

REALITY CHECK

ANNA U DAVIS

Anna U Davis is known for her bold, colorful mixed-media work, where she explores social inequalities. Reality Check investigates the concept of diffusion of responsibility (a socio-psychological phenomenon whereby an individual assumes that other people are responsible for taking necessary action) in regards to gender inequality through an intersectional lens. The work addresses our unwillingness to listen, our resistance to speak up, and our inability to see the imminent consequences of our indifference.

About the Artist, Anna U Davis: a native of Lund, Sweden. Davis began expanding her artistic practice and developing her signature “Frocasian” characters after moving to Washington, D.C. in the 1990s. Frocasians appear in her art as abstracted grey-toned figures, inspired by her interracial marriage and her strongly held belief in social justice. Davis creates narrative work where her characters investigate social inequalities, focusing on gender relations based on her Swedish upbringing. What began as hard-edge acrylic paintings have evolved into mixed media works which incorporate acrylic paint, hand cut paper collage, pumice, appliqué assorted textiles, and traditional pen-and-ink drawing techniques. Davis is a two-time recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and was featured on the cover of the journal Feminist Studies in 2020. In 2023 Davis was invited to speak about Art x Female Empowerment during the State of the Arts Night at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington DC. Her artwork has been shown in solo and group exhibitions in the United States, Europe, Cuba (13th Havana Biennial) and Qatar, including her recent solo exhibitions at the Swedish American Museum (Chicago), Galerie Myrtis (Baltimore) and at the Embassy of Sweden (Washington, D.C.)

ANNA U DAVIS

EDUCATION

2002 Bachelor Degree of Arts, Studio Art, Summa Cum Laude,

The University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

1995 Studies in Practical Philosophy, Lund University, Lund, Sweden

GRANTS, AWARDS, RESIDENCIES

2023 SWATCH Art Peace Hotel VR Residency, Shanghai, China

2021 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, NY

2020 Show award winner - SHIFT Online Exhibition, McLean Projects for the Arts, McLean, VA (curated by Henry L. Thaggert)

2023-21, 2019 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Projects Events and Festivals (Individuals) Washington, DC

2018 The Influence Nation Summit, National Geographic Society, Washington DC

2015 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, NY

2013 Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, Emergency Grant, New York, NY

2022-13, 2011 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program (Individuals) Washington, DC

2011 Residency at Wip Gallery at Artisphere, Arlington, VA

2006 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Young Artist Program, Washington, DC

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 Road to Recovery, Brentwood Art Exchange, Brentwood, MD (forthcoming)

2023 Reality Check, Davis Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

2022 Reality Check: The Work of Anna U Davis, IA&A at Hillyer, Washington DC

2021 Reality Check, Swedish American Museum, Chicago, IL

2019 Two-person exhibition, Take it Personal, Bredgade Kunsthandel, Copenhagen, Denmark (with graffiti artist Ola Kalnins)

2018 Frocasian: Moving Beyond Social Constructs, Artist Proof, Washington DC

Damsels in Distress, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD

2017-2018 Witnesses, House of Sweden, Washington DC

2016 Anna U Davis - Going Big @ Dacha, Dacha Loft, Washington DC

2012 Pop-up, Gallery at Bloombars, Washington, DC

2011 A Work in Progress, Wip Gallery at Artisphere, Arlington, VA

2010 The Dance before the Kill, Long View Gallery, Washington, DC

2009 Bull's-Eye, Long View Gallery, Washington, DC

2008 New Work, Hillyer Art Space, Washington, DC
2006 Sashimi Me, Studio One Eight, Washington, DC
2004 Frocasians, Gallery Neptune, Bethesda, MD
2003 New Work, Aroma, Washington, DC
2002 Untitled, Gallery 42, Washington, DC
2001 10 x 12, Kramerbooks, Washington, DC
1999 Anna Edholm, Aroma, Washington DC
1997 New Work, Galleri Ariman, Lund, Sweden
New Work, Mejeriet Gallery, Lund , Sweden

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 (Not) Strictly Painting 14, McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA, curated by Tim Brown
The Swatch Art Peace Hotel: Love is Love, BaseCamp, Institutio Sant'Eugenio, Locarno, Switzerland
Pulse 2023, IA&A at Hillyer, Washington DC
2022 Vinterudstillingen 2022, Davis Gallery, Denmark
Invasion, IA&A at Hillyer, Washington DC
Fragile Beauty, 200 I Street Galleries, Washington DC , curated by Elizabeth Ashe, Claude Elliott, Zsundayka Nzinga, and Jarvis Grant
Body Language: Contemporary Approaches to Figuration, Brentwood Arts
Exchange, Brentwood, MD, curated by Andrea Limauro
Women of the Pandemic, Katara Cultural Village, Building 47, Gallery 2, Doha, Qatar
2021 Creativity in Quarantine: Women of the Pandemic, Qatar America Institute for Culture, Washington DC
2020 Latela Curatorial x Artsy: Women in the Arts ~ Materiality - In the Flesh, Washington DC
SHIFT Online Exhibition, McLean Projects for the Arts, McLean, VA, curated by Henry L. Thaggert
2019 Building Bridges: The Politics of Love, Identity and Race II, Galeria Carmen Montilla, 13th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba, curated by Myrtis Bedolla and Ana Joa
Where Have We Been, Center for the Arts Gallery, Towson University, Towson, MD, curated by Dr Erin Lehman and Dr. J. Susan Isaacs
2018 Entitled, 3rd Floor Gallery, Washington DC
More or Less, Hemphill, Washington DC, curated by Molly Ruppert
2017 Oh Say, Can You See? Emigre Artist In America, Charles Krause / Reporting Fine Art, Washington DC

One Year Later, Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, Hyattsville, MD

2016 Consumption: Food as Paradox, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD

2015 These Mirrors Are Not Boxes, VisArts, Rockville, MD, curated by Kayleigh N. Bryant-Greenwell

Pulse15, Hillyer Art Space, Washington, DC

2014 Emergence: International Artist to Watch, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD, curated by Sharon Burton, Robert Devereux, Deana Haggag, and Makgati Molebatsi

Untitled, Gallery OneTwentyEight, New York, NY

Art Crimes, The Dunes, Washington, DC

2013 Holiday Popsicle, Gallery OneTwentyEight, New York, NY, curated by Kazuko Miyamoto

Crowns, The Fridge, Washington, DC, curated by Zoma Wallace

Fear Strikes Back, Fine Art Gallery, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, curated by Helen Fredericks

Art Romp, Anacostia Art Center, Washington DC, curated by Molly Ruppert)

The Gun Show, The Dunes, Washington, DC

The Newtown Projects: A Call to Arms, Charles Krause/ Reporting Fine Art, Washington, DC

2012 ARTpocalypse, The Dunes, Washington DC, curated by Dana Ellyn

Companion, 39 Street Gallery, Brentwood, MD

Artist Fellowship, I Street Gallery, Washington, DC

Untitled No.3, Randall Scott Projects, Washington, DC

Anniversary Exhibition, Hillyer Art Space, Washington, DC

Zeitgeist III: Too Much Information, District of Columbia Art Center, Washington, DC

Tight Fit, The Dunes, Washington, DC

2010 Synergy, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Party Crashers: Comic Book Culture Invades the Art World, Terrace Gallery at Artisphere, Arlington, VA, curated by Cynthia Connolly

11 x 51: 2011 Artist Fellowship Program, The Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts

Gallery at Smith Farm Center, Washington, DC

Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation presents THE ARTISAN SERIES,

International Visions, Washington, DC

2009 What's Important Now?, Nevin Kelly Gallery, Washington, DC

Stimulus, Nevin Kelly Gallery, Washington, DC

Life Essentials, Art Whino, National Harbor, MD

2008 20 x 20, Art17, Washington, DC, curated by Sondra N. Arkin

Under Surveillance, Nevin Kelly Gallery, Washington, DC, curated by Sondra N. Arkin and Ellyn Weiss

