

Vitus Shell

Born 1978, Monroe, LA.

Education

MFA	2008	University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS.
BFA	2000	Memphis College of Art.
Apprenticeship	1999	Brenda Joysmith, Memphis, TN.

Exhibition Record

2016

"The Good Bad Ugly", Bry Gallery, University of Louisiana at Monroe, LA.

2015

"Samo Journey", Photo Nola, Port, New Orleans, LA.

"Too Hot", Todd Art Gallery, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN.

"Water, Bones & Blood" presented by NIA Artists Collective, MCA Hyde Gallery, Memphis, TN.

"Identity", Gallery Jatad, Houston, TX.

"Public/Art/ists", Crosstown Arts, Memphis, TN.

2014

"Synthesia", Treo New Orleans, Curator: Carl Joe Williams & Ayo Scott. Prospect 3.

"Imago Mundi: Reparations", New Orleans Museum of Art, NOLA, Curator: Diego Cortez.

"Controlling your Image, Perception", Philander Smith College, Little Rock, AR.

2013

"Turnt Up to Da Max" (solo) Joan Mitchell Studio Gallery, New Orleans, LA.

2012

"Disconnect Notice", Dunbar Gallery, Grambling State University, Grambling, LA.

"Outside In", Masur Museum, Monroe, LA, Curator: Benjamin Hickey.

2008

The Cue Art Foundation presents An Exhibition of Works by the Joan Mitchell Foundation, 2007 MFA Grant Recipients, New York City.

"Bring That Beat Back: The Sound of the Drums, the Streets and the Heart" (Thesis Show), Southside Gallery, Oxford, MS.

2007

"Class of 07", Lantana Projects, Memphis, TN, Curator: Ian and Elizabeth Lemmons.

"The Beautiful Struggle", (solo) LRP Gallery, Memphis, TN, Curator: Lauren Kennedy, Independent Curator.

"Texas National 2007", SFA Gallery, Stephen F. Austin University, Nacogdoches, TX, Juror: MANUAL (Suzanne Bloom and Ed Hill).

2006

"Brown Bag Special" , (solo) Dillard University Art Gallery, New Orleans, LA.

"Fuzion 3.0 : Taking On Hip-hop", NIA, Delta Axis @ Marshall Arts, Memphis, TN, Curator: Shalishah Franklin.

Paintings by Vitus Shell, (solo) Bry Art Gallery, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, LA.

Embrace: The Fine Art Fair of The National Black Arts Festival, Savacou Gallery, Atlanta, GA.

North American Graduate Art Survey, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, Juror: Diane Mullins, Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN.

"Deep Roots", Hearne Fine Art, Little Rock, AR.

"Socially Handicap", (solo)Tennessee Art Commission Gallery, Nashville, TN.

"Old News: New Works", (solo) Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis, TN.

33rd Annual Juried Competition, Masur Museum of Art, Monroe, LA, Juror: Henry Finkelstein, Artist and Professor, Art Academy, NYC.

Group Show, NIA, Grambling University, Grambling, LA.

"Church Inc." NIA, 4th Floor Art Gallery, Prairie View A & M, Prairie View, TX.

Paper in Particular, 27th Annual Juried Exhibition, Columbia College, Columbia, MO, Juror: David Morrison, Herron School of Art, Indianapolis, IN.

2005

7th Annual Young Painters Competition, Miami University, Oxford, OH, Juror: Sue Taylor, Associate Professor, Portland State University, Portland, OR.

Louisiana Artists 2005, LSU Union Art Gallery, Baton Rouge, LA, Juror: Dean Dablow, Director of the School of Art, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA.

"NIA: Southern Trees Bare Strange Fruit" , Langston Hughes Center, Buffalo, NY, Curator: Mark Dabney, Independent Appraiser.

48th Annual Delta Exhibition, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR, Juror: Roger Shimomura, Professor Emeritus, University of Kansas.

Group Show, Southside Gallery, Oxford, MS.

New Power Generation 2005, Hampton University, Hampton, VA, Marianetta Porter, Associate Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

"I Remember Wen I Never Ben" , (solo)Grambling University, Grambling, LA.

