



KAJ AHL

b. 1985, Born and works in Santa Cruz, CA

### Education

- 2012 MFA in Painting, Hunter College, New York, NY
- 2008 Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze, Florence, Italy
- 2007 BFA in Painting, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *Submersia*, moniquemeloche gallery, Chicago IL
- 2020 *Royal Spector*, moniquemeloche gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Tabula Rasa*, Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 *Unearth Entities*, Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Obscure Origins*, Tillou Fine Art, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 University of North Carolina Wilmington Arts Gallery, Wilmington, NC

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *moniquemeloche presents...*, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN
- 2021 *Still Life! Mourning, Meaning, Mending*, 21c Museum, Louisville, KY
- 2020 *Mining Memory*, Lower Eastside Print Shop, New York, NY  
*A Romantic Comedy*, Twentyfive Kent, Brooklyn, NY  
*A Pearl Laser on Gothic Holodeck*, Coherent Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 *Fortress of Solitude: A Dirty Hand Hologram for Umberto*, Super Duchess Gallery, New York, NY  
*Art Brussels*, Richard Heller Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2018 *Immersion*, Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 *Respect*, The Church of St. Paul the Apostle, New York, NY  
*Beheaded*, Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 *In Context: Africans in America*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, ZA  
*Beauty*, The Church of St. Paul the Apostle, New York, NY
- 2013 *Empiria*, Superchief Gallery, New York, NY  
*Visual Art and Music in a Post-Hip-Hop Era*, MoCADA, Brooklyn, NY  
*Strange Times*, Novella Gallery, New York, NY
- 2012 *Hunter MFA Thesis Show*, Times Square Building, Hunter MFA Building, New York, NY  
*Superheroes and Antiheroes*, SUNY College at Westbury, NY  
*Voices of Home*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY  
*30 American; Next Generation*, Rush Arts Center, New York, NY
- 2011 *The Black Portrait*, Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY

### Grants & Fellowships

- 2021 Rydell Visual Arts Fellowship, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2013 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant, New York, NY

## Awards and Residencies

- 2019 Lower Eastside Printshop, Keyholder Residency, New York, NY  
2018 Joan Mitchell Center, Artist in Residence, New Orleans, LA  
2013 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant, New York, NY

## Lectures

- 2022 Black Baroque Series: Kajahl Benes in Conversation with Cecilio Cooper

## Bibliography

- 2022 Dobrowolski, Anna. "A Collector Discovers Friends and History Through Art", CGN Spring Summer 2022 Issue  
Kelly, Nadya. "Renewed Life Under Water: A Review of Kajahl's 'Submersia' at Monique Meloche Gallery," Newcity Art. November 16  
Mothes, Kate. "The Denizens of 'Submersia' Breathe New Life into Ancient Artifacts in Oil Portraits by Kajahl," Colossal. November 18  
2021 "Tabula Rasa: A Conversation with Kajahl", Richard Heller Gallery & Juxtapoz. October 26  
2020 Moreira-Brown, Caira. "A Fantastical Take on the Blackmoor: A Review of Kajahl at Monique Meloche", Newcity Arts. December 9  
Ebert, Grace. "Subversive and Grandiose, Kajahl's Vivid Portraits Supplant Historical Narratives", Colossal. November 20  
2017 Skopp, Sam. "Unearthed Entities at Richard Heller", Santa Monica Mirror  
McCombs, Greg. "Richard Heller Gallery: Kajahl", Artillery. October 11  
2016 "Portraits of Reinvention", City Press South Africa. November 1  
"Kajahl Benes' Parallel Histories", Juxtapoz. August 25

## Public Collections

- 21c Museum Hotels, Louisville, KY  
The Dean Collection, New York, NY  
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY