

# Petzel

## DEREK FORDJOUR

Born in 1974, Memphis, Tennessee  
Lives and works in New York, New York

### EDUCATION

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

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Petzel Gallery, New York (forthcoming)
- 2022 *Magic, Mystery & Legerdemain*, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2021 The Bunker Artspace, West Palm Beach  
*Gestalt*, Pond Society, Shanghai, China
- 2020 *SELF MUST DIE*, Petzel Gallery, New York  
*SHELTER*, Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis
- 2019 *The House Always Wins*, Josh Lilley Gallery, London  
*JRRNNYS*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles  
*Stains on a Decade*, Josh Lilley Gallery, London
- 2018 *Derek Fordjour: Camelot Study*, BAM, Brooklyn  
Zona Maco, Mexico City  
*Ritual*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami
- 2017 *PARADE*, Sugar Hill Museum, New York
- 2016 *Agency & Regulation*, LUCE Gallery, Turin  
*Derek Fordjour: Eight Paintings*, Papillion Art, Los Angeles
- 2015 *UPPER ROOM*, Robert Blumenthal Gallery, New York  
*Meritocracy*, Jack Bell Gallery, London
- 2014 *The BIG GAME*, Storefront Ten Eyck Gallery, Brooklyn
- 2013 Sciame Artist's Salon Series Exhibition, Sciame Corporate Gallery, New York  
*Built Environments: Inaugurations with Felandus Thames*, Columbia University Russ Barrie

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Pavillion, New York

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage*, Frist Art Museum, Nashville  
*Celebrating David Kordansky Gallery's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, David Kordansky, Los Angeles  
*Brand New Ancients*, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh
- 2022 *Dark Light: Realism in the Age of Post-Truths*, Aishti Foundation, Lebanon  
Brainlab AG, Munich, Germany  
*Sexy Beast*, Benefit for Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, Night Gallery, Los Angeles  
*In Our Time: Selections from the Singer Collection*, the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale  
*In These Truths*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo  
*Through Our Eyes—Resonance and Illusion in Contemporary Portraits*, Centre of International Contemporary Art, Vancouver
- 2021 *The Worlds We Make: Selections from the ICA Collection*, ICA Boston  
*But No Elephants!*, Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling, New York
- 2020 *100 Drawings from Now*, Drawing Center, New York  
*Open Air*, LUCE Gallery, Turin  
*Majour Force*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles  
*Uptown 2020*, Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University, New York
- 2019 *Plumb Line: Charles White and the Contemporary*, California African-American Museum, Los Angeles  
Art Birmingham, The High Art Museum in Atlanta, Atlanta  
Art Birmingham, The Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham  
*Transmission*, Zidoun Bossuyt, Luxembourg
- 2018 *Fun House*, Josh Lilley Gallery, London  
*Invincible Summer*, Galerie Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen  
*Cliche*, Almine Rech Gallery, New York  
*Everyday Muse*, ltd Gallery, Los Angeles  
*Reclamation!*, The Taubman Museum, Roanoke  
*Sidelined*, Galerie Lelong, New York
- 2017 *Reinventing the Figure*, Galleria Monica de Cardenas, Zuoz  
*Diamonds, Rings and Courts*, Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery, St. John's University, New York  
York  
*All That Glitters*, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York  
*Selections*, Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York
- 2016 *Human Condition*, The former L.A. Metropolitan Medical Center, Los Angeles

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- The Barn Show*, Johannes Vogt Gallery East, East Hampton  
*First We Take Manhattan*, Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York  
*Island States*, Tops Gallery, Memphis  
*March Madness*, Fort Gansevoort, New York
- 2015 *I Like it Like This*, Sothebys S2 Gallery, New York  
*And There is an End*, Roberts & Tilton Gallery, Los Angeles  
*Mixed Doubles*, Sometimes Gallery, New York  
*No Such Place*, Edward Tyler Nahem Gallery, New York
- 2014 *OPEN*, Papillion Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2013 *Corpus Americus*, Driscoll Babcock Gallery, New York  
*Tickenihova and Winter*, New York  
Atlanta University Center Alumni Exhibition, Atlanta University Center, Atlanta

## RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

- 2020 Alex Katz Chair in Painting, The Cooper Union, New York
- 2018 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow in Painting, New York  
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation Fellow, New York  
Artis Artist in Residence, Tel Aviv
- 2017 Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program, Brooklyn  
C-12 Emerging Artist Award, Hunter College, New York
- 2016 Artist-in-Residence, Sugar Hill Museum, New York

## LECTURES AND TEACHING

- 2020 Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis, Artist Talk, St. Louis  
Core Critic, Yale University School of Art, New York  
Whitney Museum, Via Americana: A Symposium, New York  
New York Studio School, Evening Lecture Series, New York  
Tennessee Art Education Association Conference, Keynote Speaker, Memphis
- 2019 Royal College of Art, Visting Artist Lecture, London  
New York University, Visiting Artist Lecture, New York  
Purchase College, Visiting Artist Lecture, Purchase  
Brooks Museum, Visting Artist Lecture, Memphis  
Fisk University, Visiting Artist, Nashvill  
Yale University School of Art Lecture, New Haven
- 2018 Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Visiting Critic, Jerusalem  
The Cooper Union, Alex Katz Visiting Artist, New York

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- 2017 Yale University MFA, Visiting Critic, New Haven  
Rhode Island School of Design BFA, Visiting Critic, Providenc  
SUNY Purchase College, Visiting Critic, White Plains  
Hunter College, Hunter Mellon Arts Fellowship Workshop Panel, New York  
FIT, ARTSpeak Panel Discussion, New York
- 2016 School of Visual Arts MFA, Visiting Critic, New York

## COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2022 *Sonic Boom*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
- 2018 *Half Mast*, public installation at the Whitney Museum, New York  
*Parade*, MTA Arts & Design Permanent Installation – 145<sup>th</sup> Street 3 Train Line, New York

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRPAHY

- 2023 Hunter, Laura Hutson. “Fall Guide 2023: The Frist’s ‘Multiplicity’ Is a Groundbreaking Exhibition.” *Nashville Scene*, September 7.  
Orlando, Joyce. “Why this new Frist Art Museum exhibit made the New York Time list of must-see exhibits this fall.” *The Tennessean*, September 6.  
Estiler, Keith. “MANJU Journal Celebrates the Works of Over 80 Ghanian Artists in New Book.” *Hypebeast*, August 22.  
“What I Buy and Why: Gallerist Jush Lilley on Collecting Playful Works But Keeping Them Out of Reach of Little Hands.” *Artnet News*, August 22.  
Urist, Jacoba. “5 Must-See Shows In Los Angeles Before Summer’s End.” *Cultured*, August 3.  
Barrie, Lita. “David Kordansky Gallery Celebrates a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Quintessential Californian Art Show.” *Whitehot*, August.  
Tieholz, Tom. “California Dreaming: David Kordansky At 20.” *Forbes*, July 15.  
Ziemba, Christine N., “Best Things To Do This Weekend In Los Angeles And SoCal: July 7-9.” *LAist*, July 6.  
“Honoring a patron painter and charitable NBA coach at St. Jude Spirit of the Dream.” *Daily Independent*, June 28.  
Jacob, Lina “Windrush: Portraits of a Generation: Leeds sitter to be featured in a new BBC documentary led by King Charles III as part of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniverary of Windrush.” *The Yorkshire Post*, June 23.  
Shacklock, Emma. “King Charles’ poignant commission on display weeks ahead of first official visit to this royal residence in 2023.” *Woman & Home*, June 23.  
“Portraits of the Windrush Generation Commissioned by His Majesty King Charles III go on Display at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.” *Artdependence*, June 23.  
Wallis, Sara. “Faces of Windrush generation immortalized by portraits as King Charles lauds ‘pioneers.’” *Mirror*, June 22.  
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- Latif, Leila. "Windrush: Portraits of a Generation review – don't let this documentary distract from our national shame." *The Guardian*, June 22.
- "Windrush generation celebrated in a series of 10 portraits – in pictures." *The Guardian*, June 22.
- Myers, Russell, and Jennifer Newton. "King Charles hails 'very special' Windrush generation during poignant palace event." *Mirror*, June 15.
- "King says celebration of Windrush arrivals crucial ahead of portrait documentary." *The Irish News*, June 6.
- Waddoups, Ryan. "What the Hammer Museum's Redesign Means for Los Angeles." *Surface*, April, 7.
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- Alturki, Nada. "Saudi art exhibiton goes back to future inspiring modern culture," *Arab News*, March 20.
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- "SFMOMA acquires its first NFT, a work by tech art pioneer Lynn Hershman Leeson." *The Art Newspaper*, January 17.
- 2022 "Solo Presentations at Frieze Seoul 2022." *Frieze*, August 25.
- Kennin, Lydian. "Mayor Lee Harris honors 25 high school student artists after first Summer Fellowship Program." *Action News 5*, August 22.
- Westall, Mark. "Frieze Unveil Full Highlights of Frieze Seoul." *FAD Magazine*, August 22.
- Fisher, Justine. "Seth Rogen and Eckhaus Latta Fundraise for Planned Parenthood." *Paper* August 4.
- Dambrot, Shana Nys. "Weekend Gallery: Arts Calendar July 28 – August 3." *LA Weekly*, July 27.
- Ghassemitari, Shawn. "Night Gallery Will Host a Major Fundraising Event in Aid of Reproductive Rights." *Hypebeast*, July 27.
- Decaille, Nia. "With Lots of Eye Contact, Something Clicked." *The New York Times*, July 22.
- Cristi, A.A. "Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art's IN OUR TIME Collects Works by Contemporary Artists of the African Diaspora." *Broadway World*, July 20.
- Bradley, Adam. "The Historically Black College Reconsiders the Studio Art Program." *The New York Times Style Magazine*, July 8.
- "Resilience and Remembrance in Newly Displayed Paintings." *9/11 Memorial & Museum*, June 23.
- Keh, Andrew. "The Art World Loves Basketballs. And Hoops and Jerseys and Backboards." *The New York Times*, June 13.
- Cooper, Matt. "The newest, coolest L.A. and O.C. museum shows to see in May." *Los Angeles Times*, April 29.