"Something of Our Common Feelings", Delta Axis@ Marshall Arts, Memphis, TN, Curator: Elizabeth Alley, Director of Public Art, UrbanArt Commissions, Memphis, TN.

"Sugar Ditch Rich", NIA, Tunica Museum, Tunica, MS.

2004

"Reminisce" , (solo) In The Gallery, Nashville, TN.

The Mattress Factory, NIA, Atlanta, GA.

"Church Inc. Contemporary Religious Visions", NIA, Hiram Van Memorial Gallery, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN, Curator: Jerry Waters, Independent Writer.

"Bringing Back Sweet Memories", (solo) Art on 38, Philadelphia, PA.

"NIA: Southern Trees Bear Strange Fruit", Savacou Gallery, New York, NY.

"Magnolias, Peaches & Cottonfields; The South Revisited", Tilford Art Group, Los Angeles, CA.

"Art with A Southern Drawl", University of Mobile, Mobile, AL.

"50 Years and counting: Artists Respond to Brown vs. Topeka", National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN, Curator: Barbara Andrews, National Civil Rights Museum.

2003

National Black Fine Art Show, In The Gallery, New York, NY.

"Hambone and Hot Grease", Savacou Gallery, New York, NY.

"Dirty Gumbo", Frame Up-Basement Gallery, Oxford, MS.

10th Annual Gulf Coast National Juried Art Competition, Texas Artists Museum, Port Arthur, TX.

"15", In The Gallery, Nashville, TN.

"Mother, Backbone, Love Her", (solo) One Love, Memphis, TN.

Shelby County Attorney's Office, (solo) Memphis, TN.

"Mystery", (solo) Jubilee Gallery, Memphis, TN.

"Welcome Home", (solo) Frame Up-Basement Gallery, Oxford, MS.

2002

"Fuzion", NIA, Dorothy Jean Gallery, Memphis, TN.

2001

"God Bless the Child", NIA, Joysmith Gallery, Memphis, TN.

Phi Beta Sigma African American Male Image Awards, Memphis, TN.

2000

Arts in the Park, Juried Show, Memphis, TN, Fall.

1997

Art Day, AutoZone Park, Memphis, TN.

9th Annual Summer Student Exhibition, Memphis College of Art, Summer.

Professional Experience

2015

Muralist, Indianola City Pool, Indianola, MS.

Muralist, Public/ART/ists Part 3, Urban Art Commission, Memphis, TN.

Visiting Artist, 16th Annual Peoplehood Parade, Spiral Q, Philadelphia, PA.

Co-Curator, *"Well Worn Truths,"* (Group exhibition) Masur Museum of Art, Monroe, LA.

Advisory Board Committee, Northeast Louisiana Delta African American Museum, Monroe, LA.

Joan Mitchell Visual Arts Scholar, Roots Week, 39th Annual Meeting & Artists' Retreat, Alternate Roots, Arden, NC.

Independent Studio, Tougaloo Art Colony, Tougaloo College, Jackson, MS.

Juror, Scholastic Art Awards 2015, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS.

