

Bentley Brown  
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EDUCATION

- New York University, Institute of Fine Arts** (New York, NY) April 2020 - May 2026  
*Ph.D. in Art History (ABD), Specializing in Post War American Art, Modern and Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora, and 20th Century Photography*
- New York University, Center for Experimental Humanities** (New York, NY) June 2018 - May 2020  
*M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies*
- University College London, Centre for Multidisciplinary and Intercultural Inquiry** (London, UK) September 2017 - May 2018  
*M.A. in African Studies*
- Fordham University, Gabelli School of Business** (Bronx, NY) August 2013 - May 2017  
*B.A. in Business Administration and Art History, Concentration in Entrepreneurship*

INSTRUCTIONAL WORK

- Arizona State University, Herberger School of Art and Design** (Phoenix, AZ) August 2025 - Present  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Art and Art History: *The Blues Aesthetic: African-American Aesthetics, Modernism, and Contemporary Art*
- Instructor of Arizona State University online course, which examines the history of American modernism and contemporary art through the lens of Black aesthetic practices.
- Assistant Professor of Art and Art History: Introduction to Art History- Renaissance to Modernism
- Teaching classroom course that offers a global survey of art historical movements from the Renaissance through the advent of modern art.
- New York University, Visual Arts Administration MA Program** (New York, NY) August 2024 - May 2025  
Adjunct Professor
- Instructor for graduate course that explores the mechanisms of the "art world," offering students an introduction to and professional training for arts institutional fields such as curatorial, gallery sales, museum development, business administration for artists, and non-profit arts administration.
- University of Connecticut, Department of Art History** (Stamford, CT) August 2024 - August 2025  
Assistant Professor of Art History: Introduction to Art History- Prehistoric to Renaissance
- Instructor for course that offers a global survey of art historical movements from the Prehistoric period through the 14th century.
- Brooklyn College, City University of New York** (Brooklyn, NY) August 2024 - August 2025  
Faculty Lecturer Department of Art: *Exhibition Design*
- Teaching course that explores the tenets of curating an exhibition and considers the multidisciplinary application of curatorial practice.
- Chief Curator Brooklyn College Art Gallery
- Curatorial director for Brooklyn College Art College managing and producing three exhibitions per semester including faculty exhibitions, exhibitions of leading contemporary and historical artists, as well as MFA and BFA student exhibitions.
- The New School: Parsons School of Design** (New York, NY) August 2023 - August 2025  
Adjunct Professor of Art and Design History: *The Blues Aesthetic: African-American Aesthetics, Modernism, and Contemporary Art*
- Teaching art and cultural history course which provides an interdisciplinary examination of the influence of Black aesthetics on the landscape of Modern and Contemporary Art and culture.
- Adjunct Professor of Art and Design History: *Objects as History*
- Instructor of course which offers a consideration of world history through the lens of "the object" as sites of artistic, political, economic, social, cosmological, and personal value.
- Fordham University Department of Art History** (Bronx, NY) January 2022 - May 2025  
Adjunct Professor of Art History: *Introduction to Global Art History*
- Teaching art history introductory survey course which spans from early civilizations to present day
- New York City College of Technology, City University of New York** (New York, NY) January 2024-May 2024  
Adjunct Professor of Art History: *Art of the United States*
- Instructor of course which examined the history of art in what is now considered the United States from Indigenous practices in art making to contemporary movements.
- Sotheby's Institute of Art Contemporary Art MA Program** (New York, NY) August 2021 - December 2021  
Adjunct Instructor: *Methods and Materials, Critical Theory*
- Instructing graduate course, *Methods and Materials*, which explored artists' approach to studio practice featuring a carefully curated ensemble of guest lectures including prominent artists, art historians, and curators.
- New York University Department of Art History** (New York, NY) August 2020- May 2021  
Adjunct Instructor: *Avant-Garde New York*
- Taught course lectures and leading section discussions that examine the history of the avant-garde movements in New York City beginning with the Ashcan School and the 1913 Armory Show and ending with Andy Warhol's Factory.
- Adjunct Instructor: *History of Western Art* (New York, NY) February 2021- May 2022
- Instructed introductory survey course which focuses its lens on Western Art history from 1300-present.
- Course Assistant: *Abstract Expressionism to Pop Art: Global Perspective* (New York, NY) August 2020 - December 2020
- Led discussions on readings for the course regarding global movements between 1940-1975.

