

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

- 2026 *Fumble*, NXTHVN, New Haven, Connecticut
- 2025 *Nightsong*, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2023 *SCORE*, Petzel Gallery, New York
- 2022 *Magic, Mystery & Legerdemain*, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2021 *The Bunker* Artspace, West Palm Beach, Florida
Gestalt, Pond Society, Shanghai
- 2020 *SELF MUST DIE*, Petzel Gallery, New York
SHELTER, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Missouri
- 2019 *The House Always Wins*, Josh Lilley Gallery, London
JRRNNYS, Night Gallery, Los Angeles
Stains on a Decade, Josh Lilley Gallery, London
- 2018 *Camelot Study*, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York
Ritual, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami
- 2017 *PARADE*, Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, New York
- 2016 *Agency & Regulation*, LUCE Gallery, Turin
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

Petzel

- 2013 Sciame Artist's Salon Series Exhibition, Sciame Corporate Gallery, New York
Built Environments: Inaugurations with Felandus Thames, Columbia University Russ Barrie Pavillion, New York

COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2026 (upcoming) National Civil Rights Museum, Artwork Commission, Memphis TN
- 2025 (upcoming) High Line Art, Mural Commission, New York, NY
NYC AIDS Memorial Digital Monuments Commission
- 2024 *12 on 12*, Timbaland Vinyl Collaboration Launch Event with Highsnobiety, Miami
Art & Leisure Tennis Tournament, Artadia in partnership with Frieze, Los Angeles County Tennis Club, Los Angeles
- 2023 *Fordjour x 2023 TSU Mural Exhibit*, presented by the First Art Museum, Nashville
- 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 – 145th Street 3 Train Line, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Flight into Egypt: Black Artists and Ancient Egypt, 1876-Now*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Get in the Game: Sports, Art and Culture, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA
Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida
Telepathic Jungle, Schick Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs
Making Strange: Sacred Imagery and the Self, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2024 *Invisible Luggage*, Historic Hampton House, Miami
Toy Story, Center of International Contemporary Art, Vancouver, BC
Reverberations, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
- Soliloquies*, Petzel Gallery, New York
Stop and Stare, UTA Artists Space, Atlanta
Day for Night: New American Realism, Palazzo Barberini, Organized by the Aïshti Foundation, Rome
- 2023 *Black American Portraits*, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis
Windrush: Portraits of a Pioneering Generation, National Portrait Gallery, London; Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh; Royal West of England Academy, Bristol

Petzel

- Multiplicity: Blackness in Contemporary American Collage*, Frist Art Museum, Nashville; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
Celebrating David Kordansky Gallery's 20th Anniversary, David Kordansky, Los Angeles
Brand New Ancients, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh
NGV Triennial, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2022 *Dark Light: Realism in the Age of Post-Truths*, Aishti Foundation, Beirut
Brainlab AG, Munich, Germany
Sexy Beast, Benefit for Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, Night Gallery, Los Angeles
In Our Time: Selections from the Singer Collection, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona
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*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
But No Elephants!, Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, New York
The Slipstream: Reflection, Resilience, and Resistance in the Art of Our Time, Brooklyn Museum, New York
Present Generations: Creating the Scantland Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio
- 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 Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama; High Museum, Atlanta
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, Virginia
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
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
The Barn Show, Johannes Vogt Gallery East, East Hampton
First We Take Manhattan, Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York

Petzel

- 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
Ticknibova and Winter, New York
Atlanta University Center Alumni Exhibition, Atlanta University Center, Atlanta

RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

- 2025 Gordon Parks Foundation Artist Fellow, 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
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
- 2020 Alex Katz Chair in Painting, The Cooper Union, New York
- 2018 Artist-in-Residence, Whitney Museum of American Art, Youth Insights, New York
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

- 2025 (upcoming) Aspen Institute, Artist Endowed Foundation Initiative, Featured Speaker, New York
(upcoming) Arizona State University Art Museum, Public Lecture, Tempe, AZ
The Role and Influence of Art in Three Major Public Spaces, Museum of the City of New York, New York

Petzel

- 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 Arts Center, Summer Series Speaker, Snowmass Village, CO
AUC Art Collective, Distinguished Guest Lecturer, Atlanta, GA
Arts Leadership, Morehouse College, Artist Lecture, Atlanta
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, DC
- 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
The New School – Parsons, Visiting Critic, New York
Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Visiting Critic, St. Louis, MO
New York Studio School, Evening Lecture Series, New York
- 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, Visiting Artist Lecture, London
UCLA, Visiting Artist Lecture, Los Angeles, CA
New York University, Visiting Artist Lecture, New York
Purchase College, Visiting Artist Lecture, Purchase
Brooks Museum, Visiting Artist Lecture, Memphis
Fisk University, Visiting Artist, Nashville
Yale University School of Art Lecture, New Haven
- 2018 Moravian College MFA, Visiting Artist, Bethlehem, PA
Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Visiting Critic, Jerusalem
The Cooper Union, Alex Katz Visiting Artist, New York
- 2017 Yale University MFA, Visiting Critic, New Haven
Rhode Island School of Design BFA, Visiting Critic, Providence
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