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- Anderson, Gayle and Kobe Siy. "MOCA building art: Derek Fordjour." KTLA, April 26.
- Jackson, Leigh-Ann. "Derek Fordjour examines magic, race and revelry in two L.A. art installations." *Los Angeles Times* April 19.
- Fulmer, Alex. "Exciting Los Angeles gallery openings to visit this month." *Daily Trojan*, April 12.
- Valentine, Victoria L. "Appointed NYC Culture Czar, Civil Rights Photographer Doris Derby Died, Guggenheim Fellows, Derrick Adams, Derek Fordjour, Theaster Gates & More." *Culture Type*, April 12.
- Diehl, Travis. "Derek Fordjour's Magic Is on Display in Los Angeles." *Cultured*, April 11.
- Kazakina, Katya. "The Curse of BOGO? Why Forcing Collectors Hungry for Hot New Art to Buy One and Give One (to a Museum) May Be a Very Bad Idea." *Artnet News* April 8.
- "Derek Fordjour's Magic, Mystery & Legerdemain @ David Kordansky Gallery in Los Angeles." *Autre*, April 6.
- Zara, Janelle. "'We give them permission to deceive us': the power and privilege of the magician." *The Guardian*, April 4.
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- McKade, Jodie. "The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Announce the 2022 National Medalists." *Reader's Entertainment Magazine*, March 30.
- Pricco, Evan. "Magic, Mystery & Legerdemain: Derek Fordjour Explores Black Herman and the Power of the Mystical." *Juxtapoz*, March 30.
- Li, Stefanie. "The Artful Life: 5 Things *Galerie* Editors Love This Week." *Galerie*, March 29.
- "Fungible: Arts Calendar March 24 – 30." *Jnews*, March 24.
- "Weekly What To Do: Everything @ 626 Mini All At Once, Oh, Oscar Sunday." *Things To Do In LA*, March 23.
- "The Artsy Collectors 2022." *Artsy*, March 15.
- "Derek Fordjour's 'Strawman' Covers Spring Issue of Juxtapoz Magazine." *Culture Type*, March 3.
- "Applications open for Contemporary Arts Memphis' Summer Fellowship Program." *ABC24 Memphis*, February 22.
- Moore, Charles. "Derek Fordjour: The Sporting Life." *Juxtapoz*, Spring.
- "Albright-Knox presents 'In These Truths.'" *Artdaily*, February 20.
- "Summer Fellowship Program for Memphis Student Artists." *Storyboard Memphis*, January 5.
- Benson, Louise. "People Fill The Paintings of Our Latest Liquitex Residency Artist." *Elephant*, January 28.
- "5 Striking Images at the Brooklyn Museum Right Now." *Medium*, January 27.
- Lai, Cherry. "How Art Could Be A Safe Form of Investment." *Echelon*, Jan. 7.
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- 2021 Ratcliff, Darryl. "Black Bodies, White Spaces' Features Some Of The Most Important Living Black Artists." *GarlandJournal*, December 30.
- Durón, Maximiliano. "The Best Art Books of 2021." *ARTNews*, December 17.