- Presented key course lecture about maximalist approaches to abstraction by Black artists based in Lower Manhattan during the late 1960s through the mid-1970s. Lecture included a discussion of the intersection between free jazz and abstraction, as well as multidisciplinary loft performances and abstraction.

#### CURATED EXHIBITIONS

##### SATURATION

*Brooklyn College Art Gallery*

*(Brooklyn, NY) March - April 2025*

- Curating survey exhibition of photographer Deborah Willis focusing on contemporary artistic trends of visual saturation as means of creating hypervisibility for historically marginalized peoples and Willis foundational influence on contemporary photography.
- Organizing installation by multidisciplinary artist Mason Webb highlighting saturation as a spatial device of aesthetic translation across mediums.

##### Urban Contours: Brooklyn College Fall 2024 Faculty Exhibition

*Brooklyn College Art Gallery*

*(Brooklyn, NY) September - December 2024*

- Curated exhibition which considers the engagement of Brooklyn College Art faculty with themes of urbanism.

##### Frederick J. Brown: Energy is Jazz

*American Jazz Museum*

*(Kansas City, MO) Opening October 2023*

- Curator of exhibition, which explored the influence of jazz music in Frederick J Brown's multidisciplinary art practice spanning abstract painting and sculpture, figurative expressionism, performance, and portrait. Together, "The Energy is Jazz" considers Jazz as a medium within the artist's practice that allowed Brown to explore the boundaries of abstraction and redefine the subject and aesthetics of American portraiture.

##### Love By Looking: Selections from the Collection of Alitash Kebede

*The Mitchell Gallery at St. John's College*

*(Annapolis, MD) April 2023- July 2023*

- A curated exhibition which highlighted the pioneering work of gallerist and art patron Alitash Kebede in supporting Black artists by providing crucial avenues to managerial representation. In celebrating Kebede's fifty-year career the exhibition will feature a selection from her extensive collection, including works by Romare Bearden, Charles Alston, Emma Amos, Benny Andrews, Mark Bradford, Nanette Carter, Elizabeth Catlett, Edward Clark, Emilio Cruz, Mel Edwards, Sam Gilliam, Palmer Hayden, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Betye Saar, and Charles White, among others.

##### Order | Reorder: Experiments with Collections

*Hudson River Museum*

*(Yonkers, NY) February 2022 - Present*

- Co-curator of exhibition that mined the collection of the Hudson River Museum to explore ways of looking at American paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture, and decorative arts that reconsider and attempt to reconcile with both past and present expressions of American identity and modes of artistic expression

##### Frederick J. Brown: Dreams and the Possibility Of...

*Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling*

*(New York, NY) June 2019 - August 2020*

- Curated exhibition which analyzed how expressionist artist Frederick J. Brown used the concept of "dreams", and the muse of Black music as tools to discuss cosmology, spirituality, imagined landscapes, American history, and the Black American experience

#### EXHIBITIONS AS FEATURED ARTIST

##### Arizona State University, Harry Wood Gallery

*Is this thing on?*

*October - November 2025*

- Exhibition highlighting artwork from new adjunct and full-time Arizona State School of Art faculty.

##### Mi Casa NYC

*SD/LA/NY, Sincerely*

*September 2025*

- Highlighted in group exhibition examining the relationship between artists and the cities that they base their practice within.

##### Long Island City Artists Inc

*"Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow, and Blue"*

*September 2024*

- Featured in group exhibition considering contemporary takes on Barnett Newman's celebrated series of paintings *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow, and Blue*.

#### CURATORIAL AND ART ADVISEMENT

##### CHANCE THE RAPPER

*Star Line Album and Exhibition Series*

*(Chicago, IL) February 2025 - May 2025*

- Current curatorial and art director for musician Chance the Rapper's upcoming album Star Line.
- Selecting album artwork and organizing series of exhibitions of selected artwork for Star Line album in line with the album's theme of the legacy of Marcus Garvey's Black Star Line

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### Frieze Masters Magazine

*"The Abstract Musicality of Frederick J. Brown"*

*August 2024*

- Upcoming article that considers artist Frederick J. Brown's embrace of Black music as an interdisciplinary aesthetic practice that positions abstraction as an open language of spatial action.

