

DEANA LAWSON

May 8 – June 12, 2021



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SIKKEMA JENKINS & CO.

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Existing along the boundary between staged narrative and candid documentation, Lawson's photographic practice explores the styles, relationships, and aesthetics of the African diaspora, both within the United States and globally. With careful attention given to lighting and composition, Lawson draws upon a range of visual traditions, including studio portraiture and vernacular family photography. Her models, often strangers whom Lawson encounters in her daily life, are posed within their own homes or familiar spaces of friends and family: in living rooms and kitchens, on beds and couches, in front of monochrome drapery and painted murals. Various mementos and personal artifacts surround her subjects, embellishing their environment with symbols of cultural and familial legacies.

The power of reflection is a central theme in Lawson's work: literally, in the mirrored frames enveloping her images, and symbolically, through the representation of Blackness and Black subjectivity. The figures within these delicately composed scenes are transformed into living reflections, holding a gaze equal in power to the sight of one's own appearance in the surrounding mirrored frames. If her subjects are reflective beings, in reflective spaces, her work itself becomes a mirror, presenting the world an exaltation of Blackness as vital and transcendent.

Shown alongside these photographs are two soundless 16mm films, featuring the subjects of *Jacqueline and Taneisha* in two familiar environments: at church, during a small yet congenial worship, and in the home, settled on a couch in the living room. The intimate scale of the settings belies the gravity of the camera's focus, with both films culminating in close, prolonged shots of the subjects. Whether turning away from the camera, or holding its extended gaze, they assert themselves within a moment of time and space, embodying their own filmic domain.

Deana Lawson (b. 1979, Rochester, NY) received her BFA in Photography from Pennsylvania State University (2001) and her MFA from Rhode Island School of Design (2004). Her work will be the subject of a major retrospective jointly organized by MoMA PS1 and the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston in 2020-21. Other notable solo exhibitions include shows at Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland (2020); Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (2019); the Underground Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2018); the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA (2018); and Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis, MO (2017).

Her work is held in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL; Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY; Carnegie Museum of Art, PA; Huis Marseille Museum voor Fotografie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Museum of Modern Art, NY; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; and Whitney Museum of Art, NY. Lawson is the recipient of the Art Matters Grant, John Gutmann Photography Fellowship, Rema Hort Mann Foundation Grant, Aaron Siskind Fellowship Grant, and a NYFA Grant. In 2013, Lawson was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and was the 2020 recipient of the Hugo Boss Prize.







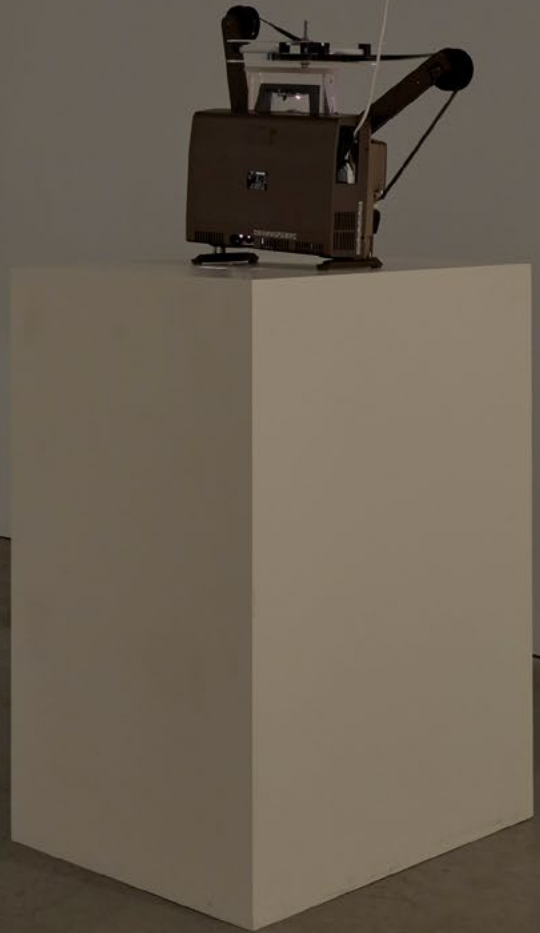




Taneisha's Gravity, 2019
Pigment print
50 x 62.875 inches (127 x 159.7 cm)









