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An exploration of black art through vintage and contemporary books, magazines and catalogs, Culture Type shares invaluable interestingness culled from the published record on black art.

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Spring Openings: 28 New Exhibitions Feature Black Artists

by VICTORIA L. VALENTINE on Apr 8, 2015 · 4:21 am

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THIS SPRING MARKS THE OPENING of a number of notable exhibitions featuring work by African and African American artists. In Los Angeles, William Pope.L's largest-ever museum presentation is on view at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. In New York, a comprehensive overview of colorful works by Alma Thomas is at Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, and June Kelly Gallery is displaying paintings by Philemona Williamson (shown above). The Museum of Modern Art in New York ("Migration Series") and the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University (new acquisitions) are showing significant exhibitions by Jacob Lawrence. Several other artists have multiple shows scheduled this season, including Glenn Ligon, Yinka Shonibare, MBE, and Trenton Doyle Hancock. And, of course, the 2015 Venice Biennale featuring more than 35 black artists opens on May 9. A selection of some of

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Spring Openings: 28 New Exhibitions Feature Black Artists



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2015 Venice Biennale to Include More than 35 Black Artists

spring's most intriguing offerings follows:



GLENN LIGON, Installation view of "Well, it's bye-bye/If you call that gone" at Regen Projects, Los Angeles. | via Regen Projects

March 14 – Apr 18, 2015

1. GLENN LIGON, "Well, it's bye-bye If you call that gone" @ Regen Projects (Hollywood) | Los Angeles

Through text and imagery, Glenn Ligon draws on cultural touchstones to raise issues of race, identity, history and culture. This presentation of recent works features a selection of "Come Out" paintings, referencing the defense of the Harlem Six, a group of African American teenagers wrongfully accused of murdering a Harlem merchant in 1964; a double neon sculpture with the word "America" face down on the floor; and "Hands" (1996), a silkscreen painting composed of images from the Million Man March.



National Gallery of Art Acquires 190+ Works by African American Artists From Corcoran



Culture Talk: Duke Professor Richard J. Powell on Archibald Motley



Weekend Reading: The Intersecting Worlds of Chris Ofili and David Adjaye



National Gallery Curators Explain How Corcoran Works Will Enhance Collection

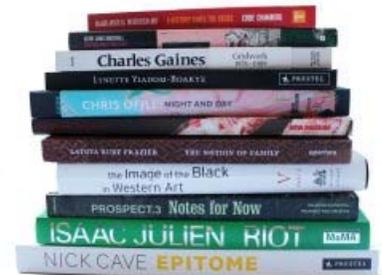
NATIONAL GALLERY CURATORS EXPLAIN HOW CORCORAN WORKS WILL ENHANCE COLLECTION



THE YEAR IN BLACK ART 2014: NOTABLE NEWS, AWARDS AND EXHIBITIONS



11 BEST BLACK ART BOOKS OF 2014



ALMA THOMAS, "Fire Flies," 1968 (acrylic and graphite on paper). | Courtesy Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York, NY

March 20 – May 16, 2015

2. "ALMA THOMAS: Moving Heaven & Earth – Paintings and Works on Paper, 1958-1978" @ Michael Rosenfeld Gallery | New York

Defly employing color as a language, the ordered patterns and vibrant abstracts of **Alma Thomas** (1891-1978) speak volumes. The exhibition features more than 40 drawings and paintings (oil, acrylic and watercolor) and the gallery has published an accompanying catalog that includes a previously unpublished oral history interview with Thomas.



Scene from a racecourse in Vancouver, Canada, as it would have looked in 1955. The photograph is a composite image of 30 different photos. From the series "Crowds and Riots" (2008). | STAN DOUGLAS, "Hastings Park, 16 July 1955," 2008 (digital C-print mounted on Dibond aluminum). | Courtesy the artist, David Zwirner, New York/London and Victoria Miro, London.

March 20 – May 10, 2014

3. "STAN DOUGLAS: Photographs 2008-2013" @ Nikolaj Kunsthal | Copenhagen Denmark

An innovator in film and video, Canadian-born **Stan Douglas** has been exploring staged photography in recent years recreating specific socio-political moments in history. Drawing on the stylistic expression of classic old Hollywood, film noir and the jazz age, the projects are full productions requiring the equivalent of major film sets complete with a casts, extras and lighting.

