



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

JULIE MEHRETU

Julie Mehretu was born in 1970 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She moved with her family to the United States in 1977 and grew up in East Lansing, Michigan. In 1992 Mehretu earned a BA from Kalamazoo College and in 1997 she received an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. Mehretu's painterly compositions are recognized by frenetic mark making, which she refers to as "characters," that appear both universal and extremely personal. Throughout, Mehretu has created new narratives using source imagery from airport architecture and flight plans, sports arenas and military fortifications, modernist skyscrapers and city maps.



In her early work at RISD, Mehretu's drawing consisted of small, idiosyncratic marks huddling together. Since then the artist has been accumulating a personal library of semi-abstract symbols that suggest populations, warring factions, or scattered shrapnel. Her more recent large-scale, often purposefully overwhelming, paintings are built up through layers of acrylic paint on canvas overlaid with mark-making using pencil, ink, and thick streams of paint. Over the faint traces of dissembled images and perspectives, she layers curling lines or splatterings of color that suggest the intricacies of her symbols' interactions. The resulting images are densely packed fields, at once chaotic and tensely planned, that push the boundary between flowchart and landscape. The successive layers introduce new scenes and can sometimes veil the information that came before, leaving the audience with multiple vantage points with which to explore Mehretu's ethereal world.

In addition to painting, drawing and printmaking are primary activities for Mehretu, as is evidenced by her landmark 2003 exhibition at the Walker Art Center, titled "Drawing into Painting." Her first collaboration with the Gemini artists' workshop in Los Angeles culminated in an expansive 12-panel intaglio titled *Auguries* that stretches over 7 x 15 feet. Mehretu's command of the medium produced a beautiful synergy of marks, lines and washes in black inks, subtly injected with narrow bands of color throughout. *Auguries* made its public debut on September 27, 2010 as part of a solo show at the Gallery Met, the visual art exhibition space at The Metropolitan Opera.

Mehretu's work has been included in several important group exhibitions including *Poetic Justice*, 8th Istanbul Biennial (2003), The Whitney Biennial (2004), São Paulo Biennial (2004), Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (2004) and Biennial of Sydney (2006). Her solo exhibitions include *Drawing into Painting* at the Walker Art Center (2003), *Currents 95: Julie Mehretu* at the St. Louis Art Museum (2005) and most recently, *Grey Area* which debuted at Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin and traveled to the Guggenheim Museum New York. In 2000, Mehretu was awarded a grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists Award, and in 2001 she received the Penny McCall Award. In 2005, Mehretu received the MacArthur Fellowship as well as the American Art Award from the Whitney Museum. Mehretu is represented by Marian Goodman Gallery in New York and by Jay Jopling from the White Cube art gallery in London as well as by carlier | gebauer in Berlin.

Mehretu currently lives and works in New York.



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Education

- 1997 MFA, Rhode Island School of Design
1992 BA, Kalamazoo College
1990-91 University Cheik Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal

Honors

- 2007 American Academy in Berlin Fellowship
2006 The Rhode Island School of Design Alumni Council Artistic Achievement Award, RI
2005 MacArthur Fellow
American Art Award, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY
Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI
2003 Artist-in-Residency, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
Artist-in-Residency, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA
Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant
2002 Penny McCall Foundation Grant
2001 The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant
AIR Program at the Studio Museum in Harlem, NY
Pat Hearn Inaugural Award
Artists-in-Residence, the Studio Museum in Harlem, NY
2000 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant to Artists Award
1997 CORE Program, Glassel School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
1995 The Rhode Island School of Design Presidential Scholar Fall Tuition Award, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2010 *Notations after the "Ring"*, Gallery Met, The Metropolitan Opera, New York, NY
2009 *Excavations: The Prints of Julie Mehretu*, High Point Prints, Minneapolis, MN
Julie Mehretu: Grey Area, Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin, Germany.
TRAVELED TO: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
2008 *Eye of the Storm*, Karl Scholsberg Gallery, Montserrat College, Beverly, MA
2007 *Julie Mehretu: City Sitings*, The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
TRAVELED TO: Williams College Art Gallery, Williamstown, MA; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC
2006 *Julie Mehretu: Black City*, MUSAC: Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León, Spain
TRAVELED TO: Louisiana Museum, Humelbæk, Denmark; Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover, Germany
Julie Mehretu: Heavy Weather, The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA
TRAVELED TO: Crown Point Press, San Francisco, CA
2005 *Julie Mehretu: Drawings*, The Project, New York, NY
Currents 95: Julie Mehretu, St Louis Art Museum, St Louis, MO
2004 *carlier l gebauer*, Berlin, Germany



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JULIE MEHRETU - continued

- 2004 *Julie Mehretu: Matrix 211, Manifestation*, University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA
- 2003 *Julie Mehretu: Drawing into Painting*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
TRAVELED TO: REDCAT, Los Angeles, CA; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2002 White Cube, London, UK
- 2001 The Project, New York, NY
Art Pace, San Antonio, TX
- 1999 Module, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX
- 1998 Barbara Davis Gallery, Houston, TX
- 1996 *Paintings*, Sol Kofler Gallery, Providence, RI
- 1995 *Ancestral Reflections*, Archive Gallery, New York, NY
TRAVELED TO: Hampshire College Gallery, Amherst, MA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2010 *Kupferstichkabinett: Between Thought and Action*, White Cube, London, UK
- 2009 *Signs of the Apocalypse/Rapture*, Hyde Park Art Institute, Chicago, IL
Automatic Cities, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA
Who's Afraid of the Artists?, Palais des Dinard, Dinard
Extreme Frontiers, Urban Frontiers, Institute of Contemporary Art (IVAM), Valencia, Spain
- 2008 *I Bought the Brooklyn Bridge*, Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin, Germany
Disguise: The Art of Attracting and Deflecting Attention, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Vou-te contar uma historia: Let Me Tell You a Story, Porta 33, Madeira, Portugal
Prospect 1, New Orleans Biennale, New Orleans, LA
Drawn to Detail, Decordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
Collection of Greenberg-Rohaytn, The Frances Leman-Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
New Drawings, Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- 2007 *Comic Abstraction*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Collector's Choice III. Audacity in Art; Selected Works from Central Florida Collections, Orlando, FL
Multiplex: Directions in Art, 1970 to Now, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Lines, Texas Gallery, Houston, TX
Reflexive Drawings, Simon Fraser University Gallery, Burnaby, Canada
Williams College of Art, Williamstown, NJ
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC
African Art Today: An Unbounded Vista, Nelson Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO
- 2006 *The 15th Biennale of Sydney*, International Festival of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
The Compulsive Line: Etching 1900 to Now, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
When Artist's Say We, Artist's Space, New York, NY
SWARM, The Fabric Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
Mapping Space: Selections from the Collection, Miami Art Museum, FL