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- Ober, Cara, and Michael Anthony Farley. "High Fiber Mixed Media Maximalism: Art Basel Miami Beach 2021." *BmoreArt*, December 10.
- 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*, November 30.
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- Forjour, Derek and C.J. Bartunek. "A Celebration of Life (with an interview by C.J. Bartunek)." *The Georgia Review*, Fall.
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- Valentine, Victoria L. "Derek Fordjour Has Joined David Kordansky Gallery, His Explorations of Race and Identity Invoke Culture of Sports, Symbolism of Teams." *Culture Type*, February 1.
- Smith, TK. "Derek Fordjour: SHELTER." *Art Papers* February.
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- Valentine, Victoria L. "Culture Type: The Year in Black Art 2020, Key News, Exhibitions, Awards, and More That Defined Year." *Culture Type*, January 9.
- "More Than Just a Moment: Derek Fordjour is Earning His Way Into History One Show at a Time." *The Canvas*, December/ January.
- 2020 "Artists and Curators Choose Their Standout Artists of 2020." *Elephant*, December 16.
- Shaw, Helen. "The 10 Best Theater Moments of 2020." *Vulture*, December 23.
- Rodney, Seph. "Derek Fordjour Conjures a Heavenly World." *Hyperallergic*, December 16.
- "Artist Derek Fordjour on his new exhibit." *CBS News This Morning*, December 12.
- Prudent, Diéry. "Fly Away: A Review." *Puppetry Journal*, Fall, cover, pp. 7-8.
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- Battaglia, Andy. "Best Practices: Derek Fordjour's Art Stares Down Shared Fears and Vulnerabilities." *ARTNews*, November 10.