Fragment (Jacqueline and Taneisha), 2019
16mm film
1 minute, 44 seconds, looped

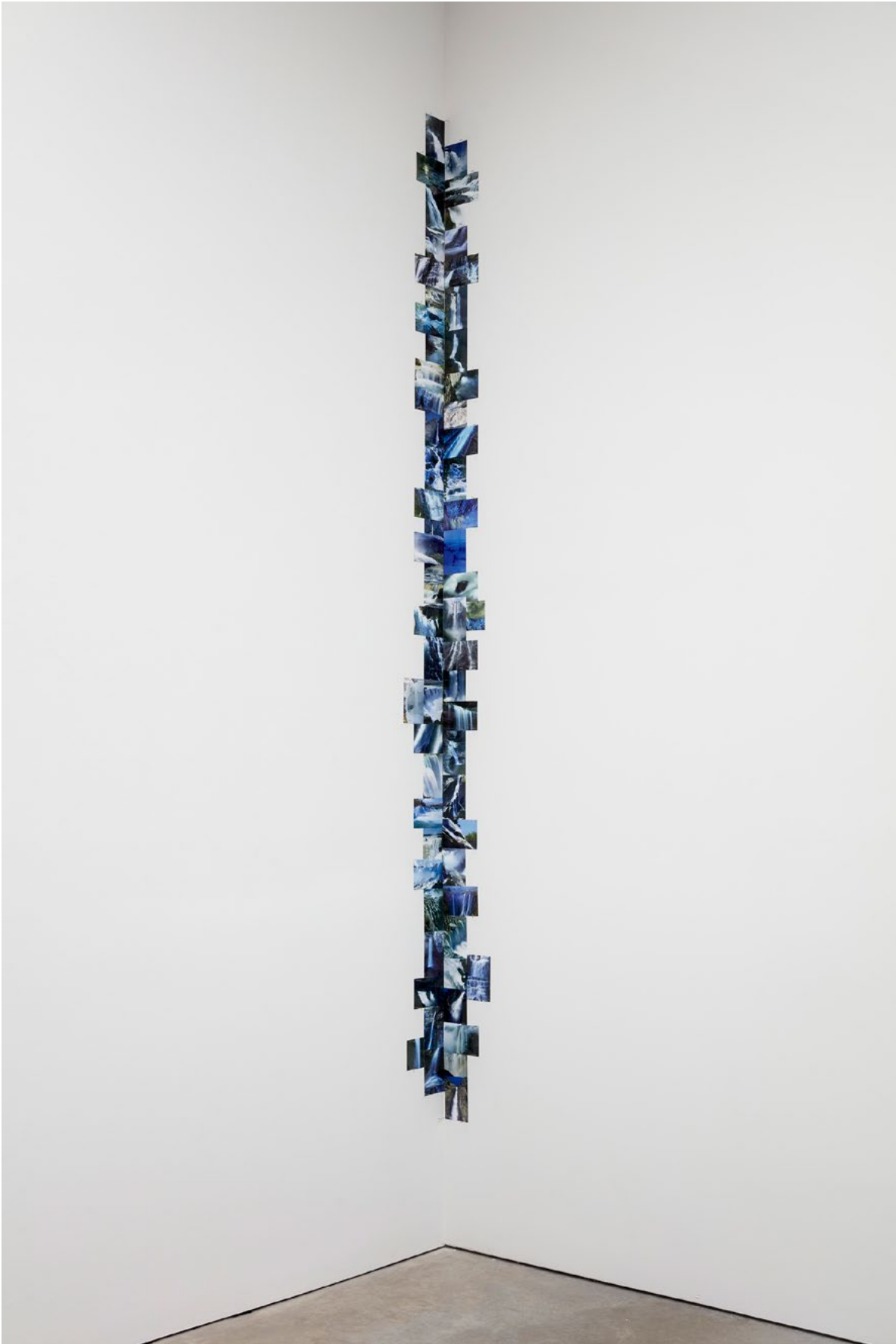




White Spider, 2019
Pigment print
58 x 73.5 inches (147.3 x 186.7 cm)

