

JAMES MCKISSIC

Fiber Artist | Weaver

Chattanooga, Tennessee

www.jamesmckissic.com

Instagram: @jhmckissic

Artist Profile

James McKissic is a Chattanooga-based fiber artist whose woven works explore Black history, memory, ancestry, and identity through traditional weaving techniques. His practice examines the intersections of race, place, and cultural preservation, drawing inspiration from African American textile traditions, historical narratives, and the Black experience in Appalachia and the American South.

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026

- *Radical Rage*, Stove Works, Chattanooga, TN
- *Materiality of the Sacred*, Carl Van Vechten Gallery, Fisk University, Nashville, TN

2025

- *Lovingly: Black, Queer, Interracial in Craft*, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Knoxville, TN

2024

- *Reclaiming: Soil and Justice*, Martin Public Library, Martin, TN
- *Tanasi: Black Tennessee in Appalachia*, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Cumberland Gap, TN

2023

- *Crafting Blackness: Black Bodies Making Form*, Tipton & Slocumb Galleries, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
- African American Artists Exhibition, Association for Visual Arts (AVA), Chattanooga, TN

2013

- Featured Artist, Graffiti Gallery, Hill City Art, Chattanooga, TN

2012

- *Ha(unted)*, Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute / Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA), New York, NY

2011

- *Art Atlanta*, Bill Lowe Gallery with Hammonds House Museum, Atlanta, GA
- Multicultural Art Show, Volkswagen Group of America, Chattanooga, TN

2010

- Group Exhibition, Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy, Chattanooga, TN
- Bessie Smith Heritage Festival Artists Village, Chattanooga, TN

2009

- GLAAD Out Auction Exhibition, New York, NY

2008

- *Inquiry: Queer Art Festival*, New York, NY
- AVA Salon Exhibition, Chattanooga, TN

2007

- Anniversary Exhibition, Fine Line Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- *Up From the Roots*, Memorial Hospital, Chattanooga, TN
- Corporate Art Program, UNUM, Chattanooga, TN
- Summer Exhibition, Fathom Gallery, Chattanooga, TN
- Dye Creek Art & Music Festival, Cleveland, TN

2006

- 4 Bridges Arts Festival, Chattanooga, TN
- Fine Line Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- *Chow-Chow: A New Regional Mix of African American Artistic Voices*, Creative Arts Guild, Dalton, GA
- Corporate Art Program, Blood Assurance, Chattanooga, TN
- *Hidden Talents*, Chattanooga, TN

Residencies

- Weaving Artist Residency, The Anou Collective, Fez, Morocco

Professional Development

- Weaving Studies, John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC
- Surface Design, John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC
- Workshop Participant, Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild, Dunwoody, GA
- Fiber Arts Studies, Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center, Mountain City, GA
- Weaving Workshops, Birchwood Fiber Festival, Birchwood, TN

Lectures, Panels & Demonstrations

2025

- Speaker, *Craft Making and Thinking Conference*, Southern Highland Craft Guild, Asheville, NC
- Weaving Demonstrator, Scenic Stitches Spectacle, Chattanooga, TN

Awards & Grants

2025

- Waymakers Collective Creative Liberation Fund Grant
 - Awarded funding to establish Woven Roots Fiber Studio, a community fiber arts space serving East Chattanooga.

Education

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Secondary Education

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Certificate in Arts & Cultural Strategy

University of Pennsylvania and National Arts Strategies

Professional Affiliations

- Board Member, Tennessee Craft
- Treasurer, Tennessee Craft Southeast