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- Vitale, Julia. "Derek Fordjour: Self Must Die." *Air Mail*, October 23.
- Wullschläger, Jackie. "Derek Fordjour: painting the black experience." *Financial Times*, October 20.
- Douglas, Sarah. "Collecting in Quarantine: L.A.-Based Michael Ovitz Talks About Buying Art Sight Unseen." *ARTnews*, October 16.
- Steer, Emily. "Derek Fordjour Uses Sport as the Perfect Allegory for Organised Society." *Elephant Magazine*, October 16.
- Dyson, Torkwase. "Acrobatics Over Beats: A Conversation Between Torkwase Dyson & Derek Fordjour." *Autre Magazine*, Fall/Winter.
- Williams, David. "The patron painter of hopeful causes." *St. Jude*, September 22.
- Fenske, Sarah. "'After Shelter' Gathers St. Louisans' Pandemic Reflections for StoryCorps." *St. Louis Public Radio*, July 22.
- Henderson, Jane. "Contemporary Art Museum asks visitors: Has pandemic changed how we experience art?" *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, July 9.
- Germain, Jacqui. "Derek Fordjour Honors Disenfranchised Communities in His Vibrant, Layered Work." *Artsy*, June 3.
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- Goodman, Wendy. "My Studio in the Bronx." *New York Magazine*, February 17.
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- Henderson, Jane. "Eye-catching 2020 exhibitions show art from French painters to modern sculptors." *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, January 2.
- 2019 Fryns, Fabien. "Derek Fordjour." *Vanity Fair UK*, November, pp. 80-81.
- Valentine, Victoria L. "Fast-Rising Artist Derek Fordjour Set a New Auction Record at Phillips New York." *Culture Type*, October 1.
- Wullschläger, Jackie. "Four exhibitions bring African." *Financial Times*, September 26.
- "The Artists to Know Right Now." *Artsy*, September 16.
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- Rees, Lucy. "Derek Fordjour." *Galerie*, March 3.
- Piejko, Jennifer. "Artist Derek Fordjour Revels in The Game Toppling Expectations as He Goes." *Cultured*, February 15.
- Miranda, Carolina A. "Datebook: Paintings of sport and art inspired by convenience stores and confession." *Los Angeles Times*, January 31.
- Crow, Kelly. "'I Don't Want to Be a Blip': An Artist on the Rise Adjusts to the Spotlight." *The Wall Street Journal*, January 30.
- 2018 Neuendorf, Henri "8 Art Advisors Tell Us Which Artists You Should Be Watching (and Buying) in 2019." *Artnet News*, December 10.
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- Tully, Judd. “Even as Brexit Looms, Galleries Notch Sales on Frieze London’s Opening Day.” *ARTnews*, October 3.
- “6 Innovators Shaping the Culture of NYC.” *Gotham*, October 1.
- “Top Art Shows in New York.” *Blouin Artinfo*, September 21.
- “‘Fun House’ at Josh Lilley Gallery, London.” *Blouin Artinfo*, July 4.
- Urbani, Shay. “Arts-centered New York Diversion Program for Youth Displays High Success.” *Juvenile Justice*, May 25.
- Rodney, Seph. “Wandering the Artists Studios of Dumbo.” *Hyperallergic*, May 4.
- Katz, Brooke Porter. “Best of Zona Maco 2018.” *Surface*, February 11.
- Sussman, Anna Louie. “What Sold at Zona Maco.” *Artsy*, February 11.
- Rodney, Seph. “The Political Truths That Ground Our Athletic Heroes.” *Hyperallergic*, February 8.
- Williams, Maxwell. “Art Los Angeles Contemporary fair perks up, but is it enough?” *The Art Newspaper*, January 31.
- 2017 “Sidelined.” *Blouin Artinfo*, December 29.
- Cascone, Sarah. “How Artist Derek Fordjour Turned Cardboard and Newspaper Into a Carnival Funhouse.” *Artnet*, December 18.
- Rodney, Seph. “A Dreamy Carnival at the Children’s Museum in Harlem.” *Hyperallergic*, November 22.
- Evans, Kelley D. “The Portrait of an Artist: Derek Fordjour’s Immersive Wonderland Dedicated to Children.” *The Undeclared* October. 6.
- Terrebonne, Jacqueline., “Derek Fordjour’s Immersive Wonderland Dedicated to Children.” *Galerie Magazine*, August 2.
- Walsh, Brienne. “The Jay-Z of the Art World Discusses His Upcoming Show In Harlem.” *Forbes*, July 16.
- Caposella, Francesca. “Sports Are a Metaphor for Inequality in These Colorful Paintings.” *Vice*, June 21.
- 2016 Zonca, Giulia. “L’artista che rappa con i colori: ‘Lo sport è lo specchio della vita.’” *La Stampa*, October 12.
- Cohen, David. “Armory Pick of the Day: Derek Fordjour at Volta.” *Art Critical*, March 3.
- Page, David. “And There is an End...” *Los Angeles Times*, March 21.
- Miranda, Carolina. “Derek Fordjour: Eight Paintings.” *Los Angeles Times*, February. 4.
- 2015 Carter, Holland. “From Derek Fordjour, A Sense of Abandoned Ritual” *The New York Times*, November 19.
- 2014 Goodman, Jonathan. “Derek Fordjour: The Big Game.” *The Brooklyn Rail*, October 7.
- Wright, Peter “Souleo”. “Artist Derek Fordjour has a Lesson for the Sports World.” *Ebony*, September 29.

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Wright, Pete "Souleo." "On the 'A' w/Souleo: The Sports World Could Learn From Derek Fordjour's Artworks." *Huffington Post*, September 24.

"40 Amazing Black Artists to Watch in 2014." *theGrio*. January 3.

## CATALOGUES AND PUBLICATIONS

2022 *Dark Light: Realism in the Age of Post-Truths. Selections from the Tony and Elham Salamé Collection Aïshti Foundation*. Edited by Massimiliano Gioni. Milan: Skira, 2022, pp. 268 - 271 (ill.).

2018 Gilman, Claire, Manon Slome, Derek Fordjour, and Black Chalk. *Fordjour*. New York: Black Chalk.

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Aïshti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Palm Beach, Florida  
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York  
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio  
Craig Hall, Hall Group Collection, Dallas, Texas  
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas  
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California  
JP Morgan Chase Collection, New York, New York  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California  
Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, North Carolina  
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, Florida  
Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York  
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York  
Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China