: the Swiss gallery that went global," *The Financial Times*, 2 March 2024, <https://www.ft.com/content/323ea74d-827e-4f62a08e457e61e19ab5>.

# NICOLA VASSELL

Hollis, Phyllis. "Episode 190 – A Conversation with Uman." *Cerebral Women*, 28 February 2024, <https://cerebralwomen.com/2024/02/28/episode-190aconversation-with-uman/>.

"Somali Street Artist Attracts International Art Institutions with her Works," *Asharq Al Awsat*, 20 February 2024, <https://english.aawsat.com/varieties/4865216-somali-street-artistattractsinternational-art-institutions-her-works>.

Haynes, Suyin. "This artist sold her work on the street. Now it's being exhibited in big galleries," *CNN*, 18 February 2024, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/18/style/uman-artist-hauser-wirth/index.html>.

Steer, Emily. "'I Follow That Gut Feeling': Uman's Kaleidoscopic Paintings Emerge From Her Dreams," *Artnet*, 1 February 2024, <https://news.artnet.com/artworld/umans-painting-hauser-wirth-2426374>.

2023 Durón, Maximiliano. "Uman Paints a Picture," *ARTnews*, 2023, pp. 23- 25, [https://www.artnews.com/art-news/artists/uman-artist-profile-best-practices1234685155/#recipient\\_hashed=611cc2fa1478ddd40a89a3b4c739873a66d1158d014bb6e897711f0bb3e0fa6c&recipient\\_salt=f79d50accbd3b95a693304b2e295e270d39f24d4620c3b017dae31c97356c93b](https://www.artnews.com/art-news/artists/uman-artist-profile-best-practices1234685155/#recipient_hashed=611cc2fa1478ddd40a89a3b4c739873a66d1158d014bb6e897711f0bb3e0fa6c&recipient_salt=f79d50accbd3b95a693304b2e295e270d39f24d4620c3b017dae31c97356c93b), 8 November 2023.

Bradley, Kimberly. "What does it take for a gallery to show at an Art Basel fair?," *Art Basel*, 31 October 2023, <https://www.artbasel.com/stories/the-road-toartbasel-miami-beach-2023-nicola-vassell-meredith-rosen>.

Boyle, Meka, "Uman's Studio in Upstate New York is a Portal to a Kaleidoscopic World," *Elephant*, 16 June 2023, <https://elephant.art/umans-studio-in-thehudsonvalley-is-a-portal-to-a-kaleidoscopic-world/>.

"Uman. I want everything now," *Meer*, 14 June 2023, <https://www.meer.com/en/74374-uman-i-want-everything-now>.

Benzine, Vittoria. "5 GALLERY SHOWS HEATING UP NY," *FAD Magazine*, 12 June 2023, <https://fadmagazine.com/2023/06/12/5-gallery-shows-heating-upnyc/>.

# NICOLA VASSELL

Laster, Paul. "7 Must-See Solo Gallery Shows Across the U.S. in June," *Galerie Magazine*, 5 June 2023, <https://galeriemagazine.com/gallery-shows-june-2023/>.

Scott, Andrea K. "Uman," *The New Yorker*, online 26 May, print 5 June 2023, <https://www.newyorker.com/goings-on-about-town/art/uman>.

Xaaji, Xalan "'I Want Everything Now'—Uman," *c mag*, 31 May 2023, <https://cmagazine.com/articles/i-want-everything-now-uman>.

Valentine, Victoria L. "New York: 10 Gallery Exhibitions Feature Works by Artists Fred Eversley, Bob Thompson, Mark Bradford, Lisa Corrine Davis, Kehinde Wiley, Zéh Palito & More," *Culture Type*, 23 May 2023, <https://www.culturetype.com/2023/05/23/new-york-10-gallery-exhibitionsfeatureworks-by-artists-fred-eversley-bob-thompson-mark-bradford-lisacorinne-daviskehinde-wiley-zeh-palito-more/>.

Silverman, Erica. "Mark Bradford, Senga Nengudi, Uman, and More Must-See Shows in New York," *whitewall*, 18 May 2023, <https://whitewall.art/art/markbradford-senga-nengudi-uman-and-more-must-seeshows-in-new-york>.

"'Uman: I Want Everything Now,' Exhibit at Nicola Vassell Gallery," *La Voce Di New York*, 9 May 2023, <https://lavocedinewyork.com/en/newyork/2023/05/09/uman-i-want-everythingnow-exhibit-at-nicola-vassell-gallery/>.

Heinrich, Will "What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in May," *The New York Times*, 3 May 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/03/arts/design/nyc-artgalleriesmay.html>.

"This Week In Culture: May 1 - May 7, 2023," *Cultured*, 1 May 2023, <https://www.culturedmag.com/article/2023/05/01/fred-eversley-sarahmorrisuman>.