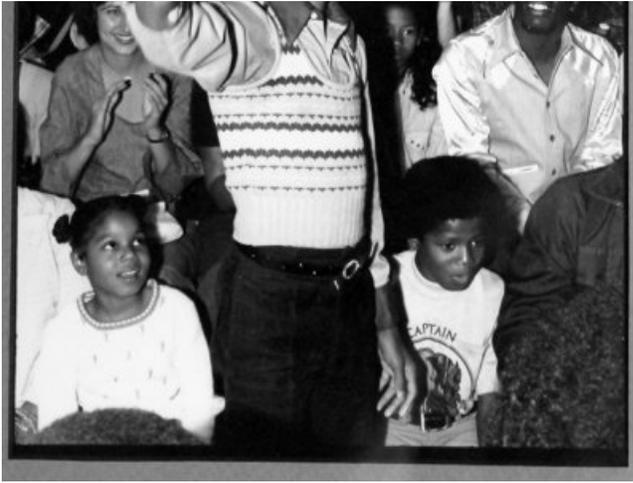


CULTURE TALK: BRUCE TALAMON ON PHOTOGRAPHING DAVID HAMMONS



ARCHIVES

Select Month



HOWARD BINGHAM, "Michael Jackson at Manual Arts High School," n.d. | Promised gift of Irene Fertik, Courtesy California African American Museum

March 20 – June 7, 2015

4. "Light Catchers" @ California African American Museum | Los Angeles

A celebration of seven Los Angeles-based African American photographers who have been covering the city since the late 1940s, the exhibition features **Howard Bingham, Don Cropper, Jack Davis Bob Douglas, Cliff Hall, LaMonte McLemore** and **Murphy Ruffins**. This reprise of a 1997 show organized by photographer Irene Fertik marks the donation of 35 prints by the photographers to the museum's permanent collection.



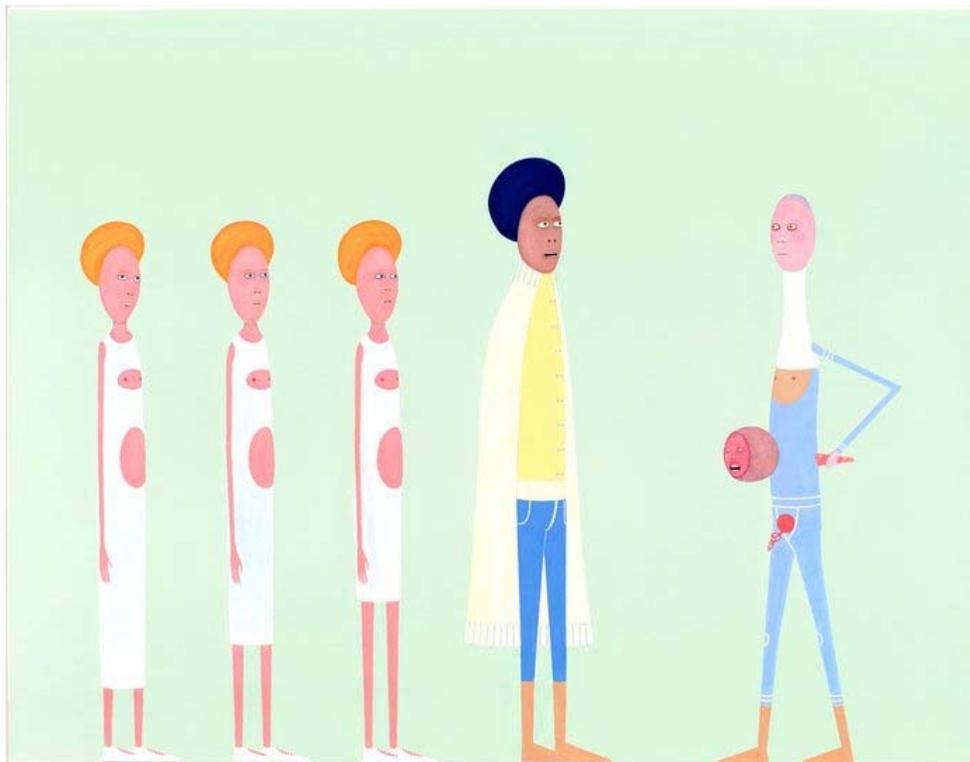
WILLIAM POPE.L, "Trinket," 2008 (mixed media). Installation in Exhibition Hall of Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Mo., produced by Grand Arts | Courtesy the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York. Photo by E.G. Shempf

