

## 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)

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 \**Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*, Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL

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*, Barbatì 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 Shaikevitz, 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  
Tiknaha 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**

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, <i>Vida Americana: A Symposium</i> , 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	<i>Backbreaker Double</i> , High Line Mural Commission, New York, NY <i>Portals of Remembrance</i> , New York City AIDS Memorial Park, New York, NY
2024	<i>Where Do We Go From Here?</i> , 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	<i>Windrush: Portraits of a Pioneering Generation</i> , Royal Collection Trust, London, England Tennessee State University (TSU), Outdoor Installation, Nashville, TN
2022	<i>Sonic Boom</i> , 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

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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  
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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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<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  
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McLeod, Sheri-kae, "British Royal Family Honors Caribbean Windrush Generation with Portrait Tribute," *CaribbeanNationalWeekly.com*, June 23, 2025  
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Fancher, Lou, "SFMOMA Invites Museumgoers to Play in Big 'Get in the Game,'" *SFgate.com*, October 19, 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

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