

PRESS RELEASE

***Adraint Bereal: As It Appears* opens at the Visual Arts Center at the University of Texas on October 16 with a reception from 5–8 PM**



Adraint Bereal, *Untitled*, 2019. From the series, *The Black Yearbook*, 2019–24. Archival inkjet print. Courtesy of the artist and Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami.

(AUSTIN, TX) Tuesday, September 22 – The Visual Arts Center at the University of Texas at Austin opens the first comprehensive solo exhibition of artist Adraint Bereal (b. 1998, Waco, TX), featuring over 30 photographs from his celebrated project and publication, *The Black Yearbook*. Bringing together video, archival materials, portrait photographs, and an introductory text by acclaimed poet and author Hanif Abdurraqib, *As It Appears* offers reflections on Black student life at universities and colleges across the United States. *Adraint Bereal: As It Appears* is on view at the Visual Arts Center between October 16, 2026 and March 5, 2027. The public is invited to an opening reception on the opening date from 5–8 PM.

About the Exhibition

In 2019, while a student at the University of Texas, artist Adraint Bereal began creating a visual and discursive archive of Black student life on campus. Seeking to counter the systemic invisibility of his peers, Bereal embedded himself within the campus community, documenting personal histories in photographs and interviews.

Recognizing the resonance of his growing archive, he quickly expanded his local project to campuses nationwide. Through candid photographs, intimate portraits, and interviews, Bereal mapped out a constellation of student experiences across public universities, trade schools, HBCUs, and Ivy League colleges, compiling the images and interviews into a published compendium as a gesture of historical intervention and revision. He called this project *The Black Yearbook*.

Adraint Bereal: As It Appears expands on *The Black Yearbook* project, juxtaposing archival images, documents, and video from UT and Austin repositories with over thirty photographs, essays, and recorded conversations with Black students attending American universities. Photographs of current and recently enrolled students share space with historical materials that reflect pre-segregation, the civil rights era, and recent social movements, expanding the context of individual experiences to include collective efforts to increase Black visibility and inclusion on campus. But rather than default to an objective, linear account of history, Bereal instead prioritizes personal narratives, illuminating the fragmented and ever-evolving landscape of Black collegiate life in the U.S.

As It Appears is a homecoming exhibition for the UT Austin alumnus, marking Adraint Bereal's first institutional solo exhibition and featuring the largest presentation of works from *The Black Yearbook* series to date. Presented within the context of a university art center, the works demonstrate how the complexities of subjectivity and collective experience complicate institutional hierarchies and histories.

Events

The VAC is always free. Some events require a free RSVP to attend. For up-to-date info, click [here](#).

Artist-led Exhibition Tour with Adraint Bereal

Friday, October 16, 4 PM

[RSVP](#)

Opening Reception: As It Appears

Friday, October 16, 5–8 PM

[RSVP](#)

Adraint Bereal with Temi Coker, Texas Book Festival

November 14/15; date and details to be announced

[Info](#)

Curatorial Tour with Max Fields

Thursday, December 3, 3:30 PM

About the Artist

Adraint Khadafhi Bereal (b. 1998) is an artist from Waco, Texas, based in New York, NY. Bereal uses film, photography, text, and design to untangle social, cultural, and political apparatuses that form and influence identity and cultural representation. His 2024 publication, *The Black Yearbook* (4 Color Books / Penguin Random House), examined Black student life in colleges across the US. His work has been written about internationally on platforms including *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Texas Monthly*, *Print Magazine*, *Aperture*, and *Vice*, among others. In 2025, Bereal's work was included in the exhibition *Blackland Prairies* at the Visual Arts Center at the University of Texas, curated by VAC Assistant Curator Melissa Fandos and VAC Curatorial Fellow Maysa Martins. His work is held in the permanent collection of the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) and is represented by Nina Johnson Gallery. Bereal graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree from the School of Design and Creative Technologies.

Exhibition Support

Support for *Adraint Bereal: As It Appears* is provided by the Texas Commission for the Arts, C.C. Marsh, the Leonian Foundation, the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas at Austin, Suzanne Deal Booth, and Nina Johnson Gallery.



About the Visual Arts Center at the University of Texas at Austin

The Visual Arts Center is the center for contemporary art at the University of Texas at Austin. We provide Austin and UT communities with an active and socially responsive arts program through solo and thematic exhibitions, artist residencies, events, and publications. [Learn more.](#)

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 12–5 PM. Closed Sunday–Monday and [Saturdays when UT is hosting a home football game.](#)

Admission: Free

Location: UT Austin, Art Building; 2301 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, 78712

Tour requests: [Link](#)

Visual Arts Center

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