March 22 – June 28, 2015

5. "WILLIAM POPE.L: Trinket" @ The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA LA | Los Angeles

The largest-ever museum presentation of **William Pope.L's** work, this exhibition features new and recent work, including large-scale installations and new sculptures and performances, by the Chicago-based artist. The show's

definitive work is "Trinket," an over-scale fraying American flag blown continuously by four industrial fans and lit by Hollywood-style lights.



LAYLAH ALI, "Untitled (Acephalous series)," 2015 (gouache, acrylic, watercolor, and pencil on paper). | via Paul Kasmin Gallery

March 25 – April 25, 2015

6. "LAYLAH ALI: The Acephalous Series" @ Paul Kasmin Gallery | New York

For her first show at Paul Kasmin and her first New York solo exhibition in a decade, **Laylah Ali** is presenting 10 gouache and acrylic paintings on paper. According to the gallery, Ali's practice "explores power dynamics and interpersonal conflict through compositions that position culturally and sexually ambiguous figures in precarious, loaded, and unexpectedly humorous situations. While the works included in The Acephalous Series are similarly engaging and metaphoric, Ali has introduced new narratives with a fraught community of figures, including those with minimal bodies, some who lack heads, or appear to be on an endless, determined trek." Ali lives in Williamstown, Mass., where she is a professor of art at Williams College.





TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK, "To Get Ahead One Must Sacrifice Certain Freedoms," 2005 (ink and acrylic on paper). | Courtesy the artist and James Cohan Gallery, New York

March 26 – June 28, 2015

7. "TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK: Skin and Bones, 20 Years of Drawing" @ Studio Museum in Harlem | New York

Inspired by graphic novels, comics and cartoons, music and film, over the past two decades, Houston-based **Trenton Doyle Hancock** has been exploring elaborate animated narratives. At times mythical and dark, often fantastic and fun his drawings, collages and works on paper are populated by a cast of colorful characters. Organized by curator Valerie Cassel Oliver of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, the exhibition is the first in-depth consideration of his expansive body of work.



JACOB LAWRENCE, "The Swearing In," 1977 (silkscreen). | Gift of Dr. Herbert J. Kayden and Family in memory of Dr. Gabrielle H. Reem, 2013.110. ©2015 The Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation, Seattle / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

April 1 – Aug. 3, 2015

8. "Promised Land: JACOB LAWRENCE at the Cantor, A Gift from the Kayden Family" @ Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University | Stanford, Calif.

According to a Stanford, Cantor holds the largest collection of **Jacob Lawrence** works on the West Coast, thanks to a generous donation in July 2014 of 56 paintings and prints by Lawrence and one painting by **Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence**, his wife. This exhibition presents the works together for the first time, charting the evolution of Lawrence's output from 1943 to 1998. Twelve students designed the exhibition and wrote the accompanying texts.