##### Galerie Max Mayer

*November 2023*

- "Malcolm Mooney, Can Yoo Doo Right"
  - Introductory text for exhibition of works by multidisciplinary American artist Malcolm Mooney which considers the artist's formative years spent in Cologne, Germany.

**Artforum**

- "Uncanny Interiors: *Nicola Vassel*" August 2022
  - Review of "Uncanny Interiors" exhibition at Nicola Vassel Gallery which considers the exhibition foregrounding of Black artists and aesthetics within the realm of the traditional subject of Western painting, interior space.
- "Dr. Charles Smith: White Columns" July 2022
  - Review of exhibition of 29 sculptural portraits created in 2022 by Louisiana-based artist Dr. Charles Smith at White Columns Gallery focusing a lens on Smith's celebration of Black American history, beauty, and "shine"

**Berlin Artlink**

- "Mooney and "the Music," a review of "Works: 1970–1986" at Ulrik, NYC" July 2022
  - Review of solo exhibition of works by multidisciplinary artist Malcolm Mooney examining Mooney's "worrying" of the grid so as to visualize "spaces" of the practice of freedom within "places" of conformity.

**Berry Campbell Gallery, Frederick J. Brown: *The Sound of Color***

- "Fred Brown: Doing his Own Thing" September 2021
  - Exhibition catalog essay for "Frederick J. Brown: The Sound of Color, written in collaboration with Dr. Lowery Stokes-Sims, which surveys painter Frederick J. Brown's arrival and earliest years in the New York City downtown art scene in the early 1970s, placing a particular focus on the abstract expressionist paintings that dominated the early portion of his career

RESEARCH/ACADEMIC WORK

**Ph.D Dissertation New York University, *Institute of Fine Arts*** (New York, NY) June 2023 - Present

*It was Like Shangri-La: It was Like Shangri-La: New York City's "Loft Movement" as Black Spatial Imaginary, 1968-1989* (In-Progress)

- Using the case studies of the lofts of Ornette Coleman, Frederick J. Brown, and Daniel Larue Johnson, and Virginia Jaramillo, this dissertation will examine the pioneering contributions and leadership of Black creatives within Manhattan's "Downtown Scene" of the late 1960s through 1980s

**M.A. Thesis New York University, Center for Experimental Humanities** (New York, NY) June 2018 - June 2019

*A Place to Dream: 120 Wooster Street and SoHo's Black Creative Spaces*

- Considered Black creative loft spaces of SoHo active during the 1970s, focusing primarily on the careers of visual artist Frederick J. Brown and jazz musician Ornette Coleman

**M.A. University College London Graduate Thesis** (London, UK) September 2017-May 2018

*A Black Reflection: The Art of the Black Consciousness Movement and Diasporic Aesthetics*

- Examined the creative output of the Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, its precursors, and the influence of Afro-diasporic aesthetic on Black Consciousness ideology as well as wider visual, literary, and performance culture.

**B.A. Fordham University Undergraduate Thesis** (Bronx, NY) January 2017 - May 2017

*Frederick J. Brown: The Colors and Spirit of the American Narrative*

- Explored the career of Frederick J. Brown, pioneering artist of the 70s-80s SoHo Artistic Scene

FILM

***A Place to Dream: 120 Wooster Street and SoHo's Black Creative Spaces*** (New York, NY) November 2018 - Present

Co-Director

- Film examines the life and career of pioneering African-American expressionist artist Frederick J. Brown and the multicultural, multidisciplinary creative community that developed in his SoHo, Manhattan loft, 120 Wooster Street

LECTURES/FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

**Institute of Fine Arts-Frick Symposium on Art History** April 2026

The Frick Collection

- Presenting "SoHo's Black Interculturalism: Ornette Coleman's Artist House and Frederick J. Brown's 120 Wooster, 1970–1989," a section of the dissertation "It was Like Shangri-La: New York City's 'Loft Movement' as Black Spatial Imaginary as seen in 131 Prince Street, 109 Spring Street, and 120 Wooster Street, 1968–1989," reframing SoHo, Manhattan's art movement of the 1970s–1980s, as a Black intercultural community critically shaped by Black aesthetic practices.