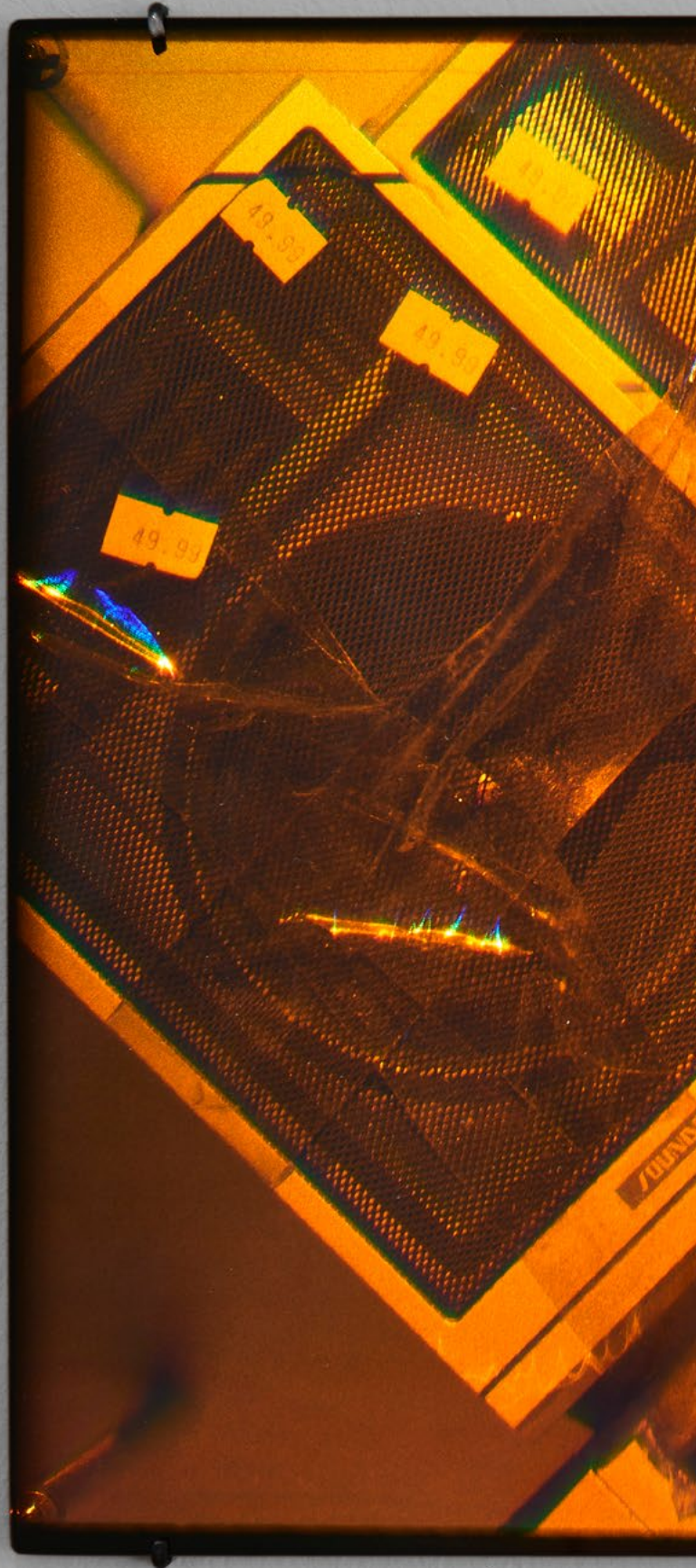


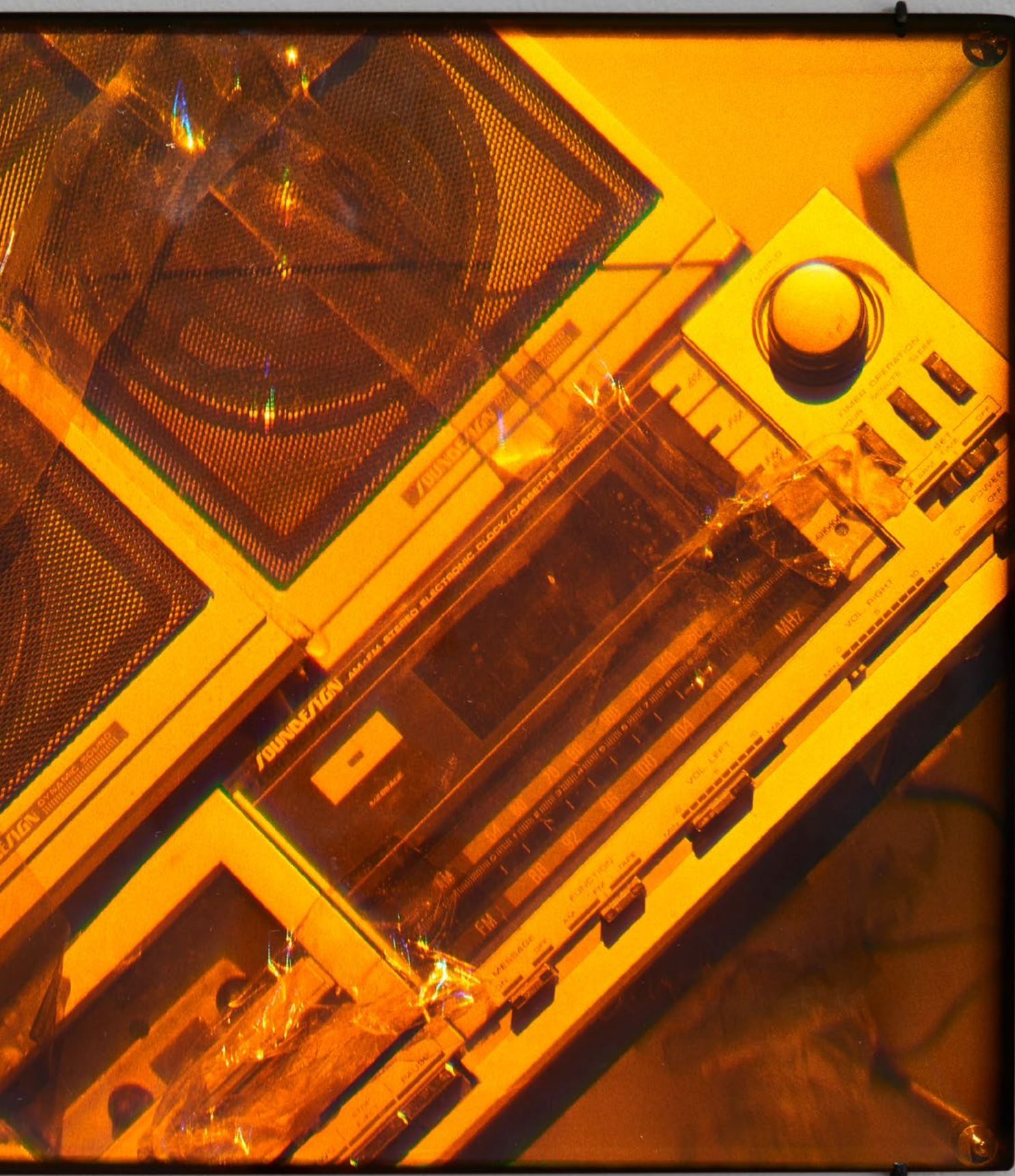




Waterfall Assemblage, 2020
Photographic assemblage
Installation dimensions variable, 300-500 prints, 4 x 6 inches (10.2 x 15.2 cm) each

Boombbox, 2020
Hologram
12 x 16 inches (30.5 x 40.6 cm)











House of My Deceased Lover, 2019
Pigment print with collage elements
73.375 x 58 inches (186.4 x 147.3 cm)





Bendy, 2019
Pigment Print
73.375 x 58 inches (186.4 x 147.3 cm)



LOV







Fragment (church), 2019
16mm film
2 minutes, 18 seconds, looped



igloo
BOOK CLOSET



Ms. Bell At Home, 2021
Pigment print
49.625 x 62.5 inches (126 x 158.8 cm)





DEANA LAWSON

Born 1979, Rochester, NY

EDUCATION

- 2004 MFA, Photography, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
2001 BFA, Photography, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Deana Lawson*, ICA/Boston, Boston, MA, October 27, 2021 – February 27, 2022; travels to MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
The Hugo Boss Prize 2020: Deana Lawson, Centropy, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, May 7 – October 11, 2021
Deana Lawson, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., May 8 – June 12, 2021
- 2020 *Centropy*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland, June 9 – October 11, 2020
- 2019 *Deana Lawson*, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 8 – September 1, 2019
- 2018 *Deana Lawson: Planes*, The Underground Museum, Los Angeles, CA, October 13, 2018 – February 17, 2019
Deana Lawson, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, March 1 – April 7, 2018
Deana Lawson, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, March 15 – July 15, 2018, curated by Dan Leers
- 2017 *Deana Lawson*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, January 27 – April 16, 2017, curated by Kelly Schindler
Deana Lawson: New Photographs, Rhonna Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL, April 21 – May 26, 2017
- 2015 *Deana Lawson*, Art Institute Chicago Museum, Chicago, IL, September 5, 2015 – January 10, 2016, curated by Michal Razzo-Russo
- 2014 *Mother Tongue*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL, February 28 – April 5, 2014
- 2011 *Deana Lawson*, Baer Ridgway, San Francisco, CA, April 23 – May 28, 2011
- 2009 *Corporeal*, Light Work, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, November 2 – December 23, 2009