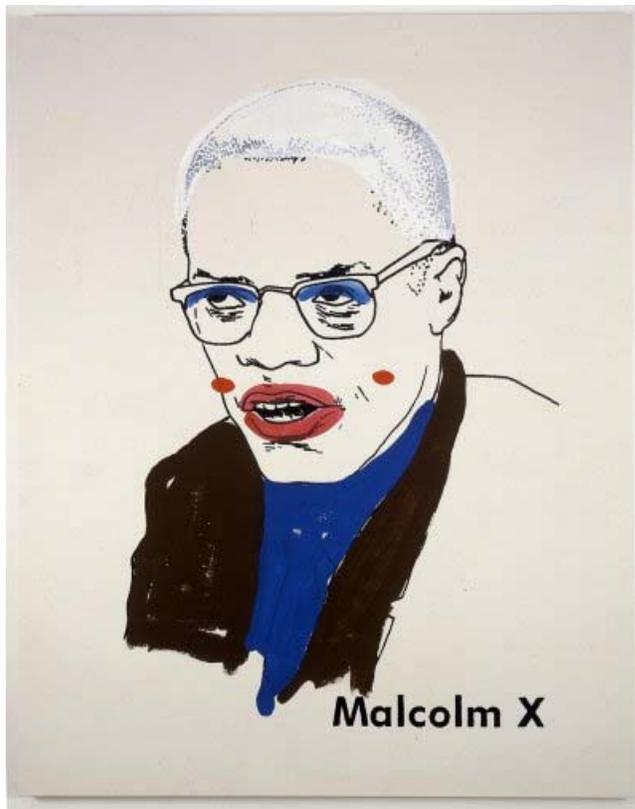


KALUP LINZY, "We People Who Are Darker Than Blue (Experimental Version) Still #7," 2015 | Courtesy Garis & Hahn Gallery

April 2 – May 2, 2015

9. KALUP LINZY, "Art.Jobs.Lullabies" @ Garis & Hahn Gallery | New York

Performance artist **Kalup Linzy** works in video and mixed-media and for more than a dozen years has used a soap opera format in an ongoing series in which he portrays 22 characters. The videos are semi-autobiographical, probing both his personal drama and satirizing real art world challenges. Presenting new and recent work and an accompanying soundtrack, the solo exhibition is Linzy's first at the gallery.



GLENN LIGON, "Malcolm X #1 (small version #2)," 2003 (Silkscreen and Flashe paint on canvas). | Courtesy the Rodney M. Miller Collection

April 3 – June 14, 2015

10. "GLENN LIGON: Encounters and Collisions" @ Nottingham Contemporary | Nottingham, England

Curated by **Glenn Ligon**, this exhibition brings together the work of 45 artists whose work "often deals with the



JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT, "Untitled (Crown)," 1982 (acrylic, ink, and paper collage on paper). | Private collection, courtesy of Lio Malca. Copyright © Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat, all rights reserved. Licensed by Artstar, New York. Photo by Mark-Woods.com

April 3 – Aug. 23, 2015

12. "BASQUIAT: The Unknown Notebooks" @ Brooklyn Museum | Brooklyn, N.Y.

Rife with doodles, fragmented phrasing and recurring motifs, **Jean-Michel Basquiat**'s famous works often look like he was working his ideas out on the canvas. It should come as no surprise that he filled notebooks with what the museum describes as "poetry fragments, wordplay, sketches, and personal observations ranging from street life and popular culture to themes of race, class, and world history." The exhibition is the first major presentation of his notebooks and includes 160 pages exhibited alongside related works on paper and canvas.



AIDA MULUNEH, From "The 99 series," 2013 (c-print). | Collection of the artist, Courtesy National Museum of African Art

April 8 – Aug. 2, 2015

13. "The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell Revisited by Contemporary African Artists" @ National Museum of African Art | Washington, D.C.

Organized by international curator and critic Simon Njami, this dynamic exhibition considers the themes of "The Divine Comedy," Dante Alighieri's epic poem, and demonstrates its relevance beyond the European context. Featuring more than 40 African-born artists from 19 nations—including **Kader Attia**, **Berenice Bickle**, **Nicholas Hlobo**, **Julie Mehretu**, **Aida Muluneh** (whose work is shown above), **Wangechi Mutu**, **Maurice Pefura**, and **Yinka Shonibare, MBE**—the exhibition is the first to expand beyond the museum's traditional gallery spaces

inhabiting the pavilion and stairwells, as well.