Martin, Chris. "Uman with Chris Martin," *The Brooklyn Rail*, May 2023, <https://brooklynrail.org/2023/05/art/Uman-with-Chris-Martin>.

Kazanjian, Dodie. "It's Spring! Time for Some Art," *Vogue*, 10 April 2023, <https://www.vogue.com/article/best-art-spring-2023>.

# NICOLA VASELL

2022 *The Paris Review*, NO. 242, WINTER 2022, front cover.

Jacobson, Camille. "LSD Snowfall: An Interview with Uman," *The Paris Review*, 19 December 2022,  
<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2022/12/19/lidsnowfallan-interview-with-uman/>.

Shoan, Tatijana. "TRANS SOMALI ARTIST UMAN FINDS INSPIRATION IN THEIR ROOTS," *AS IF*, 28 November 2022,  
<https://www.asifmag.com/story/uman-artist-inspiration-roots>.

"Uman at Eleni Koroneou Gallery" *Art Viewer*, 22 November 2022,  
<https://artviewer.org/uman-at-elenei-koroneou-gallery/>.

Fontaine, Pearl. "The Inaugural FORMAT Festival Proposes a New Cultural Destination in the Ozarks," *whitewall*, 3 October 2023,  
<https://whitewall.art/lifestyle/the-inaugural-format-festival-proposes-a-newculturaldestination-in-the-ozarks>.

Benschop, Jurriaan. "Uman," *Artforum*, Fall 2022,  
<https://www.artforum.com/events/uman-250558/>.

LIVE Mag!, Issue 18, 2022, pp. 11.

Dodson, Patrick. "NEW GALLERY BRINGS NYC ARTISTS TO THE SOUTH END," *Albany Proper*, 18 May 2022,  
<https://www.albanyproper.com/newgallerybrings-nyc-artists-to-the-south-end/>.

Keenan, Annabel. "At Independent Art Fair, Young Artists Explore Heritage, Identity and Healing," *Cultured*, 6 May 2022,  
<https://www.culturedmag.com/article/2022/05/06/at-independent-art-fairyoungartists-explore-heritage-identity-and-healing>.

Durón, Maximiliano. "The Best Booths at Independent New York 2022, from Personal Abstraction to a Response to the Guston Controversy," *ARTnews*, 5 May 2022, <https://www.artnews.com/list/art-news/artists/best-boothsindependentnew-york-1234627784/devin-troy-strother-at-broadway/>.

# NICOLA VASSELL

Heinrich, Will. "An Elegant Return to Form at Independent Art Fair," *The New York Times*, 5 May 2022,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/05/arts/design/independent-art-fair-newyorkreview.html>.

Schwabsky, Barry. "Uman," *Independent*, May 2022,  
<https://www.independenthq.com/features/uman>.

2021 Boyd-Griffith, Shelton. "'THE EARTH, THAT IS SUFFICIENT' OPENS AT NICOLA VASSELL GALLERY," *Grazia Magazine*, 20 July 2021,  
<https://graziamagazine.com/us/articles/the-earth-that-is-sufficient-opens-atnicolavassell-gallery/>.

2020 Smith, Roberta. "A Bouquet of Group Art Shows Near Houston Street," *New York Times*, 13 August 2020,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/13/arts/design/nycgalleries-art-shows.html>.

2019 "Mural Unveiled in Honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance," *callenlorde.org*, 25 November 2019, <https://callen-lorde.org/mural-unveiled-in-honoroftransgender-day-of-remembrance/>.

Smith, Roberta. "New York Galleries: What to See Right Now," *The New York Times*, 26 July 2019, Section C, pp. 17,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/24/arts/design/what-to-see-in-artgalleries.html>, 24 July 2019.

2016 Frank, Priscilla. "Meet Uman, The Gender Fluid Artist Who Taught Herself To Express," *HuffPost*, 11 January 2016,  
[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/meetumanthe-mysterious-artist-who-embraces-multiplicity-in-workandlife\\_n\\_568d6648e4b0c8beacf55789](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/meetumanthe-mysterious-artist-who-embraces-multiplicity-in-workandlife_n_568d6648e4b0c8beacf55789).

## PUBLICATIONS

2026 Uman, Cornell, Lauren, Jason Farah, Omar (et al.), *Uman*, New York City: The Monacelli Press, 2026, ill.

# NICOLA VASSELL

Scobie, Ilka, Smith-Stewart, Amy, *Uman: After all the things...*, New York City: Gregory R. Miller & Co., 2026, ill.

2025 Alemani, Cecilia. *Once Within a Time*, SITE SANTA FE, 2025, pp. 24-25, 213.

2023 Scobie, Ilka. *Uman: I Want Everything Now*, Nicola Vassell Gallery, 2023.

## AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

2022 'The Cube Grant,' FORMAT Festival by TRIADIC, Bentonville AR

2015 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, Nominee

## COLLECTIONS

Wichita Art Museum, KS