

## 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 *American Conversations*, Ogunquit Museum of American Art, Ogunquit, ME  
*Everything Now All At Once*, Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, NC  
*Summer Figuration*, BlackBook Art Gallery, Southampton, NY  
*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*, ltd 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 TEFAF Talks with Bank of America: Art and Philanthropy: The Intersection of Collecting, Board Leadership, and Social Impact Panelist, TEFAF, New York, NY  
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, ARTSspeak Panel Discussion, New York, NY
- 2016    School of Visual Arts MFA, Visiting Critic, New York, NY

### **Commissions and Public Projects**

- 2026    *Three Kings: Epilogue*, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN  
Morgan Stanley Flagship Building, New York, NY  
High Line Sculpture Commission, New York, NY
- 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**

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

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Perry, Elle, "Thinker, Dreamer & Leader: Artist Derek Fordjour Reimagines Room 306," *DailyMemphian.com*, May 25, 2026  
Sutton, Benjamin, "Public Art Blossoms Around New York," *TheArtNewspaper.com*, May 12, 2026  
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- 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  
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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  
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Jackson, Leigh-Ann, "Right On for the Darkness," *KCRW Art Insider*, September 23, 2025, <http://email.kcrw.com/derek-fordjourns-show-at-kordanksy-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  
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  - 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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  - 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
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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
  - 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
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