PEFURA, "Nos Voyages Immobiles," 2015 (mixed media, cardboard, paper). Courtesy Skoto Gallery

April 9 – May 16, 2015

14. "PEFURA: Nos Voyages Immobiles" @ Skoto Gallery | New York

Perfura considers notions of space, location and belonging in this exhibition whose title translates to "Our Motionless Journey." Paris-born of Cameroonian descent, Pefura is an architect who has been working as an artist for two decades. His mixed media paintings and installations "expand on the relationship between the body and the nature of spaces, the contrast between large collective spaces and individual compartmentalized spaces as well as notions of space as a set of destinations."



NICK CAVE, *Soundsuit*. | Photo by James Prinz Photography. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York via Cranbrook Art Museum

April 10 – May 2015

15. NICK CAVE, “Soundsuit Invasion Photo Shoots” @ Cranbrook Art Museum | Detroit

In anticipation of “*Here Hear*,” his forthcoming exhibition at Cranbrook opening June 20, **Nick Cave** is staging a series of street performances and photo shoots around Detroit at iconic city locations this spring. Pop-up locations will be “leaked” via social media to draw crowds. The images will be published as postcards in a book titled “Greetings from Detroit.”



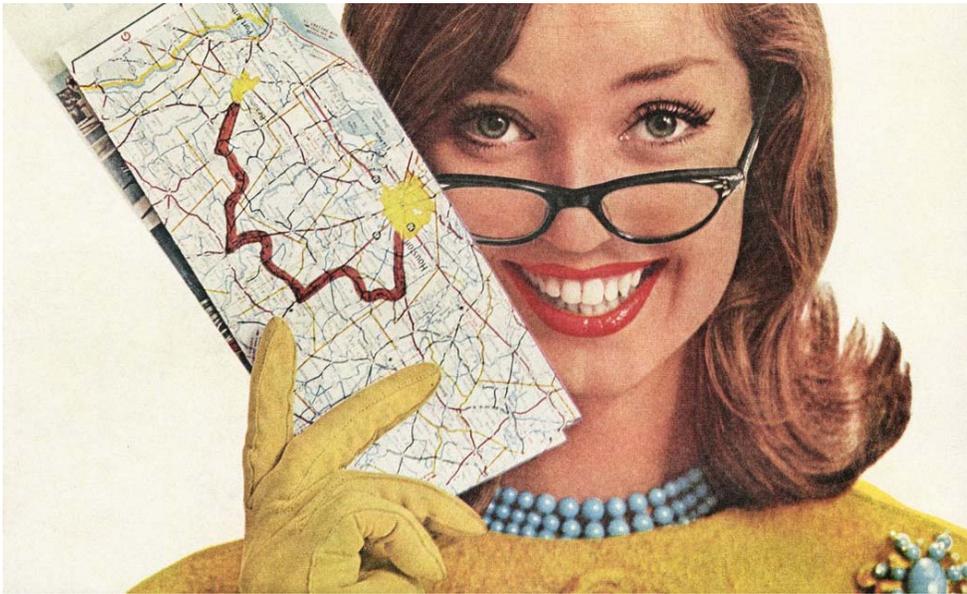
PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON, “Round About Midnight,” 2014 (oil on linen). | Courtesy June Kelly Gallery

April 10 – May 12, 2015

16. “PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON: Black & Colored, Recent Paintings” @ June Kelly Gallery | New York

A powerful interplay between color, technique and subject permeates the latest paintings of Montclair, N.J.-based artist **Philemona Williamson**. In a release, the gallery says “Her work continues to teeter on the edge of satire, tradition and innovation. For Williamson, objects transcend their function and are seemingly playful, but upon closer examination they are dark and foreboding, delving deep into contemporary themes that mystify.” (Her work is also shown at the top of this page.)



