

Frank Walter

Born 1929, Antigua; died 2009, Antigua.

Frank Walter was born Francis Archibald Wentworth Walter on Horsford Hill, Antigua. A descendant of enslaved persons and plantation owners and burdened with the distinction of being the first person of color to be a manager of a sugar plantation on the island of Antigua, Walter struggled with his identity and place in the world. Torn between his Black Caribbean ancestry and his Northern Europe heritage, he embarked on a tour of Europe and the UK between 1953 and 1961 in search of his familial roots. Unprepared for the racism he experienced, he returned to Antigua where he worked as a photographer, frame maker, and artist before designing and building a home, art studio, and garden in a remote location on Bailey's Hill in Antigua in 1993. Suffering from mental illness, he took refuge in self-imposed artistic isolation: forsaking all social expectations, he dedicated his time to writing, recording, carving, and painting the fertile landscape and the people he encountered as well as envisioning and reflecting upon his philosophical universe.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026

Frank Walter: Works from the Cowles/Hoard Collection, Andrew Edlin Gallery, NY

2025

Frank Walter: Moon Voyage, David Zwirner, Paris, FR

2024

Frank Walter: To Capture a Soul, The Drawing Center, New York, NY

2023

Pastorale, David Zwirner, Hong Kong

The Inner Island, Fondation Carmignac, Porquerolles Island, FR

Frank Walter, Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel, São Paulo, BR

Frank Walter: Artist, Gardener, Radical, Garden Museum, London, UK

2022

Frank Walter's Chess Board, Xavier Hufkens Gallery, Brussels, BE

By Land, Air, Home, And Sea: The World of Frank Walter, Curated by Hilton Als, David Zwirner Gallery, NY

2021

Music of the Spheres, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK

Frank Walter: Cartography, Landscape, and Heraldry, David Zwirner, London, UK

2020

Retrospective, Museum Für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, DE

2019

Blue Flowers, Robert Heald Gallery, Wellington, NZ

2017

Frank Walter: The Last Universal Man, 57th Venice Biennale, Antigua and Barbuda Pavilion, Venice, IT

Solo presentation, Outsider Art Fair, New York, by Hirschl and Adler Modern, New York

2016

Frank Walter: Lonely Bird, Hirschl and Adler Modern, New York

2015

Frank Walter, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

2013

Solo presentation at Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, FL, by Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh

2013

Frank Walter, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

2013

Solo presentation at the Armory Show, New York, by Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025

After the end. Cartographies for Another Time, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France

2024

Le monde comme il va, Bourse de commerce, Paris, FR

Voyage, Maureen Paley, Morena Di Luna, London, UK

2023

Twenty Five, Ingelby Gallery, Edinburgh, YK

L'île intérieure, curated by Jean-Marie Gallais, Fondation Carmignac, Porquerolles, FR

2022

Splendid Isolation, S.M.A.K., Ghent, BE

Sanctuary, KARMA, Thomaston, ME

2021

Get Lifted! Karma Gallery, New York, NY

On Leaving, Modern Art, London, UK

2019

Find Yourself: Carnival and Resistance, Venice Biennale, Antigua and Barbuda Pavilion, Venice, Italy

Damn! The Defiant, Fredericks & Freiser Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Hiding In Plain Sight: Objects Common And Curious, Freedman Art, New York, NY, USA

2018

Jacob's Ladder, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK

Vis-à-Vis, Hirsch & Adler Modern, New York, NY

TWENTY, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK

2017

Only Small Paintings, Fortnight Institute, New York

2015

Land & Sea, Danese/Corey Gallery, New York

2013

Songs of Innocence and Experience: Alfred Wallis, Forrest Bess & Frank Walter, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

Selected Public Collections

Glenstone Foundation, Potomac, MD

Hiscox Art Collection, London, UK

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

Museum Für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, DE

Pinault Collection, Paris, FR

Rennie Collection, Vancouver, CAN

The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, San Francisco, CA

Selected Publications

2024

By Land, Air, Home and Sea: The World of Frank Walter, Hilton Als, Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, Barbara Paca and Charlie Porter, David Zwirner Books, New York, USA

Frank Walter: To Capture a Soul, The Drawing Center, New York, USA

2022

Frank Walter's Chess Board, Xavier Hufkens, Belgium

2021

Frank Walter: Music of the Spheres, Ingleby and Anomie, UK

2020

Frank Walter: Eine Retrospektive, Barbara Paca and Susanne Pfeffer (Eds.), Ausstellungs-Katalog für Moderne Kunst (MMK), Frankfurt am Main, Köhn, Germany

2019

“Carnival and Frank Walter’s Universe” in *Find Yourself: Carnival and Resistance*, Grafiche Veneziane, Venice, Italy

2017

Frank Walter: The Last Universal Man 1926 – 2009, Barbara Paca Ph.D, Radius Books, Santa Fe, USA

2013

Frank Walter, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK