DEREK FORDJOUR

Born in 1974, Memphis, Tenessee
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

2027 *Fly Away*, presented by MAMCO at Grand Theatre Geneve, Switzerland

2026 *Fumble*, NXTHVN, New Haven, Connecticut
Spotlight: Derek Fordjour, FLAG Art Foundation, New York

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

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 *Three Kings: Epilogue*, National Civil Rights Museum, Artwork Commission, Memphis
Morgan Stanely Flagship Building, New York
Highline Sculpture Commission, New York

2025 *Backbreaker Double*, High Line Art, Mural Commission, New York
Portals of Remembrance, 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

2026 *Performing Ourselves*, Australian Cinémathèque, Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane
Rise Through Everything: Geometry, *Rhythm, and Gesture*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis
Seunghue Lee Collection: What the Surface Remembers, 11 Samcheong-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Soft Reins: From Degas to Fordjour, Acquavella Palm Beach, Palm Beach
Dreams of This Future: The Collection of Peggy Cooper Cafritz, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Let's Play, Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland
American Conversations, Ogunquit Museum of American Art, Ogunquit
Everything Now All At Once, Nasher Museum of Art, Durham
Summer Figuration, BlackBook Art Gallery, Southampton
Subvert, Repair, Reclaim: Contemporary Artists Take Back the Nude, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture, Perez Art Museum, Miami

2025 *Flight into Egypt: Black Artists and Ancient Egypt*, 1876-Now, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Get in the Game: Sports, Art and Culture, SFMOMA, San Francisco
Intrigue, Tilton Gallery, New York
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
Here we are, Portland Museum of Art, Portland
Making Strange: Sacred Imagery and the Self, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia

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
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 Anniverary, 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,* Aïshti 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
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
Ticknihova 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
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, Visting 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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McCoole, Veena, "How One Painting Set This Seoul Art Collector on a Lifelong Journey," Artsy.net, August 26, 2026.
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Donoghue, Katy, "Mila Dalal Shares Her Top 11 Picks From Art Basel 2026," Whitewall.art, June 19, 2026.
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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.

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"The Defining Art Events of 2024." *ARTnews,* December 16.
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.
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"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.
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"Honoring a patron painter and charitable NBA coach at St. Jude Spirit of the Dream." *Daily Independent,* June 28.
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"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.
"Windrush Portraits to go on display at Palace of Holyroodhouse." *Advisor,* June 22.
Stephen, Phyllis. "Windrush Generation celebrated in portraits at the palace." *The Edinburgh Reporter,* June 22.
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"King says celebration of Windrush arrivals crucial ahead of portrait documentary." *The Irish News,* June 6.

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"MOCA Added 123 Artworks in 2022, Now Approaching 8,000." *mynewsLA.com,* January 31.
"SFMoMA acquires its first NFT, a work by tech art pioneer Lynn Hershman Leeson." *The Art Newspaper,* January 17.

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"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.
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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
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