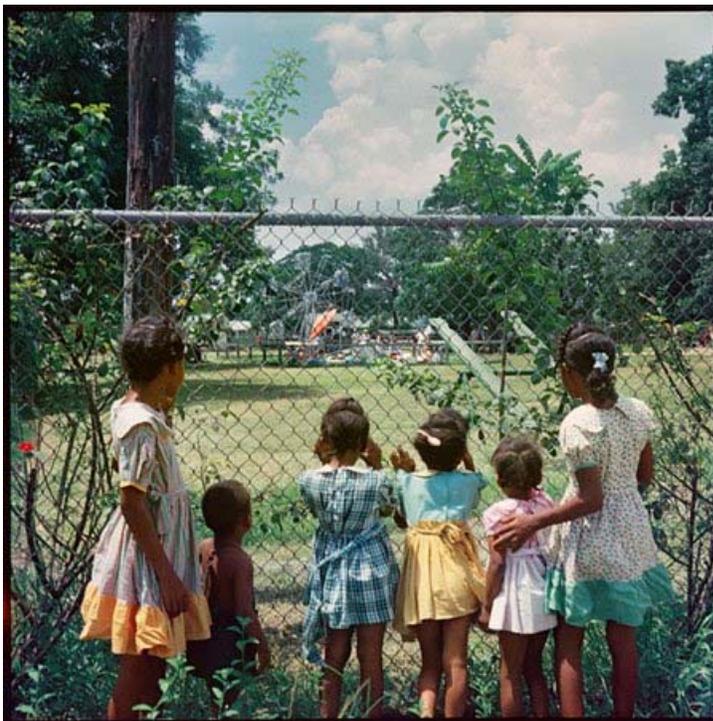


HANK WILLIS THOMAS, "I'll Take You There," 1961/2015 | Courtesy the Artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

April 10 – May 16, 2015

17. HANK WILLIS THOMAS, "Unbranded: A Century of White Women, 1915-2015" @ Jack Shainman Gallery | New York, N.Y.

Hank Willis Thomas's latest exhibition is a counterpoint to "Unbranded: Reflections in Black by Corporate America, 1968-2008," his 2010 installation at the Brooklyn Museum. A broad assembling of illustrations and photography, "Unbranded: A Century of White Women, 1915 – 2015" examines the representation of the "ideal feminine type" in print advertising and the "notions of virtue, power, beauty, privilege, and desire" associated with the images.

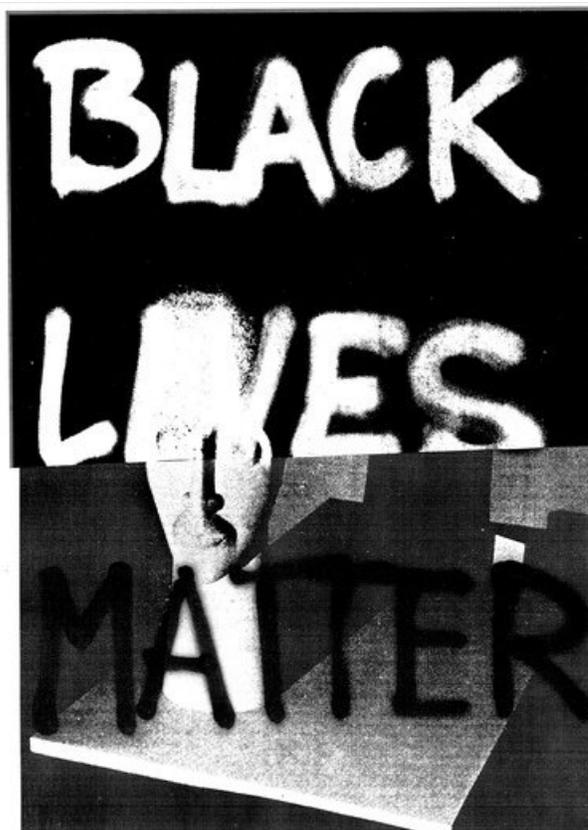


GORDON PARKS, "Outside Looking In, Mobile, Alabama," 1956 | Courtesy of Adamson Gallery and The Gordon Parks Foundation

April 11 – June 27, 2015

18. "GORDON PARKS: Segregation Story" @ Adamson Gallery | Washington, D.C.

In 1956, **Gordon Parks** traveled to Shady Grove, Ala., where he spent time photographing the members of an ordinary African American family. The color portfolio documenting the indignities of the Jim Crow South was published in Life magazine. The gallery's exhibition presents a selection of images from "Segregation Story," his evocative series which it describes as "an intimate portrayal of one family's perseverance through racial and economic subjugation."



