

Derek Fordjour

b. 1974, Memphis, TN

lives and works in New York, NY

Education

- 2016 MFA, Hunter College, New York, NY
- 2002 Ed.M., Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2001 BA, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA
Pratt Institute College of Art and Design, New York, NY

Selected Solo / Two-Person Exhibitions

(* indicates a publication)

- 2027 *Fly Away*, presented by MAMCO at Grand Théâtre Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2026 FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY
- 2025 *Nightsong*, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2024 *Visiting Masterworks*, Montana Museum of Art and Culture, University of Montana, MT
- 2023 SCORE, Petzel Gallery, New York, NY
- 2022 **Magic, Mystery & Legerdemain*, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 *Derek Fordjour: Gestalt*, Pond Society, Shanghai, China
- 2020 *SELF MUST DIE*, Petzel Gallery, New York, NY
SHELTER, Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- 2019 *The House Always Wins*, Josh Lilley, London, England
JRRNNYS, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *Half Mast*, Whitney Museum of American Art Billboard Project, New York, NY
Derek Fordjour: Camelot Study, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY
Ritual, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL

- 2017 *PARADE*, Sugar Hill Museum, New York, NY
- 2016 *Agency & Regulation*, Luce Gallery, Turin, Italy
Derek Fordjour: Eight Paintings, Papillion Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 *UPPER ROOM*, Robert Blumenthal Gallery, New York, NY
Meritocracy, Jack Bell Gallery, London, England
- 2014 *The Big Game*, Storefront Ten Eyck, Brooklyn, NY
- 2013 *Sciame Artist's Salon Series Exhibition*, Sciame Corporate Gallery, New York, NY
Built Environments: Inaugurations, with Felandus Thames, Russ Barrie Medical Science Pavilion, Columbia University, New York, NY

Selected Group Exhibitions

(* indicates a publication)

- 2026 *Subvert, Repair, Reclaim: Contemporary Artists Take Back the Nude*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
**Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*, Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL
- 2025 *Here we are*, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, OR
See It Now: Contemporary Art from the Ann and Mel Schaffer Collection, Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
**Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
Telepathic Jungle, Schick Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Intrigue, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY
Recent Editions, Pace Prints, New York, NY
- 2024 *Toy Story*, Center of International Contemporary Art Vancouver, Vancouver, Canada
Invisible Luggage, Historic Hampton House, Miami, FL
Making Strange: Sacred Imagery and the Self, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
**Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
**Flight into Egypt: Black Artists and Ancient Egypt, 1876-Now*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
**Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing*, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL
**Fifteen Years*, Luce Gallery, Turin, Italy
Reverberations, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
Stop & Stare, UTA Artist Space, Atlanta, GA
Day for Night: New American Realism, organized by the Aishti Foundation, Palazzo Barberini, Rome, Italy
Abstraction after Modernism: Recent Acquisitions, The Menil Collection, Houston, TX
an arena, Barbati Gallery, Venice, Italy
Soliloquies, Petzel Gallery, New York, NY
Recent Editions, Pace Prints, New York, NY
**Multiplicity: Collage in Contemporary America*, The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
- 2023 *Accra! The Rise of a Global Art Community*, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
**Black American Portraits*, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN
Shared Visions, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, OR
**20*, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Windrush: Portraits Of A Pioneering Generation, Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, Scotland; Buckingham Palace in London, England
**NGV Triennial 2023*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Together in Time: Selections from the Hammer Contemporary Collection, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
**Multiplicity: Collage in Contemporary America*, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN
Brand New Ancients, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- 2022 *Dark Light: Realism in the Age of Post-Truths*, curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Aishti Foundation, Jal El Dib, Lebanon
Unmasking Masculinity for the Twenty-First Century, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI
51 @ 51: Collected Works, Rennie Museum, Vancouver, Canada
In Our Time: Selections from the Singer Collection, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ
Through Our Eyes - Resonance and Illusion in Contemporary Portraits, Center of International Contemporary Art, Vancouver, Canada
In These Truths, curated by Edreys Wajed, Aitina Fareed-Cooke, and Aaron Ott, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2021 *SPOTLIGHT*, Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels, Belgium
Dark Waters, benefiting the Better Watts Initiative, curated by Lauren Halsey, AJ Girard, and Tea Vickers, Watts Labor Community Action Committee, Los Angeles, CA
But No Elephants!, Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling, New York, NY
The Slipstream: Reflection, Resilience, and Resistance in the Art of Our Time, curated by Eugenie Tsai, John and Barbara Vogelstein, with Joseph Shaikewitz, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Present Generations: Creating the Scantland Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
Puppets of New York: Downtown at The Clemente, Abrazo Interno Gallery, The Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center, New York, NY; Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY
- 2020 *100 Drawings from Now*, The Drawing Center, New York, NY
Private View: Selections from ABHK, Petzel Gallery, New York, NY
Open Air, Luce Gallery, Turin, Italy
Majeure Force, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, LA
Uptown 2020, Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University, New York, NY
- 2019 *Transmissions*, Zidoun-Bossuyt Gallery, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Plumb Line, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, LA
Politically Private, Guggenheim Gallery at Chapman University, Orange, CA
- 2018 *Everyday Muse*, Itd Gallery, Los Angeles, LA
Invincible Summer, Galerie Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Cliché, Almine Rech Gallery, New York, NY
Fun House, Josh Lilley, London, England
Reclamation!, Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA
Sidelined, Galerie Lelong, New York, NY
- 2017 *Reinventing the Figure*, Galleria Monica de Cardenas, Zuoz, Switzerland
Diamonds, Rings and Courts, Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery, St. John's University, New York, NY
All That Glitters, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, NY
Selections, Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016 *Human Condition*, curated by John Wolf, L.A. Metropolitan Medical Center (formerly), Los Angeles, CA
The Barn Show, Johannes Vogt Gallery East, East Hampton, NY
First We Take Manhattan, Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, NY
Island States, Tops Gallery, Memphis, TN
March Madness, Fort Gansevoort, New York, NY
- 2015 *I Like it Like This*, Sotheby's S2 Gallery, New York, NY