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- 2005 *Remote Viewing: Invented Worlds in Recent Painting and Drawing*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY. TRAVELED TO: St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
Mythologies, The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
On Line, Louisiana Contemporary, Humelbæk, Denmark
Susan Inglett Gallery, New York, NY
Logical Conclusions: 40 Years of Rule-Based Art, Pace-Wildenstein, New York, NY
- 2004 *Carnegie International*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
Sao Paulo Biennial, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Whitney Biennial, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Back to Paint, C & M Arts, New York, NY
Firewall, Ausstellungshalle Zeitgenössische Kunst, Munster, Germany
Africa Remix, Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany. TRAVELED TO: Hayward Gallery, London, UK; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2003 *Poetic Justice*, 8th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
Lazarus Effect, Prague Biennial 1, Prague, Czech Republic
The Moderns, Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Turino, Italy
GNS, Palais du Tokyo, Paris, France
Outlook, International Art Exhibition, Athens, Greece
Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Comics in Contemporary Art, 1970-2000, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX. TRAVELED TO: Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA; Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH
Ethiopian Passages: Dialogues in the Diaspora, National Museum for African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
Metascape, Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, OH
Social Strategies: Redefining Social Realism, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2002 *Drawing Now: Eight Propositions*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Stalder-Mehretu-Solakov, Kunstmuseum Thun, Thun, Switzerland
Out of Site, New Museum, New York, NY
Centre of Attraction, The 8th Baltic Triennial of International Art, Vilnius, Lithuania
Busan Biennale 2002, Busan Metropolitan Art Museum, Busan, Korea
Wallow, The Project, New York, NY
Terra Incognita: Contemporary Artists' Maps and Other Visual Organizing Systems, Contemporary Arts Museum, St. Louis, MO
- 2001 *Urgent Painting*, Musee d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, Paris, France
The Americans, Barbican Art Centre, London, United Kingdom
Painting at the Edge of the World, Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, M
Freestyle, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Artists-in-Residence, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Casino 2001, Stedelijk Museum Voor Actuele Kunst, Gent, Belgium
- 2000 *Selections Fall 2000*, The Drawing Center, New York, NY
Five Continents and One City, Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico
Greater New York, P.S. 1 Contemporary Arts Center, New York, NY



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- 2000 *Translations*, Bard College Center for Curatorial Studies, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Glenn Brown, Julie Mehretu, Peter Rostovsky, The Project, New York, NY
Architecture and Memory, Lawrence Rubin Greenberg Van Doren, New York, NY
Architecture and Memory, CRG, New York, NY
- 1999 *Material, Process, Memory*, The Jones Center for Contemporary Art, Austin, TX
The Stroke, Exit Art, New York, NY
Texas Draws, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX. Catalogue
Hot Spots: Houston, Miami and Los Angeles, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, NC
Core 1999, The Glassell School of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, TX
Sheer Abstraction, Barbara Davies Gallery, Houston, TX
Artistic Centers in Texas: Houston and Galveston, Texas Fine Arts
Association Galveston, San Angelo, El Paso, Austin, Tyler, TX. Catalogue.
- 1998 *Universal Pictures*, Rudolph Poissant Gallery, Houston, TX
Text and Territory: Navigating through Immigration and Dislocation, University Galleries,
Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Core 1998, The Glassell School of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, TX
Millennium Fever, Diverse Works, Houston, TX
- 1997 Annual Graduate Student Exhibition, The Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design,
Providence, RI
- 1996 *The Bombastic Righteous Passively Become Apparent Absurdities*, Collaborative Installation with Benjamin
Edwards, Sol Kofler Gallery, Providence, RI
- 1995 *A Woman's View*, The World Bank International Women's Exhibition, The World Bank
Art Society, Washington DC. Catalogue.
Yewenshet, Three Ethiopian Painters, The Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn, NY

Catalogues

- Julie Mehretu: Grey Area*. Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin, Germany. New York: The Solomon R.
Guggenheim Foundation, 2009.
- Excavations: the Prints of Julie Mehretu*. Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Minneapolis, MN. 2009.
Conrads, Martin. *Julie Mehretu*. Berlin: Carlier Gebauer, 2004.
- De Zegher, Catherine. *Julie Mehretu: Drawings*. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2007.
- Fogle, Douglas. *Julie Mehretu: Drawing Into Painting*. Minneapolis: Walker Art Center, 2003.
- Hart, Rebecca R. *Julie Mehretu: City Sitings*. Detroit: Detroit Institute of Arts, 2007.
- Jacobson, Heidi Zuckerman. *Julie Mehretu/Matrix 211 Manifestation*. Berkeley: University of
California, Berkeley Art Museum, 2004.
- MUSAC: Museo de arte contemporaneo de Castilla y Leon. *Julie Mehretu*. Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz Verlag,
2006.