ADAM PENDELTON has created a new series of Black Lives Matter paintings made with a low-tech "painting machine." | via Pace Gallery

April 16 – May 23, 2015

19. "ADAM PENDLETON: New Works" @ Pace Gallery | London

New York-based **Adam Pendleton** is presenting new works—paintings, sculpture and a site-specific installation—that "explore the relationship between politics, language, and race, and consider how history bears on the present." The exhibition features a new series of Black Lives Matter paintings conceived by the Richmond, Va.-born artist in response to the Michael Brown and Eric Garner killings and the rallying of communities across the United States in protest of police use of lethal force on unarmed black men and youth.





TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK, "Bringback Cabbage." | Courtesy The Ringling

April 17 – Sept. 13, 2015

20. TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK, "EMIT: What the Bringback Brought" @ Ringling Museum of Art | Sarasota, Fla.

Through his illustrative storytelling, Trenton Doyle Hancock has developed the Mounds and the Vegans, a distinct set of mythological characters that the museum describes as "two diametrically opposed universal forces that play out the archetypal battle between good and evil." This exhibition of commissioned works, the result of Hancock being awarded the 2013 Greenfield Prize, launches a first phase in the development of a new series of action figures and dolls, as well as a film presented in the form of a television commercial.



MELEKO MOKGOSI, Detail of "Democratic Intuition, Exordium," 2013–present (oil and charcoal on canvas). |

Courtesy of the artist and Honor Fraser Gallery; The Eckard Collection. Image courtesy of Honor Fraser Gallery.
Photo by Farzad Owrang

April 21 – Aug. 9, 2015

21. “MELEKO MOKGOSI: Democratic Intuition @ Institute of Contemporary Art” | Boston

Inspired by photographic images, **Meleko Mokgosi**'s realistic paintings “investigate Southern Africa’s past and present.” Working on a grand scale across successive canvases, he portrays detailed powerful narratives that at their root are about recognition, giving a voice to suppressed people. Mokgosi is presenting a new body of work created specifically for this exhibition that examines democracy from five different perspectives. Born in Botswana, he lives and works in New York.

Works by Mokgosi are also on view at Jack Shainman’s The School in Kinderhook, N.Y. through April 12.



YINKA SHONIBARE, MBE, Detail of “The Age of Enlightenment – Immanuel Kant,” 2008 (life size, fiberglass mannequin, Dutch wax printed cotton, mixed media). | © Yinka Shonibare MBE, Photo by Jason Mandella, Licensed by SODRAC | Courtesy James Cohan Gallery, New York and Shanghai

April 28 – Sept. 20, 2015

22. YINKA SHONIBARE, MBE, “Pièces de résistance” @ DCH/ART Foundation for Contemporary Art | Montreal, Canada

For **Yinka Shonibare, MBE**, the complicated origins of Dutch wax fabric provide a conceptual framework for his elaborate installations and ironic sculptures that probe “identity, authenticity, ethnicity, representation, hybridity, race, class, migration, globalization, and power.” For this exhibition, the foundation describes the London-born Nigerian artist’s approach as “a multiplicity of strategies, including auto-ethnography and humour in combination with art historical and literary references, to deliver a body of work that is simultaneously seductive and subversive.”





THEASTER GATES©, *The inside of a local hardware store. It's contents preserved.* | © the artist and White Cube, Photo by Sarah Pooley

April 29 – July 5, 2015

23. "THEASTER GATES: Freedom of Assembly" @ White Cube Gallery | London

Drawing on matters of memory, history, politics and the cultural symbolism of material objects, **Theaster Gates** is presenting a new body of work—tar paintings, sculptures and installations. According to the gallery, the Chicago-based artist "explores the theme of assembly in its widest sense, enmeshing ideas of an autonomous art object with notions of individual freedom and the empowerment of place. In particular, Gates refers to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, which protects freedom of speech, the right to peaceably assemble, and the free exercise of religion."



