

[Leigh at the Guggenheim](#)

Read an [interview](#) from 2009 in Art21 magazine. Leigh broke into the mainstream contemporary art world with a 2010 [residency](#) at the Studio Museum in Harlem

In 2014, Leigh created the [Free People's Medical Clinic](#) in collaboration with Creative Time. The project reenacted the Black Panther Party's initiative of the same name. Watch a [video](#) of the project and read Cyrée Jarelle Johnson's article, "[Simone Leigh: The Privacy to Heal.](#)"

[Hammer Projects: Simone Leigh](#) was on display at the Hammer Museum in 2016. Browse through the image gallery and see related programs from the exhibition. That same year, the artist was [A Blade of Grass Fellow for Socially Engaged Art](#).

Leigh's 2016 solo exhibition, [The Waiting Room](#), was on display at the New Museum. Read an article by Nadja Sayei in [The Guardian](#), "Simone Leigh's The Waiting Room: art that tries to heal black women's pain," and [a review](#) by Terence Trouillot in Bomb Magazine. While exhibiting at the New Museum, Leigh founded the organization [Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter](#) in response to the murder of Philando Castille and other injustices against black lives. Read an article in the [New York Times](#) about the initiative.

[Simone Leigh](#) was on display at Lühring Augustine Gallery in 2018. Read Hyperallergic's [review](#), "The Overdue Skyrocketing of Simone Leigh"



Leigh at Stratton Sculpture Studios in Philadelphia, 2019  
Photograph: Kyle Knodell

Leigh won the [Hugo Boss Prize](#) in 2018, which awards a solo exhibition at the Guggenheim. Read an article in [Cultured Magazine](#) about her success and watch her [artist profile video](#) from the Guggenheim.

Look through Leigh's contributions to the [2019 Whitney Biennial](#) and watch an interview with the artist on [CBS Mornings](#).

New York's High Line Plinth [commissioned](#) Leigh to create a sculpture in 2019, which was on display until 2021. Read [Nkgopoleng Moloi's reaction](#) to the artwork in Elephant and Artsy's series, "This Artwork Changed My Life."

Read [The Art Newspaper's](#) interview with the artist on the theme of invisibility.

Take a [virtual tour](#) of Leigh's 2020 solo exhibition at David Kordansky Gallery.

In 2020, Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art [announced](#) that Leigh will [represent the United States](#) at the 2022 Venice Biennale. Months before the Biennale, Leigh announced a [split](#) with the gallery Hauser & Worth.

**Simone Leigh (American, b. 1967)**



Leigh, 2020  
Photograph: Shaniqwa Jarvis



Simone Leigh (American, b. 1967)

**Untitled**, 2021-2024

Stoneware, porcelain

Private Collection; L2025:8.1

Termining her practice “auto-ethnographic,” Simone Leigh explores Black, female-identified subjectivity through sculpture, installation, and social practice art. The artist often draws from artistic traditions from West and South Africa, fusing the Black female body with utilitarian forms such as jugs and pitchers. **Untitled** is an ornately decorated ceramic torso without a head. Like Leigh’s other representational sculptures, the bust is anonymous, but its pose reflects strength, resilience, and love for the invisible histories of Black women. As the artist recently said: “I imagine a kind of experience, a state of being, rather than one person.”

*On view February 26 – June 1, 2025*

Simone Leigh (American, b. 1967)  
**Untitled**, 2022-2023  
 Stoneware

Private Collection; L2023:104.1

Simone Leigh’s sculpture and installation practice is inspired by African and African American art, feminism, and performance. The artist is focused on Black female subjectivity; her ceramic and mixed-media sculptures often feature the Black female body with smoothed-out eyes or no face, tiny roses or cowrie shells on her head, and raffia skirts. **Untitled** is a bust with tightly curled roses that reflect a tall hairstyle. Though the figure has no eyes, her agency, emotion, and presence are all clearly legible. When she represented the United States at the 2022 Venice Biennale, Leigh said: “To be sovereign is to not be subject to another’s authority, another’s desires, or another’s gaze but rather to be the author of one’s own history.”

*On view November 8, 2023 – February 11, 2024*

