

## Derek Fordjour

b. 1974, Memphis, TN

lives and works in New York, NY

### Education

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

### Selected Solo / Two-Person Exhibitions

(\* indicates a publication)

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| 2025 | <i>Nightsong</i> , David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  |
| 2024 | <i>Visiting Masterworks</i> , Montana Museum of Art and Culture, University of Montana, MT   |
| 2023 | <i>SCORE</i> , Petzel Gallery, New York, NY  |
| 2022 | * <i>Magic, Mystery &amp; Legerdemain</i> , David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA   |
| 2021 | <i>Derek Fordjour: Gestalt</i> , Pond Society, Shanghai, China   |
| 2020 | <i>SELF MUST DIE</i> , Petzel Gallery, New York, NY<br><i>SHELTER</i> , Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO  |
| 2019 | <i>The House Always Wins</i> , Josh Lilley, London, England<br><i>JRRNNYS</i> , Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA   |
| 2018 | <i>Half Mast</i> , Whitney Museum of American Art Billboard Project, New York, NY<br><i>Derek Fordjour: Camelot Study</i> , Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY<br><i>Ritual</i> , Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL |
| 2017 | <i>PARADE</i> , Sugar Hill Museum, New York, NY  |
| 2016 | <i>Agency &amp; Regulation</i> , Luce Gallery, Turin, Italy<br><i>Derek Fordjour: Eight Paintings</i> , 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)

- 2025 *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

## 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

- 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 National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN
- 2025 *Portals of Remembrance*, New York City AIDS Memorial Park, New York, NY  
High Line Art, Mural Commission, 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**

(\* indicates non-periodical book, catalogue, or other publication)

- 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
  - 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-fordjourns-show-at-kordansky-is-only-open-at-night>
  - Dalbrow, 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
  - "'Telepathic Jungle' captures spirit of exploration through collage," *Skidmore.edu*, March 14, 2025
  - Jones, Okla, "Gordon Parks Foundation Launches Legacy Initiative and Announce 2025 Fellows," *Essence.com*, January 15, 2025
  - "Gordon Parks Foundation Launches Collection-Building Initiative, Names 2025 Fellows," *Artforum.com*, January 15, 2025
- 2024
- \*Elam, Kayla and Eleanor Hughes, eds., *Flight into Egypt: Black Artists and Ancient Egypt, 1876–Now*, New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2024, pp. 30, 156-157
  - 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," *Mcnny.org*, December 22, 2024
  - Adigun, Tayler, "Timbaland Shaped the Sound of the Early 2000s (And He Knows It)," *HighSnobiety.com*, December 3, 2024
  - Westall, Mark, "Artists Derek Fordjour & Timbaland Collaborate On Art + Vinyl Limited Edition for Miami Art Week," *Fadmagazine.com*, November 20, 2024
  - Valentine, Victoria, "Election 2024: For Freedoms and People for the American Way Working with Dozens of High-Profile Artists to Mobilize Voters," *Culturetype.com*, November 1, 2024
  - "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
  - Perry, Elle, "Fine-Arts Program for Teens Finds Home in Edge District," *Dailymemphian.com*, September 11, 2024
  - Jenkins, Mark, "A Sweeping Look at the Inventive, Vibrant Art of Collage," *Washingtonpost.com*, August 28, 2024

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

"A New Show of Collage by African-American Artists Finds Multiplicity in Black Identity," *News.artnet.com*, July 4, 2024

Renfrow, Daniel, "A New Exhibit at the MFAH Explores Black Identity Through Collage," *HoustoniaMag.com*, April 2, 2024

Lim, Kristin, "From Art Fairs to Gallery-Hopping: A Recap of 2024 LA Frieze Week," *ScoutMagazine.ca*, March 21, 2024

Meares, Hadley, "L.A. Art Week Crush: What's On at the Frieze, Felix and Spring/Break Fairs," *HollywoodReporter.com*, February 24, 2024

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Washington, Noah, "Derek Fordjour: A Homecoming Drawn in Paint," *TheAtlantaVoice.com*, February 8, 2024

Donoghue, Katy, "Derek Fordjour: Embracing a Certain Creative Maturity and Vulnerability in His Latest Solo Show, 'Score,'" *Whitewall*, Winter 2024, cover, pp. 114-119

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

Donoghue, Katy, "Derek Fordjour Embraces a Certain Kind of Vulnerability in 'SCORE,'" *Whitewall.art*, December 19, 2023

Renkl, Margaret, "Piecing Together a Black Identity, and a Whole Black World," *NYTimes.com*, December 11, 2023

Elujoba, Yinka, "Cabinet of Wonders With Darkness Below," *The New York Times*, December 8, 2023; *NYTimes.com*, December 7, 2023

"Ambition and Downfall Coalesce in Derek Fordjour's Circus," *Elephant.art*, December 5, 2023

Traverse, Anna, "An Afternoon with Barbara & Pitt Hyde," *MemphisMagazine.com*, December 4, 2023

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Morici, Abigail, "From Hatred to Hope," *MemphisMagazine.com*, October 18, 2023

Hunter, Laura Hutson, "Fall Guide 2023: The Frist's 'Multiplicity' Is a Groundbreaking Exhibition," *NashvilleScene.com*, September 7, 2023

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Keh, Andrew, "From The Court to The Art Gallery," *The New York Times*, June 13, 2022, pp. D4-D5, and *NYTimes.com*, June 13, 2022

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Moore, Charles, "Derek Fordjour: The Sporting Life," *Juxtapoz*, Spring 2022, pp. cover, 66-73, and *Juxtapoz.com*, March 3, 2022

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

- 2021
- \*Hernandez, Jazmin, *We Are Here: Visionaries of Color Transforming the Art World*, New York: Abrams, 2021
  - \*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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  - Glasper, Janyce Denise, "Inclusive and Engaging, the Scantland Collection's 'Present Generations' at the Columbus Museum of Art Shows Contemporary Art's Power to Connect," *ArtBlog.com*, November 30, 2021
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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
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  - Dambrot, Shana Nys, "Take Your Seats: Arts Calendar August 26 – September 1," *LAWeekly.com*, August 25, 2021
  - Steimer, Jacob, "Developing in Orange Mound isn't easy: Here's why two artists are trying," *MLK50.com*, August 24, 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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"More Than Just a Moment: Derek Fordjour is Earning His Way into History One Show at a Time," *The Canvas Monthly*, December/January 2021, pp. 23-29

- 2020
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- Mitter, Siddhartha, "Marching to the Beat of Their Own Drum," *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, November 27, 2020
- Steer, Emily, "Derek Fordjour Uses Sport as the Perfect Allegory for Organized Society," *Elephant Magazine*, Issue 44, Fall 2020
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- Mitter, Siddhartha, "Derek Fordjour, From Anguish to Transcendence," *The New York Times*, November 20, 2020, p.C1
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