Artist Resources – Beauford Delaney (American, 1901 – 1979)


Read James Baldwin’s introduction to the catalogue for Beauford Delaney: A Retrospective, which was held at Gallery Lambert in 1964, and learn more about Delaney’s Portrait of James Baldwin with the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Beauford Delaney: From New York to Paris was at the Minneapolis Institute of Art in 2004, exploring the dramatic stylistic changes in the artist’s work from his life in New York and in Paris. The exhibition also traveled to the Philadelphia Museum of Art where it was reviewed in the South Philly Review.

The Studio Museum in Harlem featured the work of Delaney in the 2013 exhibition Brothers and Sisters alongside cross-generational artists Alma Thomas and Herbert Alexander Gentry.

Read a review of Beauford Delaney: Resonance of Form and Vibration of Color in The Brooklyn Rail by Joseph Nechvatal. The exhibition was on view at Columbia Global Centers in Paris in 2016.

In 2016, the University of Tennessee in Knoxville hosted the symposium In a Speculative Light: James Baldwin and Beauford Delaney to accompany the exhibition Beauford Delaney and James Baldwin: Through the Unusual Door at the Knoxville Museum of Art. The exhibition featured over 50 paintings, works on paper, and unpublished archival materials from both men. Read a review in Widewalls.

Beauford Delaney: Gathering Light was on view at the Knoxville Museum of Art in 2017, featuring more than 30 works that had never been on public view.

In 2020, the University of Tennessee in Knoxville hosted the Beauford Delaney: Metamorphosis into Freedom to accompany the exhibition Beauford Delaney and James Baldwin: Through the Unusual Door at the Knoxville Museum of Art. The exhibition featured over 50 paintings, works on paper, and unpublished archival materials from both men. Read a review in Widewalls.

Read a 2022 article about Delaney’s life and work: “Out of the Shadows: The Queer Life of Artist Beauford Delaney” by Tyra A. Seals in Scalawag Magazine.

Be Your Wonderful Self: The Portraits of Beauford Delaney was at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans in 2022, covering the span of Delaney’s career with portraiture. The exhibition was originally organized by Michael Rosenfeld Gallery and reviewed extensively in Artforum, The New York Times, and The Brooklyn Rail.

Beauford Delaney (American, 1901-1979)
**Untitled (Waning Light: Abstraction)**, 1963
Oil on canvas

Private Collection; L2024:17.1

*On view March 20 – June 23, 2024*