**Locating Downtown**

New York University/Whitney Museum of Art

- Lecture discussing the legacy of Frederick J. Brown's 120 Wooster Loft studio collective as a Black incultural creative community.

**East Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference** April 20th, 2024

University of Pennsylvania

- Delivered paper entitled "Mao Meets Muddy: Memory and Frederick J. Brown's 1988 Beijing Retrospective" examining Frederick J. Brown's 1988 Beijing Retrospective and accompanying documentary film *Mao Meet Muddy* by Anthony Ramos through the lens of the aesthetics of memory, while considering the retrospective effect on the development of contemporary art in China.

**Tony Ramos: Mao Meets Muddy**

Electornic Arts Intermix

- Conservation with pioneering film artist Anthony Ramos regarding his 1989 film *Mao Meets Muddy* which follows the 1988 exhibition of artist and fellow 120 Wooster collective member

April 2023

	Frederick J. Brown at the Museum of the People's Revolution (now the National Museum of China) on Tianamen Square.	
<b>Graduate Symposium: Collective</b>		March 2023
	<i>University of Arizona</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhibited ongoing project explores the 120 Wooster Street Collective, foregoing the pioneering efforts of Black creatives in developing the communities within Lower Manhattan. Considered the site of "the loft" as a space of creative exploration, resistance, and leisure, particularly crucial for Black creatives who were positioned outside of the "mainstream". Argued that the significance of collectives like 120 Wooster Street lie in their Black-led interculturalism, pushing back against the siloing of "Black art".</li> </ul>	
<b>Frederick J. Brown: A Drawing in Five Parts</b>		February 2023
	<i>Hudson River Museum</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion with Lower Stokes-Sims exploring Frederick J. Brown's break into figurative expressionist portraiture in conjunction with neo-expressionist impulses.</li> </ul>	
<b>Joan Tisch Teaching Fellowship</b>		August 2022-March 2023
	<i>Whitney Museum of American Art</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaged public and private audiences of the museum in lectures concerning the permanent collection and rotating exhibitions</li> <li>Presented recommendations for museum educators on ways the work of traditionally marginalized Black practitioners can be foregrounded with institutional art histories.</li> </ul>	
<b>African American Art History: Present Coordinates</b>		October 2022
	<i>Boston University</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presenting research that highlights Black creatives active in SoHo, New York, between 1969-1991 committed to expanding languages of abstraction through visual arts, free-jazz music, and multi-media artistic practices, including the production of space via the development of "loft living" using the examples of Ornette Coleman's 131 Prince Street loft and Frederick J Brown's 120 Wooster Street loft.</li> </ul>	
<b>Approaching Downtown: Avant-Garde Cultural Production in New York City, 1970s-1990s</b>		July 2022
	<i>The Courtauld Institute of Art</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gave lecture on research that examines the pioneering role of Black artists within the SoHo, New York art scene, centralizing "lofts" as mechanisms of "space-making" that were particularly crucial for Black creatives active in the Downtown Scene engaging paradigms of "the avant-garde".</li> </ul>	
<b>Contemporary Art and the Missouri Bicentennial Talk and Tour: Perspectives</b>		February 2022
	<i>Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered presentation considering the central activation of Black performance in the paintings of Frederick J. Brown</li> </ul>	
<b>Black Artist Retreat Resident Curator and Artist</b>		October 2019
	<i>Park Avenue Armory</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in conference for Black art historians, curators, and artists excelling in their respective fields relating to the art community.</li> </ul>	

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

<b>Arizona State University Art Museum</b>		(Phoenix, AZ) August 2024
	<i>Black Arts Council</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Museum board committed to the expansion of the Arizona State University Art Museum's collection to further the representation of Black artists.</li> </ul>	
<b>On this Spot: Stories of Pioneering Women Artists</b>		(New York, NY) September 2024
	<i>Advisory Board</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member of advising counsel which identifies stories of women artists who have not been widely recognized in the history of the New York Art Scene.</li> </ul>	

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

<b>Studio Museum in Harlem</b>		(New York, NY) September 2015 - December 2015
	<i>Public Programs and Community Development Coordinator</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized and facilitated lectures and community events featuring exhibiting artists as well as artists-in-residence</li> <li>Developed research analysis on effective community engagement strategy</li> </ul>	