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *34th Bienal de São Paulo: Though It's Dark, Still I Sing*. Ciccillo Matarazzo Pavilion, São Paulo, Brazil, September 4 – December 5, 2021
Otherwise/Revival, Bridge Projects, Los Angeles, CA, April 9 – June 26, 2021
Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America, New Museum, New York, NY, February 17 – June 6, 2021
Still Here: The Griffith J. Davis Photographs and Archives in Context, USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, FL, January 22 – March 6, 2021
- 2020 *Barring Freedom*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA, October 23, 2020 – April 25, 2021
Black Stories, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA, October 3, 2020 – January 17, 2021
Take Care, Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, October 1, 2020 – March 21, 2021
Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond, The Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, September 17, 2020 – June 6, 2021

- 2020 *Untitled, 2020: Three perspectives on the art of the present*, Palazzo Grassi | Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy, July 11 – December 13, 2020
- Being Seen: Recent Acquisitions from The Ringling Photography Collection*, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL, April 19, 2020 – January 3, 2021
- Masculinities: Liberation through Photography*, Barbican Art Gallery, London, UK, February 20 – August 23, 2020; travelling to: Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany, October 16, 2020 – January 10, 2021
- Pictures from Another Wall: The collection of Huis Marseille at De Pont*, De Pont Museum, Tilburg, The Netherlands, February 15 – August 30, 2020
- New Images of Man*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA, February 1 – March 14, 2020, curated by Alison M. Gingeras
- Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Justice System*, Tufts University Art Galleries, Medford, MA, January 23 – April 19, 2020
- 2019 *The Extreme Present*, presented by Gagosian and Jeffrey Deitch, Moore Building, Miami, December 4 – 8, 2019
- ...and justice for all...*, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture, Charlotte, NC, November 2, 2019 – April 12, 2020
- Driving Forces: Contemporary Art from the Collection of Ann and Ron Pizzuti*, Pizzuti Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH, October 26, 2019 – March 8, 2020; Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH, November 1, 2019 – February 2, 2020
- Emissaries for Things Abandoned by Gods*, Estancia FEMSA – Casa Luis Barragán, Mexico City, Mexico, September 27 – November 24, 2019
- Young, Gifted, and Black: The Lumpkin-Bocuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art*, Osilas Gallery at Concordia College New York, Bronxville, NY, September 24 – December 7, 2019; traveled to: Lehman College Art Gallery at Lehman College City University of New York, The Bronx, NY, February 8 – May 2, 2020; El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX, February 12 – June 13, 2021; Gallery 200 at the University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, September 3 – December 4, 2021; Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, February 1 – May 27, 2022; The Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at University of California, Davis, Davis, TX, July – December 2022, curated by Antwaun Sargent and Matt Wycoff
- New Ms. Thang*, Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, May 4 – May 18, 2019
- Deana Lawson & Dru Donovan*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL, April 19 – May 25, 2019
- Mapping Black Identities*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN, February 21, 2019 – March 15, 2020
- DREAMWEAVERS*, UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles, CA, February 13 – April 13, 2019
- Prisoner of Love: Life and Death*, MCA, Chicago, IL, January 26 – April 28, 2019
- 2018 *American Family: Derrick Adams and Deana Lawson*, The Gordon Parks Foundation, Pleasantville, NY, October 19, 2018 – January 25, 2019
- Family Pictures*, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH, February 16 – May 20, 2018; Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI, September 14, 2018 – January 20, 2019
- Be Strong and Do Not Betray Your Soul: Selections from the Light Work Collection*, Kathleen O'Ellis Gallery at Light Work, August 27 – October 18, 2018, curated by For Freedoms
- Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Justice System*, CAM Houston, Houston, TX, August 25, 2018 – January 6, 2019