And There is an End, Roberts & Tilton Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Mixed Doubles, Sometimes Gallery, New York, NY
No Such Place, Edward Tyler Nahem Gallery, New York, NY

- 2014 *OPEN*, Papillion Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 *Corpus Americus*, Driscoll Babcock Gallery, New York, NY
 Tiknahova and Winter, New York, NY
 Atlanta University Center Alumni Exhibition, Atlanta University Center, Atlanta, GA

Residencies and Awards

- 2025 Art Fellowship, Gordon Parks Foundation, Pleasantville, NY
- 2024 Humanitarian Honoree, I AM C.U.L.T.U.R.E.D. Gala, Brooklyn, NY
- 2023 Artist x Artist Honoree, Hirshhorn Gala, New York, NY
 Spirit of the Dream Award, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN
- 2022 Alumni Achievement Award, Alliance for Young Artists & Writers/Scholastic Art
 & Writing Awards, New York, NY
- 2020 Alex Katz Chair in Painting, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York, NY
- 2018 Artist-in-Residence, Whitney Museum of American Art, Youth Insights, New York, NY
 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow, New York, NY
 Deutsche Bank NYFA Fellow, New York, NY
 Artis Artist in Residence, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2017 Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program, Brooklyn, NY
 C-12 Emerging Artist Award, Hunter College, New York, NY
- 2016 Artist-in-Residence, Sugar Hill Museum, New York, NY

Visiting Artist and Lectures

- 2026 Visiting Artist Series, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 2025 Aspen Institute, Artist Endowed Foundation Initiative, Featured Speaker, New York, NY
 Arizona State University Art Museum, Public Lecture, Tempe, AZ
 Museum of the City of New York/MTA Art & Design, Panelist, New York, NY
 Scholastic Young Artist and Writers Gold Key Exhibition, Keynote Speaker, New York, NY
- 2024 SFMOMA, Event Speaker, *Intermedia: Dialogue Across Disciplines – Sports*
 Edition, San Francisco, CA
 Anderson Ranch, Summer Series Speaker, Snowmass Village, CO
 AUC Art Collective, Distinguished Guest Lecturer, Atlanta, GA
 Art Law Association Event Speaker, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY

- 2023 Frist Art Museum, Artist Talk, Nashville, TN
Tennessee Arts Academy, Keynote Speaker, Nashville, TN
Stable Arts Studio, Open Forum Guest Facilitator, Washington, D.C.
- 2022 Cranbrook Academy of Art, Visiting Artist and Critic, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 2021 Phoenix Museum of Art, Lenhardt Lecture Series, Phoenix, AZ
Columbus Museum of Art, Artist Talk, Columbus, OH
SFMOMA, Collector's Forum, Artist Talk, San Francisco, CA
Columbia University School of the Arts, Visiting Critic, New York, NY
The New School – Parsons, Visiting Critic, New York, NY
Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Visiting Critic, St. Louis, MO
New York Studio School, Evening Lecture Series, New York, NY
- 2020 Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis, Artist Talk, St. Louis, MO
Yale University School of Art, Core Critic, New York, NY
Whitney Museum, Vida Americana: A Symposium, Panelist, New York, NY
Tennessee Art Education Association Conference, Keynote Speaker, Memphis, TN
- 2019 New York University, Visiting Artist Lecture, New York, NY
Purchase College, Visiting Artist Lecture, Purchase, NY
UCLA, Visiting Artist Lecture, Los Angeles, CA
Brooks Museum, Visiting Artist Lecture, Memphis, TN
Fisk University, Visiting Artist, Nashville, TN
Yale University School of Art Lecture, New Haven, CT
- 2018 Artist-in-Residence, Whitney Museum of American Art, Youth Insights, New York, NY
NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow, New York, NY
Deutsche Bank NYFA Fellow, New York, NY
Artis Artist in Residence, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2017 Yale University MFA, Visiting Critic, New Haven, NY
Rhode Island School of Design BFA, Visiting Critic, Providence, RI
SUNY Purchase College, Visiting Critic, White Plains, NY
Hunter College, Hunter Mellon Arts Fellowship Workshop Panel, New York, NY
FIT, ARTSpeak Panel Discussion, New York, NY
- 2016 School of Visual Arts MFA, Visiting Critic, New York, NY

Commissions and Public Projects

- 2026 Morgan Stanley Flagship Building, New York, NY
High Line Sculpture Commission, New York, NY
National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN
- 2025 *Backbreaker Double*, High Line Mural Commission, New York, NY
Portals of Remembrance, New York City AIDS Memorial Park, New York, NY
- 2024 *Where Do We Go From Here?*, For Freedoms Billboard Commission, Memphis, TN
12on12, Timbaland x Derek Fordjour Collaboration, Miami, FL
Set Seen, Art Production Fund x Frieze Projects, Banner Commission, Los Angeles, CA

- 2023 *Windrush: Portraits of a Pioneering Generation*, Royal Collection Trust, London, England
Tennessee State University (TSU), Outdoor Installation, Nashville, TN
- 2022 *Sonic Boom*, Building Art Outdoor Art Series, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
- 2018 Whitney Museum of American Art Billboard Project, New York, NY
MTA Arts & Design Permanent Installation – 145th Street 3 Train Line, New York, NY

