

PRESS RELEASE

CELEBRATING *AMY SHERALD: AMERICAN SUBLIME* AT
THE WHITNEY MUSEUM

*Michael B. Jordan, Jordyn Woods, Law Roach, Fran Drescher, Lindsey Vonn,
Padma Lakshmi, and more celebrated Amy Sherald*



Amy Sherald
Photo by Tiffany Sage/BFA.com

New York, NY, April 4, 2025 — On Tuesday, April 1, and Wednesday, April 2, the Whitney Museum of American Art welcomed supporters from the worlds of art, fashion, and philanthropy for two electrifying evenings to celebrate the opening of [Amy Sherald: American Sublime](#), the artist's debut solo exhibition at a New York museum and the most comprehensive showing of her work. This exhibition considers Amy Sherald's powerful impact on contemporary art and culture, bringing together almost fifty paintings spanning her career from 2007 to the present and positioning Sherald within the art historical tradition of American realism and figuration. *American Sublime* opens to the public on April 9.

[Amy Sherald: American Sublime Opening Events](#)

April 1 Dinner images are available for download here:

Photos by [Tiffany Sage/BFA.com](https://bfa.com/events/49115/share/1fa22bcf76eb11): <https://bfa.com/events/49115/share/1fa22bcf76eb11>

April 2 Opening Party images are available for download here:

Photos by [Sansho Scott/BFA.com](https://bfa.com/events/49123/share/cb0f7ad4285af8): <https://bfa.com/events/49123/share/cb0f7ad4285af8>

Photos by [Tiffany Sage/BFA.com](https://bfa.com/events/49124/share/e575488bbe97c9): <https://bfa.com/events/49124/share/e575488bbe97c9>



From left to right: Amy Sherard, Michael B. Jordan; Amy Sherard, Law Roach
Photo by Photo by Matthew Carasella; Tiffany Sage/BFA.com

American Sublime explores the work of one of the most preeminent artists of our time. Arranged chronologically, the exhibition begins with Amy Sherard's poetic early portraits and leads into the distinct and striking figure paintings for which she is best known. The exhibition features early works, never or rarely seen by the public, and new work created specifically for the exhibition, along with iconic portraits of First Lady Michelle Obama and Breonna Taylor—two of the most recognizable and significant paintings made by an American artist in recent years. Sherard places her work within the lineage of American realism and portraiture, alongside artists like Robert Henri, Edward Hopper, Alice Neel, and Andrew Wyeth—all represented in the Whitney Museum's collection.



From left to right: Padma Lakshmi; Fran Drescher; Jordyn Woods
Photo by Tiffany Sage/BFA.com

On Tuesday, April 1, the Museum hosted an intimate dinner for supporters, artists, philanthropists, and members of the Whitney Museum. Guests were welcomed by a DJ set by **April Hunt** and invited to explore *Amy Sherard: American Sublime* on the Museum's fifth floor. A seated dinner by **Union Square Events** took place in the Museum's lobby. Colorful and festive florals for the evening were designed by **Oat Cinnamon Studios**. Board President **Fern Kaye Tessler** welcomed guests as they sat down for

dinner. During dinner, Whitney Museum Director **Scott Rothkopf** introduced *American Sublime* curator **Rujeko Hockley** to speak about the process of organizing the show. Following her remarks, Hockley introduced artist **Amy Sherald**, who spoke about her life and career.



From left to right: Souleo, Beau McCall; Amy Sherald; Arewà Basit
Photo by Sansho Scott/BFA.com / Photo by Tiffany Sage/BFA.com

On Wednesday, April 2, the Museum continued celebrations with a vibrant opening party that welcomed an exciting mix of artists, curators, gallerists, influencers, museum leaders, philanthropists, and tastemakers. Throughout the evening, guests were given the opportunity to view *Amy Sherald: American Sublime* on the Museum's fifth floor along with *Hyundai Terrace Commission: Marina Zurkow*, *Marina Zurkow: Parting Worlds*, *Mary Heilmann: Long Line*, and *Collection View: Louise Nevelson*, all opening on April 9.