Peace Now!, Warehouse Gallery, Washington, DC

DC Green heArt Exhibit, Lofts 11, Washington, DC

Rapture, Ecstasy & Bliss, BFC Studio B, Washington, DC

2007 Artist Collaboration, Art Whino, Alexandria, VA

Art in Heat, Warehouse Gallery, Washington, DC, curated by Scott Brooks and Jared Davis

Urbanity, Randall Scott Gallery, Washington, DC

2006 Art of War, Studio One Eight, Washington, DC

Reality Check by Anna u Davis



Shark-cuteri, 2016

acrylic, ink pen hand cut paper collage on canvas72

x 96 inches / 182.88 x 243.84 cm



Love, 2016

acrylic, ink pen hand cut paper collage on canvas72

x 96 inches / 182.88 x 243.84 cm



Pay Gap Trap, 2023

acrylic, ink pen hand cut paper collage on canvas25

x 40 inches / 63.5 x 101.6 cm



Ms Clandestine

acrylic, ink pen and hand cut paper collage on canvas32

x 26 inches / 81.28 x 66.04 cm



Destined by Destiny, 2023

acrylic, ink pen and hand cut paper collage on canvas26
x 20 inches / 66.04 x 50.8 cm



Reconstruction, 2023

Acrylic and ink pen on canvas24
x 24 inches



Happy on the Outside, 2023

acrylic, ink pen and hand cut paper collage on canvas 28

x 40 inches / 71.12 x 101.6 cm



Men then Women, 2021

acrylic, ink pen, pumice and hand cut paper collage on canvas30
x 24 inches / 76.2 x 60.96 cm



Money vs. Life, 2021

acrylic, ink pen, pumice and hand cut paper collage on canvas30
x 24 inches / 76.2 x 60.96 cm



Let the Right One In, 2021

acrylic, ink pen, pumice and hand cut paper collage on canvas30
x 24 inches / 76.2 x 60.96 cm



Supreme Scheme, 2018-2021

acrylic, ink pen, pumice and hand cut paper collage on canvas24
x 30 inches / 76.2 x 60.96 cm



Keys to the Kingdom, 2023
acrylic, ink pen and hand cut paper collage on canvas
11 x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Men on my shoulder, 2023
acrylic, ink pen and hand cut paper collage on canvas
11 x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Face-it! (part 8), 2019

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas

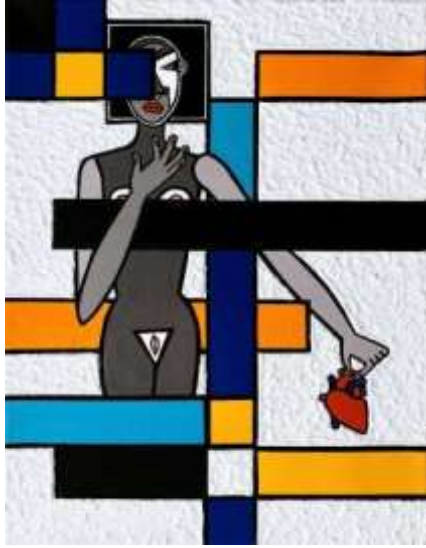
14 x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Diffusion of Responsibility, 2021

acrylic, ink pen and hand cut paper collage on canvas

14 x 36 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm individual paintings



Obstructed, 2022

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas11
x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Puppeteer , 2022

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas11
x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Shatterbox , 2022

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas11

x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Van Halen , 2022

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas11

x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Venus , 2022
acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas1
x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Sideways, 2022
acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas1
x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



4 Holes , 2022

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas11
x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



What If, , 2022

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas11
x 14 inches / 27.94 x 35.56 cm



Rocket Launch , 2022

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas 11 x 14 inches /
27.94 x 35.56 cm



Broken One , 2022

acrylic, ink pen and pumice on canvas 11 x 14 inches /
27.94 x 35.56 cm