

KEITH PIPER | CV

(B. 1960, Mtarfa, Malta. Lives and works in London)

Across four decades, Piper has developed one of the most significant bodies of work in contemporary British art, encompassing painting, installation, video and digital media. A founding member of the BLK Art Group alongside Eddie Chambers, Claudette Johnson, Donald Rodney and Marlene Smith, he is one of the most important figures to emerge from the Black Art movement in Britain.

Born in Malta in 1960, Piper came of age politically and artistically during a period marked by rising racism, anti-racist activism, the urban uprisings of 1981 and the emergence of self-organised Black cultural initiatives. Through exhibitions, conferences, publications and debates, the artists associated with the BLK Art Group helped establish what became known as Black Art: a heterogeneous field of artistic, political and intellectual positions that challenged both institutional exclusion and dominant understandings of British history, culture and identity.

Piper's practice has consistently developed and reframed the concerns articulated in his early work. Working across installation, painting, moving image and digital media, he has explored the construction of historical narratives, the circulation of political images, and the ways in which race, technology and power shape lived experience.

Piper's work is held in major public collections including Tate, MIMA, the Arts Council Collection, Manchester Art Gallery and Sheffield Museums. Recent exhibitions include *Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 1950s-Now* at Tate Britain (2021-22), *Entangled Pasts* at the Royal Academy of Arts (2024), *Black Atlantic: Power, People, Resistance* at The Fitzwilliam Museum, *Forecast Form: Art in the Caribbean Diaspora, 1990s-Today* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, *Viva Voce* at Tate Britain (2024-), and the 25th Biennale of Sydney (2026).

EDUCATION

2023	Coventry University, England, Honorary Doctor of Arts
2002	University of Wolverhampton, England, Honorary Doctor of Arts
1984 - 1986	Royal College of Art, London, England, MA in Environmental Media
1980 - 1983	Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, England, BA (hons) Fine Arts

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026	Red Flags, Niru Ratnam, London, UK
2024	Viva Voice, Tate Britain, London, UK.
2022	Jet Black Futures (II), The New Art Gallery Walsall, UK
2021-2023	Outside Narration - Curated by Keith Piper, Graves Gallery, Sheffield, UK
2019	Body Politics. Works from 1982-2007, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, UK
2017	Jet Black Futures (I), Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall, London, UK
	Unearthing the Bankers Bones, New Art Exchange, Nottingham, UK
2016	Unearthing the Bankers Bones, Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, UK

- 2012 A Short Sprint, Lake Gallery, Birmingham, UK
- 2010 A Future Museum of the Present, 113 Voorstraat. Dordrecht. Holland
- 2007 The Perfect City, PM Gallery and House, London, UK
The Abolitionist's Parlour, Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, UK
- 2004 Crusade, Contemporary Art Museum, St Louis, USA
- 2001 The Mechanoid's Bloodline, Contemporary Art Museum, St Louis, USA
Another Arena, Orchard, Gallery, Derry, Ireland
- 2000 Machine, Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo, Norway
- 1999 Relocating the Remains, The New Museum New York USA
- 1998 The Exploded City, Gate Foundation Amsterdam, Holland
Relocating the Remains, Ikon Gallery Birmingham. UK
Kieth Piper, Brigitte March Galerie, Stuttgart, Germany
Four Frontiers, Cartwright Hall, Bradford, UK
- 1997 Western Passage, The Fabric Workshop & Museum, Philadelphia, USA
Relocating the Remains, Royal College Of Art, London UK
- 1995 Reckless Eyeballing, Bonnington Gallery, Nottingham. UK
- 1993 Exotic Signs, Theesalon, Arnhem, Holland
- 1992 Front, Het Kijkhuis, Den Haag, Holland
Tradewinds, Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool, UK
- 1991 A Ship Called Jesus, Camden Arts Centre, London, UK
Step into the Arena, Rochdale Art Gallery, Rochdale, UK
Portrait of a Shopping Centre as a Cathedral, Dalston Cross Shopping Centre, UK
- 1990 The Devil Finds Work, Transmission Gallery, Glasgow, UK
- 1989 Father I have done questionable things, Bedford Hill Gallery, London, UK
- 1988 Chanting Heads, Mobile Sculpture, Various sites across the UK
- 1987 Another Empire State, Battersea Arts Centre, London UK
Adventures Close To Home Pentonville Gallery, London UK
- 1984 Past Imperfect, Future Tense The Black Art Gallery, London UK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Rememory, 25th Sydney Biennale, Australia
- 2024 Entangled Pasts, 1768-now, Royal Academy of Arts, London UK
- 2023 Black Atlantic: Power, People, Resistance, 1 The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge UK
- 2022 Forecast From: Art in the Caribbean Diaspora, 1990s - Today, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA

- 2021 Life Between Islands. Caribbean-British Art 1950s - Now, Tate Britain, London, UK
Difference Machines: Technology and Identity in Contemporary Art, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, USA
- 2018 Landscapes of the Future, Helsinki Contemporary, Finland
Speech Acts: Reflection-Imagination-Repetition, Manchester Art Gallery, UK
- 2018 Hope is Strong, Millennium Gallery, Sheffield, UK
- 2017 The Wilderness Way, MIMA, Middlesbrough, UK
The Palace is Here, South London Gallery, London, UK
The Palace is Here, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
- 2016 Thinking Black. A Montage of Black Art in Britain, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, NL
- 2015 Ghosts, Lethaby Gallery UAL, London, UK
No Colour Bar, Guildhall Gallery, London, UK
In\Visible Cities, Gorizia, Italy
Web We Want Festival, Southbank Centre, London, UK
- 2014 Breadmatters IV, ARTos, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 2012 Migrations: Journeys into British Art, Tate Britain, London, UK
- 2011 Nothing in the World but Youth, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
Blk Art Group, Graves Gallery, Sheffield, UK
Art for Whom' 1970/80s British Art, Tate Britain, London, UK
- 2010 Unfixed, Centrum Beeldende Kunst (CBK) Dordrecht. Holland
Afro Modern: Journeys through the Black Atlantic, CGAC, Santiago de Compostela. Spain
Afro Modern: Journeys through the Black Atlantic, Tate Gallery, Liverpool, UK
- 2008 Next We Change Earth, New Art Exchange. Nottingham, UK
- 2006 Uncomfortable Truths, The Victoria and Albert Museum. London, UK
- 2005 Historical Sounding Gallery, John Hope Franklin Centre. Durham, USA
Making Faces, The Forum, Norwich, UK
Terminal Frontiers, Watermans Art Centre, London, UK
- 2004 The Black Atlantic, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
Terminal Frontiers, Street Level Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland
Stranger than Fiction, Leeds City Gallery, Leeds, UK
- 2003 Transferts, Palais des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles, Belgium
20th World Wide Video Festival, Amsterdam, Holland
- 2002 Terminal Frontiers Castlefield Gallery, Manchester UK
Mass Appeal Gallery 101, Ottawa, Canada
Race In Digital Space The Studio Museum In Harlem New York, USA
- 2001 Unpacking Europe Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam, Holland

- Bits & Pieces, Joseloff Gallery, Hartford, USA
Race In Digital Space List Center For The Arts Cambridge, USA
1999 Machos y Munecas La Casa Elizalde, Barcelona, Spain
1998 Kunst In Vrijheid Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam, Holland
The Unmapped Body Yale University Art Gallery New Haven, USA
Revolution98 Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, England
Biennale De L'image Paris 98 Centre National De La Photographie. Paris, France
1997 On the Bright Side of Life, Neue Gesellschaft, Berlin, Germany
2nd Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg. South Africa
The Night Has A Thousand Eyes Ottawa Art Gallery, Canada
Translocations, Photographers Gallery, London, England
1996 New Histories, Institute Of Contemporary Arts, Boston, USA
Perception & Perspective National Gallery Of Victoria Melbourne, Australia
1995 Boxer Walsall Museum & Art Gallery, England
Flowerfield & Reckless Eyeballing. Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, UK
Video Positive Bluecoat Gallery Liverpool, UK
The Masculine Masquerade Mit List, Cambridge, Massachusetts USA
1994 Cocido Y Crudo Museo Nacional Reina Sofia. Madrid, Spain
Quinta Bienal De La Habana Havana, Cuba
Down Town Nederlands Foto Instituut. Rotterdam, Holland
1993 Iterations International Center Of Photography, New York, USA
British Artists Of The 90's Videofest 93, Kunst-Werke, Berlin, Germany
Interrogating Identity Duke University Museum Of Art, North Carolina, USA
1992 Trophies Of Empire Arnolfini, Bristol, UK
Force Site Schloss Presteneck, Neuenstadt, Germany
1991 Interrogating Identity Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis, USA
Photovideo The Photographers Gallery, London, UK
Tercera Bienal De La Habana '91, Havana, Cuba
Interrogating Identity, Museum Of Fine Arts, Boston. USA
Interrogating Identity, Grey Art Gallery, New York, USA
1989 The Other Story, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
Tercera Bienal De La Habana '89, Havana, Cuba
1988 Essential Black Art, Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK
1987 Art History, The Hayward Gallery, London, UK
State of a Nation, Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry, UK
1986 From Two Worlds, The Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK

- New Contemporaries I.C.A, London, UK
- 1985 Black Skin/Blue Coat, Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, UK
New Horizons, G.L.C Royal Festival Hall, London, UK
- 1984 Into The Open, Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK
Black Art Now The Black Art Gallery, London, UK
- 1983 The Pan-Afrikan Connection The Africa Centre, London, UK
The Pan-Afrikan Connection, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, UK
Beyond the Pan-Afrikan Connection, Midland Art Centre. Birmingham, UK
- 1982 The Pan-Afrikan Connection, 38 King Street Gallery, Bristol, UK
The Pan-Afrikan Connection, The Ikon Gallery. Birmingham, UK
The Pan-Afrikan Connection, The Africa Centre, London, UK
- 1981 Black Art and Done, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton, UK