

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART TO HOST PANEL PLATFORMING BLACK INDUSTRY LEADERS DISCUSSING BEAUTY, VISUAL ART, AND AMERICAN IDENTITY



New York, NY, April 16, 2025 — In celebration of [Amy Sherald: American Sublime](#), the Whitney Museum presents a panel discussion, *American, Black & Beautiful: A Celebration of Amy Sherald*, during the Museum's [Free Friday Night](#) on April 25 at 6 pm. This conversation will blend the worlds of art and beauty and draw from the visual language and figuration depicted in

Sherald's paintings, where she explores the deep and layered intersection of beauty and culture in Black American communities. *Amy Sherald: American Sublime* features striking portraits that bring into focus subjects who have long been unseen or underrepresented in the canon of art history and beyond. Through her signature use of color and composition, Sherald centers her subjects with dignity, complexity, and quiet power, inviting viewers into worlds where black presence and beauty is fully realized and a topic of discussion.

This panel will be presented in the Museum's third-floor theater and led by **Victor Vaughns**, Beauty & Style Director at *EBONY Magazine*. Vaughns will be joined by a remarkable group of creators who've redefined beauty on their own terms: **Desiree Verdejo** of Hyper Skin, **Robyn Atwater** of Curldaze Hair Care, **Danessa Myricks** of Danessa Myricks Beauty, **Teri Johnson** of Harlem Candle & Perfume Company, **Janell Stephens** of Camille Rose Naturals, and **A'Lelia Bundles**—writer, historian, and great-great granddaughter of the legendary Madam C.J. Walker. Together, they'll reflect on how beauty is both an intimate ritual and a cultural force, how it moves through generations, shapes identities, and expands what it means to be American.

**Link to RSVP:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Ux98S7WhJYcmFzQtWGsD6yKKeMUUFhmV-tooTUTeX4U/e/dit>

**Program Listing**

**American, Black & Beautiful: A Celebration of Amy Sherald**  
**Friday, April 25 at 6 pm**

Join us during the Whitney's Free Friday Night for a thought-provoking panel that explores the profound intersection of beauty and culture throughout Black American communities. This multi-generational conversation, "American, Black & Beautiful: A Celebration of Amy Sherald," is inspired by the exhibition *Amy Sherald: American Sublime* which features portraits of Black Americans and foregrounding subjects often unseen or underrepresented in art history. Deeply committed to expanding notions of American identity, Sherald's compositions center her subjects, inviting viewers to meet them eye to eye and empathetically step into their imagined worlds.

**Location:** Floor 3, Susan and John Hess Family Theater

**Tickets:** Free, registration required, and capacity is limited.

**Link to RSVP:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Ux98S7WhJYcmFzQtWGsD6yKKeMUUFhmV-tooTUTeX4U/e/dit>

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**PRESS CONTACT**

For press materials and image requests, please visit our press site at [whitney.org/press](https://whitney.org/press) or contact:

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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 Saponckanikan (“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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## VISITOR INFORMATION

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Public hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30 am–6 pm; Friday, 10:30 am–10 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 am–6 pm. Closed Tuesday. Visitors twenty-five years and under and Whitney members: FREE. The Museum offers FREE admission and special programming for visitors of all ages every Friday evening from 5–10 pm and on the second Sunday of every month.

**Image credit:** Khadijat Oseni at Whitney Museum *Amy Sherald: American Sublime* Opening Party. Installation view of *Amy Sherald: American Sublime* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, April 9-August 10, 2025). From left to right: *Trans Forming Liberty*, 2024; *A Midsummer Afternoon Dream*, 2021. Photograph by [Tiffany Sage/BFA.com](https://www.bfa.com).  
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