- 2014 Member, Exhibition Committee, Masur Museum of Art, Monroe, LA.
Keynote Speaker, Fall Conference, Mississippi Art Educator Association, Jackson, MS.
Juror, VAA Fall Show, The Firehouse Gallery, Vicksburg Art Association, Vicksburg, MS.
Independent Studio, Tougaloo Art Colony, Tougaloo College, Jackson, MS.
- 2013 Visiting Artist, Tougaloo Art Colony, Tougaloo College, Jackson, MS.
- 2012 Adjunct Professor, Grambling State University, Spring/Fall 2012 (Instructor of Records)
Visual & Performing Arts, Drawing I & II, Art Appreciation.
Juror, The Mid-South Scholastic Art Awards, Brooks Museum, Memphis, TN.
- 2003 - 2011 Vice President, NIA, Artist Collective.
- 2009 Commissioned Artists, Coaster Project, ArtsMemphis 2009-2010 Bravo Season Kick Off,
Hannah Davis Gallery, Memphis, TN.
- 2007 Teaching Assistant, University of Mississippi, Fall 2007 (Instructor of Record) Art271 Intro to
Printmaking.
- 2006 Teaching Assistant, University of Mississippi, Fall 2006 (Instructor of Record) Art101/Two
Dimensional Design.
Curator, Salon for Memphis' Arts Creators, On The Street Gallery, MCA, Memphis, TN.
- 2005 Teacher's Assistant, University of Mississippi, Fall 2005-06, Art101.
Co- Curator, Salon for Memphis' Arts Creators, On The Street Gallery, MCA, Memphis, TN.
Artist in Residence, Mitchell High School, Memphis College of Art, Memphis, TN.
- 2004 Artist in Residence, Westwood High School, Memphis College of Art, Memphis, TN.
- 2003 Muralist, Orange Mound Community Service Center, Urban Art Commission, Memphis, TN.
Muralist, "They Cleared the Lane: African American Basketball Pioneers Exhibition" Martin Luther
King, Jr. Holiday Celebration, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN.
- 2002 Team Leader, Soulville Gateway Moral Project, Urban Art Commission, Memphis, TN.
Installation Assistant, " Everywhere, Simultaneously, Beautifully" Lester Julian Merriweather, ArtLab
Gallery, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.
- 2001 Juror, National Civil Rights Museum Youth Poster Contest.
- 2000 Booth Assistant, National Black Fine Art Show, Hearne Fine Art Gallery, NYC.
- 1998-1999 Art Instructor, Powell Recreation Center, Monroe, LA, Summer.

Grants, Fellowships & Residencies

- 2016 Joan Mitchell Foundation, New Orleans, LA.
- 2015 Visual Arts scholarship, Joan Mitchell Visual Arts Scholar, Alternate Roots.
- 2014 Masur Museum, Monroe, LA.
- 2013 Joan Mitchell Foundation, New Orleans, LA.
- 2008 Skowhegan School of Art, Skowhegan, ME.

- 2008 Camille Hanks-Cosby Scholarship.
- 2007 Joan Mitchell Foundation, MFA Grant.
- 2003 Winner, South Main Art Festival Poster Design, Memphis, TN.
- 2001 2nd Place, Elvis Week 2001 Art Contest and Exhibit, Memphis, TN.
- 1997-1998 Promus Hotel Scholarship, Memphis College of Art.
- 1996-2000 Merit Awards, Memphis College of Art.

Representation

- 2008 - 2013 Claire Oliver Gallery, New York City

Visiting Artist Lectures

- 2015 Lecturer, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN.
Visiting Artist, Houston High School, Memphis, TN.
Visiting Artist, Berg Jones Lane Elementary, Monroe, LA.
Lecturer, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS.
- 2014 Lecturer, Philander Smith College, Little Rock, AR.
- 2013 Lecturer, Dillard University, New Orleans, LA.
- 2010 Lecturer, Masur Museum, Monroe, LA.
- 2006 Lecturer, Prairie View A & M, Prairie View, TX.
- 2004 Visiting Artist, Grambling State University, Grambling, LA.

Bibliography

- Causey, Kaleb. "Local artist hopes to make big impact with his work." *The News Star*, August 22, 2015.
- Harris, Kasimu. "Vitus Shell: Slimcrowism" *Pelicanbomb.com*, May 22, 2013.
- McAdams, Alex. "Art student makes bold statements" *The Daily Mississippian*, February 29, 2008.
- DeLeon, Misty. "Painting the Blues." *FreeStyle*, Sept 29, 2006.
- Koeppel, Fredric. "NIA advances work of young black artists." *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, July 28, 2006.
- Maddox, David. "Brown Paper Bag Test." *Nashville Scene*, June 8, 2006.
- The City Paper, exhibition announcement with photograph, Nashville, Tennessee, May 30, 2006.
- "Gallery shows art 'with purpose.'" *The News Star*, February 16, 2006.
- Maddox, David. "A Religion of Their Own." *Nashville Scene*, October 14, 2004.
- Goodman, Chasitie S. and Houston, Alexandria. "Religious art exhibit inspires creative thought." *TSU The Meter*,

September 27, 2004.

Henry, Wiley. "Method to the Message." *Tri State Defender*, December 11, 2002.