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- 2025 Noah, Trevor “Meet Derek Fordjour...” *What Now? With Trevor Noah*, May 8. Duray, Dan. “Peter W. Kunhardt, Jr. On the Gordon Parks Foundation’s Newly Launched Legacy Initiative.” *Observer*, February 12.
Valentine, Victoria L. “Culture Type: 16 Best Black Art books of 2024.” *Culture Type*, February 3.
Cristi, A.A. “The Gordon Parks Foundation Launches Collection-Building Initiative With Mikki Ferrill & LeRoy Henderson.” *Broadway World*, January 15.
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Jones, Okla. “Gordon Parks Foundation Launches Legacy Initiative And Announce 2025 Fellows.” *Essence*, January 15.
Jesse James, “Avant Arte and Artsapce Reimagine Ancient Greek Amphorae with Contemporary Flair.” *Stupid Dope*, January 2.
- 2024 Ikeuchi, Erin. “Classical Meets Contemporary in Hand-Painted Artist Amphorae Collection.” *Hypebeast*, December 30.
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Malone, Ian. “The Stars Come Out for the Met’s Art & Artists Gala.” *Vogue*, December 12.
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“Eyes on Miami: Leonardo DiCaprio, Jared Leto, Fatboy Slim, and Others,” *Miami New Times*, December 9,
Cascone, Sarah. “Pro Wrestler Lee Moriarty’s Paintings Make a Knockout Debut at NADA Miami.” *Artnet*, December 6.
“Art Basel Miami Beach diary: Hollywood star in training for gallerist role, a pom pom-making party and an operatic triumph.” *The Art Newspaper*, December 6.
Adigun, Tayler. “Timbaland Shaped the Sound of the Early 2000s (And He Knows It).” *Highsnobiety*, December 3.
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Rabb, Maxwell. "Emerging artist Li Hei Di breaks auction record at Phillips in New York." *Artsy*, November 20.

Westall, Mark. "Artists Derek Fordjour & Timaland Collaborate on Art + Vinyl Limited Edition for Miami Art Week." *FAD Magazine*, November 20.

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Otuguor, Rume and Marine Saint. "What's on in New York this winter.." *Financial Times*, November 11.

Morici, Abigail. "Contemporary Arts Memphis Opens New Building in Edge District." *Memphis Flyer*, November 6.

Schreffler, Laura. "Inside LACMA's Gucci-Presented 2024 Art + Film Gala." *Haute Living*, November 5.

Douglas, Sarah, Andy Battaglia, Janelle Zara, "At LACMA , Dia, and Creative Time Galas, the Art World Awaits the End of Election Season." *ARTnews*, November 5.

Bosselman, Haley. "LACMA Art + Film Gala Celebrates Timeless Allure Of Hollywood With Kim Kardashian, Andrew Garfield, Charli XCX, More." *Los Angeles Confidential*, November 4.

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"Pharrell Advocates for Reviving Arts Competitions for Olympics at Louis Vuitton Event." *Asharq Al-Awsat*, July 26.

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Lang, Robert and Melanie Goodfellow. "Prelude To The 2024 Olympic Games: Red Carpet Looks From Louis Vuitton Foundation Party." *Deadline*, July 25.

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Jones, Okla. "Summer Entertainment Preview: 14 Must-See Art Exhibitions." *Essence*, June 6.

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Anderson, Sarski. "Triple Bill of Exhibitions from Global Majority Artists Coming to RWA." *B24/7*, May 3.

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- “King says celebration of Windrush arrivals crucial ahead of portrait documentary.” *The Irish News*, June 6.
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- Chow, Vivienne. “‘Hong Kong is Back’: Celebrities, Collectors, and A-List Artists Turned Out in Force for the City’s Biggest Art Basel Since 2019.” *Artnet New*, March 23.
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- 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.
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- “Resilience and Remembrance in Newly Displayed Paintings.” *9/11 Memorial & Museum*, June 23.
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- Jackson, Leigh-Ann. “Derek Fordjour examines magic, race and revelry in two L.A. art installations.” *Los Angeles Times* April 19.

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- 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.
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- "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.
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- "Albright-Knox presents 'In These Truths.'" *Artdaily*, February 20.
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PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Aïshti Foundation, Beirut
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Palm Beach, Florida
Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York
Brooklyn Museum
Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio
Craig Hall, Hall Group Collection, Dallas, Texas
Dallas Museum of Art
Guggenheim Museum, New York
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
High Museum, Atlanta
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
JP Morgan Chase Collection, New York
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Menil Collection, Houston
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS
Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa, California
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia
Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL
Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ
The Royal Collection, United Kingdom
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Yuz Museum, Shanghai