- Putting Out*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, NY, June 28 – August 11, 2018
Unexpected Encounters, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, June 2 – August 12, 2018
Embodied Politic, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL, May 25 – July 6, 2018
Go Figure, Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH, May 10 – August 12, 2018
The Phantom of Liberty: Contemporary Works in the RISD Museum Collection, RISD Museum, Providence, RI, May 4 – December 30, 2018
- 2017 *Whitney Biennial 2017*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, March 17 – June 11, 2017, curated by Christopher Lew & Mia Locks
Woe men – keep going, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, NY, March 3 – April 29, 2017
Deana Lawson, Judy Linn, and Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, January 13 – February 18, 2017
- 2016 *Desire*, Moore Building, Miami, FL, curated by Jeffrey Deitch & Diana Widmaier-Picasso, November 30 – December 4, 2016
Black Cowboy, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, curated by Amanda Hunt, November 17, 2016 – April 2, 2017
Human Interest: Portraits from the Whitney's Collection, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, April 2, 2016 – April 2, 2017
Non-Fiction, Underground Museum, Los Angeles, CA, March 20, 2016 – March 1, 2017, curated by Noah Davis
Tête-à-tête, Aperture Gallery, New York, NY, January 27 – March 17, 2016; David Castillo Gallery, Miami, FL, November 28, 2016 – January 31, 2017; Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, January 27 – March 12, 2017; Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA, May 11 – August 13, 2017; Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA, October 14, 2017 – January 7, 2018; Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, CA, January 25 – May 13, 2018; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA, July 14 – September 30, 2018; The Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH, October 17, 2018 – January 13, 2019; curated by Mickalene Thomas
- 2015 *I am your sister, tête-à-tête*, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Brussels, Belgium, November 19, 2015 – January 16, 2016, curated by Mickalene Thomas
Greater New York, MoMA P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, NY, curated by Thomas Lax, October 11, 2015 – March 7, 2016
- 2014 *Crossing Brooklyn*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, October 3, 2014 – January 4, 2015
Black Eye, 57 Walker Street, New York, NY, curated by Nicola Vassell, May 2 – 24, 2014
Ruffneck Constructivists, ICA Philadelphia, Philadelphia, curated by Kara Walker, February 12 – August 17, 2014
- 2013 *Homebodies*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, June 29 – October 13, 2013, curated by Naomi Beckwith
Under My Skin: Contemporary Nudes in Photography, Flowers Gallery, New York, NY, June 20 – August 24, 2013, curated by Mona Kuhn
Secession Seccesion, Fitzroy Gallery, New York, NY, May 4 – June 30, 2013, curated by Colby Bird
- 2012 *Bigger Than Shadows*, Dodge Gallery, New York, NY, November 10 – December 22, 2012, curated by Rich Blint & Ian Cofré

- 2012 *Tête-à-tête*, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY, July 12 – August 24, 2012, curated by Mickalene Thomas
Tête-à-tête, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL, March 29 – May 5, 2012, curated by Mickalene Thomas
New Photo, Hélène Bailly Gallery, Paris, France, curated by Annka Kultys
- 2011 *New Photography 2011*, MoMA, New York, NY, September 28, 2011 – January 16, 2012, curated by Dan Leers
Prolonged Engagement, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY, March 25 – May 7, 2011
Clifford Chance US LLP, New York, NY, curated by Jacob Robichaux
The Collector's Guide V2, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY, curated by Vanessa Cramer
- 2010 *Harlem Postcards*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, November 11, 2010 – March 13, 2011
Greater New York, MoMA P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, NY, May 23 – October 13, 2010
50 Photographers Photograph the Future, Higher Pictures, New York, NY, curated by Dean Daderko
Demolition Milk II, Kit Museum, Dusseldorf, Germany
- 2009 *Undercover: Performing & Transforming Black Female Identities*, Spelman College Museum, Atlanta, GA
Desire, Chashama, New York, NY, curated by Robert Curicio
If the Dogs Are Barking, Artists Space, New York, NY
The Brand New Heavies, Collette Blanchard Gallery, New York, NY, curated by Mickalene Thomas
- 2008 *Converging Margins*, Center of Photography at Woodstock, New York, NY, curated by Leah Oates
Dark Milk, Milk Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark, curated by Laura Heyman
Bridge Art Fair, Greene Contemporary, New York, NY
Rochester Series, Black Rock Art Center, Bridgeport, CT, curated by Joseph Celli

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

21C Museums

- Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive at the University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA
Huis Marseille Museum voor Fotografie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
ICA/Boston, Boston, MA
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI
Minneapolis Institute of the Arts, Minneapolis, MN
Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL
Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, VA
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY



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