Selected Bibliography

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- 2026 Battaglia, Andy, “New York’s High Line Art Announces 2026 Commissions, with Works by Katherine Bernhardt, Ximena Garrido-Lecca, and Derek Fordjour,” *Artnews.com*, February 12, 2026
Pulido, Armando, “Derek Fordjour,” *Frieze*, No. 256, January/February 2026
- 2025 *Asshaq, Maia, ed., *Derek Fordjour: Magic, Mystery & Legerdemain*, Los Angeles: David Kordansky Gallery, 2025
*Choi, Connie H., ed., *Meaning Matter Memory: Selections from the Studio Museum in Harlem Collection*, New York: Phaidon, 2025, pp. 320, 424
Packard, Cassie, “The Ten Best Shows in the Americas of 2025,” *Frieze.com*, December 17, 2025
Robinson, Aileen K., “An Illusory Injunction: Black Stage Magic & Contemporary Art,” *Jhuptheatre.org*, September 2025
Pulido, Armando, “Derek Fordjour Pays Homage to Black Artistry,” *Frieze.com*, October 9, 2025
Bowie Jr., Quincy, “The Free Immersive Exhibit Where Democracy Lives in Artistic Darkness,” *LATimes.com*, October 4, 2025
Brand, Madeleine, “A24 films: Budding auteurs, unusual marketing, new AI adoption,” *KCRW Press Play*, October 1, 2025
Jones Jr., Khari, “Derek Fordjour’s ‘Nightsong’: An Immersive Requiem and Triumph of Black Voice,” *LASentinel.net*, September 24, 2025
Jackson, Leigh-Ann, “Right On for the Darkness,” *KCRW Art Insider*, September 23, 2025, <http://email.kcrw.com/derek-fordjourn-show-at-kordansky-is-only-open-at-night>
Dalbow, Tara Anne, “Derek Fordjour’s Love Letter to Future Generations,” *Ocula.com*, September 19, 2025
Riefe, Jordan, “Black Creative Resilience Challenges Historical Erasure in Derek Fordjour’s ‘Nightsong,’” *Observer.com*, September 19, 2025
Rees, Lucy, “Derek Fordjour Brings History of Black Music to Life with ‘Nightsong,’” *GalerieMagazine.com*, September 18, 2025
Iskandarova, Diana, “Make Space in Your Calendar: These Are the 15 Must-See LA Gallery Shows This Fall,” *CulturedMag.com*, September 15, 2025
Dixon, Carole, “Los Angeles Art Exhibitions: The Best Shows to See in September 2025,” *Wallpaper.com*, September 2, 2025
McLeod, Sheri-kae, “British Royal Family Honors Caribbean Windrush Generation with Portrait Tribute,” *CaribbeanNationalWeekly.com*, June 23, 2025
Fordjour, Derek and Trevor Noah, “Meet Derek Fordjour – One of My Favorite People,” *What Now? With Trevor Noah*, May 7, 2025, Podcast; MP3 Audio, 1:47:12
Davis-Marks, Isis, “7 Artists Who Capture the Essence of Black Dandyism,” *Artsy.net*, May 2, 2025
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Jones, Okla, “Gordon Parks Foundation Launches Legacy Initiative and Announce 2025 Fellows,” *Essence.com*, January 15, 2025
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- Ikeuchi, Erin, "Classical Meets Contemporary in Hand-Painted Artist Amphorae Collection," *Hypebeast.com*, December 30, 2024
- "Urban Gallery: The Role and Influence of Public Art in New York City," *Mcnyc.org*, December 22, 2024
- Adigun, Tayler, "Timbaland Shaped the Sound of the Early 2000s (And He Knows It)," *HighSnobiety.com*, December 3, 2024
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- "Contemporary Arts Memphis Opens Space for Young Artists," *Dailymemphian.com*, October 24, 2024
- Fancher, Lou, "SFMOMA Invites Museumgoers to Play in Big 'Get in the Game'," *SFgate.com*, October 19, 2024
- Dixon, Delaina, and Tatiana Henderson, "Your Best Self: Art Exhibitions to See This Fall That Will Expand Your Mind," *Ebony.com*, October 7, 2024
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- Sharma, Manu, "The Phillips Collection Shines a Light on Black American Collage Art," *StirWorld.com*, July 30, 2024
- Marius, Marley, "A Closer Look at the Sport-Inspired Art Installations at the Prelude to the 2024 Olympic Games," *Vogue.com*, July 26, 2024
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- 2023 *Aldridge, Taylor Renee, "Woven Narratives," *NGV Triennial*, Melbourne: National Gallery of Victoria, 2023, pp. 290-301, illus. p. 295
- *Delmez, Kathryn E., ed., *Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage*, Nashville: Frist Art Museum, 2023
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- "Ambition and Downfall Coalesce in Derek Fordjour's Circus," *Elephant.art*, December 5, 2023
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Valentine, Victoria L., "Derek Fordjour's 'Strawman' Painting Covers Spring Issue of Juxtapoz Magazine," *Culturetype.com*, March 3, 2022

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Cantillon, Sharon, "Photos: 'In These Truths' Exhibition Preview at Albright-Knox Northland," *BuffaloNews.com*, February 18, 2022

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Moncrease, Brittani, "Summer Program Helps High School Artists Create Professional Careers in Art," *LocalMemphis.com*, January 7, 2022

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*Bartunek, C.J., "A Celebration of Life," *The Georgia Review*, Athens: The University of Georgia, Fall 2021, pp. cover, 652-659

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Ang, Regina, and Sue Davies, "Free Underground Art to Experience In New York City," *TravelAwaits.com*, October 20, 2021

Valentine, Victoria L., "Latest News in Black Art: Veronica Ryan Sculptures Honor UK's Windrush Generation, Addis Fine Art Opening in London, David Adjaye Designing Basquiat Exhibition & More," *CultureType.com*, October 3, 2021

Durón, Maximiliano, "L.A. Dealer David Kordansky to Open New York Space Next Year," *Artnews.com*, September 30, 2021

Hughes, Sally Eaves, "An Exhibition Can Be a Classroom: 'Young, Gifted and Black' at Gallery 400 Offers Expansive Take on Black Contemporary Artists," *Art.NewCity.com*, September 22, 2021

Hollerback, Bryan, "Meet the St. Louis Metro Area's Leaders in Visual Arts," *LaudeNews.com*, September 2, 2021

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"Phoenix Art Museum Is Making Black, Latino and Indigenous Artists a Priority. Here's How," *AZCentral.com*, March 7, 2021

"Derek Fordjour Now Represented by David Kordansky Gallery," *ArtDaily.com*, February 9, 2021

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2020 Rodney, Seph, "Derek Fordjour Conjures a Heavenly World," *Hyperallergic.com*, December 16, 2020

"CBS This Morning: Artist Derek Fordjour on His New Exhibit," *CBS News*, December 12, 2020

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