From left to right: Stephanie March, Rosemary McNeely, Anne-Cecille Engell Speyer, Fern Kaye Tessler; Sarah Roberts, Rujeko Hockley, Amy Sherald, Rhea Combs; Scott Rothkopf, Thelma Golden
Photos by Tiffany Sage/BFA.com

Notable guests included the **artist** herself Amy Sherald and **Arnhold Associate Curator** Rujeko Hockley; **Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney Museum** Scott Rothkopf; **Actors** Fran Drescher, Michael B. Jordan; **Dancers and Choreographers** Kyle Abraham, Bill T. Jones; **Artists** Mark Bradford, Jordan Casteel, Derek Fordjour, Theaster Gates, Cy Gavin, Jon Gray, Miles Greenberg, Chase Hall, Mary Heilmann, Rashid Johnson, Glenn Ligon, Vidar Logi, Marilyn Minter, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, Brandon Ndife, Calida Rawles, Hank Willis Thomas, Dustin Yellin, Marina Zurkow; **Media Personalities** Padma Lakshmi, Jordyn Woods; **Athlete** Lindsey Vonn; **Designers and Stylist** Wes Gordon, Law

Roach, Cynthia Rowley; **Museum supporters** Judy Hart Angelo, Paul Arnhold, David Cancel, Richard DeMartini and Jennifer Brorsen, Fairfax Dorn, Lise Evans, Barbara Gamson and Michael Gamson, Meg Goodman and Bennett Goodman, Susan K. Hess, Gaurav Kapadia and Sonia Kapadia, Neal Katyal, Claudia Laviada, Miyoung Lee and Neil Simpkins, Stephanie March and Daniel Benton, Rosemary McNeely, Crystal McCrary, Nancy Poses and Fred Poses, Anne-Cecilie Engell Speyer and Rob Speyer, Laurie Tisch, Fern and Lenard Tessler, Thomas E. Tuft, Ku-Ling Yurman; **Supporters of the arts** Rhea Combs, Tom Finkelppearl, Thelma Golden, Sarah Roberts, Jordan Roth, Antwaun Sargent, Eric Shiner, Darren Walker; **Whitney curators** Kim Conaty, Adrienne Edwards, Jennie Goldstein, Marcela Guerrero, Barbara Haskell, Chrissie Iles, Meg Onli, Christiane Paul, Laura Phipps, Drew Sawyer, Elisabeth Sussman.



From left to right: Cynthia Rowley; Mark Bradford, Amy Sherald; Miles Greenberg
Photo by Sansho Scott/BFA.com



From left to right: Mary Heilmann; Marina Zurkow, Christiane Paul
Photo by Matthew Carasella; Sansho Scott/BFA.com



From left to right: Lindsey Vonn; Bill T. Jones; Kyle Abraham
Photos by Tiffany Sage/BFA.com



From left to right: Onyedika Chuke, Marty Preciado; Wes Gordon, Amy Sherald, Paul Arnholt; Darren Walker, Adrienne Edwards
Photos by Tiffany Sage/BFA.com



From left to right: Amy Sherald, Rujeko Hockley
Photo by Sansho Scott/BFA.com

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ABOUT THE WHITNEY

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for ninety years. The core of the Whitney’s mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Whitney Museum Land Acknowledgment

The Whitney is located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape. The name Manhattan comes from their word Mannahatta, meaning “island of many hills.” The Museum’s current site is close to land that was a Lenape fishing and planting site called Sapponckanikan (“tobacco field”). The Whitney acknowledges the displacement of this region’s original inhabitants and the Lenape diaspora that exists today.

As a museum of American art in a city with vital and diverse communities of Indigenous people, the Whitney recognizes the historical exclusion of Indigenous artists from its collection and program. The Museum is committed to addressing these erasures and honoring the perspectives of Indigenous artists and communities as we work for a more equitable future. To read more about the Museum’s Land Acknowledgment, [visit the Museum’s website](#).

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