YINKA SHONIBARE, MBE, "Ballerina With Violin (Giselle)," 2013 (mannequin, Dutch wax African cotton textile, fibreglass, globe head, violin, pointe shoes). | via James Cohan Gallery

Apr 30 – Jun 20, 2015

24. YINKA SHONIBARE, MBE, "Rage of the Ballet Gods" @ James Cohan Gallery | New York, N.Y.

Represented by James Cohan, Yinka Shonibare, MBE, will present a solo exhibition of works at the New York gallery. The London-born Nigerian artist who considers the intersection of race, class, culture, identity and globalization in his work has described his practice as both a flirtation with the aristocracy and a critique of the establishment.



YINKA SHONIBARE, MBE, "Girl on Scooter," 2009 (mixed media) | Ann and Mel Schaffer Family Collection, South Orange, NJ. © Yinka Shonibare MBE. Courtesy James Cohan Gallery, New York/ Shanghai

May 1 – Aug. 31, 2015

25. YINKA SHONIBARE, MBE, "Colonial Arrangements" @ Morris Jumel Mansion | New York, N.Y.

To mark its 250th anniversary, the Morris-Jumel Mansion is hosting an exhibition of works by British-born Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare, MBE. His "work explores identity, race, gender and the cross-pollination of cultures through the use of Dutch wax textiles, period costumes and mixed media." Along with a new theatrical installation commissioned for this exhibition, his sculptures will be displayed throughout the mansion. Built in 1765, the Washington Heights home is the oldest in the borough of Manhattan.





RASHID JOHNSON, "Plateaus, 2014 (steel, spray enamel, plants, ceramic, concrete, plastic, brass, burned wood, grow lamps, CB radios, shea butter, rugs, books). | Photo by Fredrik Nilsen. Courtesy of David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles

May 2015 – March 2016

26. RASHID JOHNSON, "Blocks" @ The High Line | New York

Combining basic materials with everyday objects, **Rashid Johnson's** mixed-media sculptures investigate the intersection of race, identity, community and belonging. For the High Line, he is building a three-dimensional grid structure on which objects including busts will perch. A living greenhouse sited just south of The Standard Hotel, High Line plants will begin to integrate and grow within the public art work over the course of its nearly yearlong installation.



MICKALENE THOMAS, "Sista Sista Lady Blue," 2007-2008 (chromogenic print) | Collection SFMOMA, gift of Campari USA. 2015 Mickalene Thomas, Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo by Katherine Du Tiel via MoAD

May 8 – Oct. 11, 2015

27. “Portraits and Other Likenesses from SFMOMA” @ Museum of African Diaspora | San Francisco

This special “exhibition explores how portraiture has evolved from a form of personal identification to a genre as invested in fiction, subversion, stereotype, and fantasy as it is in the description of physical traits.” Produced in collaboration with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the group show includes more than 50 works dating from the 1930s to present from SFMOMA’s collection. Featured artists include **Njideka Akunyili Crosby, David Hammons, Wifredo Lam, Glenn Ligon, Chris Ofili, Lorna Simpson, Mickalene Thomas, Kara Walker, Carrie Mae Weems, and Fred Wilson**, among others.



Okwui Enwezor | Photo via Phaidon

May 9 – Nov. 22, 2015

28. 2015 Venice Biennale @ the Giardini and the Arsenale | Venice, Italy

With Okwui Enwezor at the helm of the Visual Arts sector, the first African director of the Venice Biennale, the historic exhibition gathering features innovative programming and more than 35 black artists from around the world.

PLEASE OFFER COMMENTS sharing additional exhibitions opening this spring, particularly those featuring the work of black women artists. **CT**

TOP IMAGE: PHILEMONA WILLIAMSON, “Satin Doll,” 2015 (oil on linen). | Courtesy June Kelly Gallery



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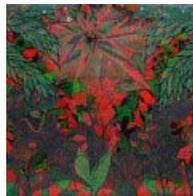
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London Calling: 6 Must-See UK



25 Exhibitions for Your Winter 2015



Fall Preview: The Season's 16

Tags: Alma Thomas, Stan Douglas

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Four African American Artists Break Records at Swann Auction

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CARROLL PARROTT BLUE says:
Apr 8, 2015

Amazing to see so many artists and their diverse visions in both national and international arenas. Times have so changed.

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