

Mickalene Thomas



Mickalene Thomas, b. 1971

Untitled (Sweater), 2014

Bronze

41 x 27.75 in

104.1 x 70.5 cm

Edition 1 of 3

Mickalene Thomas

(Untitled) Sweater

(Untitled) Sweater is a key work from *I was Born to Do Great Things*, Kavi Gupta's award-winning debut solo exhibition with legendary artist Mickalene Thomas.

Marking a crucial moment in the evolution of her artistic practice following the death of her mother, Thomas mobilized this exhibition as an opportunity to vastly expand her portrait practice into the realm of experiential installation. The title of the exhibition was a quote from Thomas's mother. Casting many of her mother's favorite belongings in bronze—simultaneously destroying the originals in the process—Thomas filled the gallery space with ghostly relics elucidating the complications inherent within love, beauty, and remembrance.

Along with a jacket and a pair of leather pants, *Untitled (Sweater)* was part of a small suite of works that Thomas cast for the exhibition from beloved articles of her mother's clothing. Only one *Untitled (Sweater)* from the limited series of three was originally made available to collectors.

In the ensuing decade since this landmark exhibition, Thomas has emerged as one of the world's most influential artists. Her innovative practice has yielded one of the most instantly recognizable, and widely celebrated, aesthetic languages within contemporary visual culture, influencing not only other artists, but filmmakers, advertisers, brand ambassadors, fashion designers, and decorators around the world.

Thomas has radically redefined what it means to be a global, multi-disciplinary visual artist. Not only do her masterful mixed-media paintings, sculptures, and installations command every space they occupy, eloquently dissecting the intersecting complexities of Black and female identity within the canon of Western art history, she has also expanded her vanguard studio practice to include curation, filmmaking, and theater.

"By fusing historical influences with pop and personal significance, I aim to blur the distinction of object and subject, concrete and abstract, real and imaginary," Thomas has said.

From the award winning *I was born to do great things*, to *Mickalene Thomas: A Moment's Pleasure*, the spectacular, three-year long, two-story installation that transformed the east lobby of the Baltimore Museum of Art, to her debut as a Broadway producer for the seven-time Tony Award nominated production of *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*, Thomas's work has become an undeniable force within



Mickalene Thomas, *Untitled (Sweater)*, 2014. Bronze, 41 x 27.75 in. Edition 1 of 3.

the contemporary art field, and an indispensable inspiration to younger generations of artists.

Thomas has been awarded multiple prizes and grants, including the USA Francie Bishop Good & David Horvitz Fellow; Anonymous Was A Woman Award; Brooklyn Museum Asher B. Durand Award; and the Timehri Award for Leadership in the Arts. Major exhibitions of Thomas' work include *Mickalene Thomas: Better Nights*, Bass Miami Beach Contemporary Art Museum, FL; *Mickalene Thomas: A Moment's Pleasure*, Baltimore Museum of Art, MD; *Mickalene Thomas: Do I Look Like a Lady?*, MOCA, Los Angeles, CA; *Mickalene Thomas: Femmes Noires*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Ontario, Canada; *Figuring History: Robert Colescott, Kerry James Marshall, Mickalene Thomas*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA; *Permanent Collection Highlights American Art*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; *Mickalene Thomas*, Institute

of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA and *I Was Born to do Great Things*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago. Thomas' work is in numerous international public and private collections, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Art Institute of Chicago; MoMA PS1, New York; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Yale University Art Collection, New Haven, CT; and Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. She earned her BFA from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, and her MFA from Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Background Information

Mickalene Thomas



- *Mickalene Thomas: Avec Monet*, Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, France
- *Set it Off* (curated by Mickalene Thomas and Racquel Chevremont, The Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY
- *Mickalene Thomas: A Moment's Pleasure*, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
- *Mickalene Thomas: Do I Look Like a Lady?*, MOCA, Los Angeles, CA
- *Mickalene Thomas: Femmes Noires*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Ontario, Canada
- *Figuring History: Robert Colescott, Kerry James Marshall, Mickalene Thomas*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- Permanent Collection Highlights American Art, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
- *Mickalene Thomas*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Mickalene Thomas is one of the most influential artists working today. Her innovative practice has yielded one of the most instantly recognizable, and widely celebrated, aesthetic languages within contemporary visual culture, influencing not only other artists, but filmmakers, advertisers, brand ambassadors, fashion designers, and decorators around the world.

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Thomas's elaborate rhinestone, acrylic, and enamel paintings are among her most renowned bodies of work. Informed by her long study of art history and the classical genres of portraiture, landscape, and still life, these works expand common definitions of beauty and introduce a complex vision of what it means to be a woman.

"By fusing historical influences with pop and personal significance, I aim to blur the distinction of object and subject, concrete and abstract, real and imaginary," says Thomas. "Indeed, the modes through which culture serves to shape perception across social, spatial, and ideological platforms is fundamental to my investigations. Through painting, photography, collage, and installation, my strategies include appropriation and pastiche, whereby the repurposing of formal and conceptual artistic iconology is developed in order to re-evaluate its context. Here, my study of French Impressionism, European modernism and pop art plays a formative influence—wherein pioneers including Bearden, Neel, Picasso, Manet, and Warhol continue to activate my interest and approach."

Thomas considers the subjects that populate her images to be similarly influential, however their significance is often intimate or personal.

"Family, friends, and lovers feature throughout my oeuvre," Thomas says, "subsisting as powerful figures that serve to characterize the subjective, and often otherworldly, propositions that I envision."

Select Exhibitions

Kavi Gupta | Washington Blvd. Fl. 2

Mickalene Thomas: I Was Born To Do Great Things



Installation view, *Mickalene Thomas: I Was Born To Do Great Things*, 2014-15, Kavi Gupta | Washington Blvd. Fl. 2.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2014-JANUARY 31, 2015

Kavi Gupta is proud to announce its first solo exhibition with New York based artist Mickalene Thomas, entitled *I Was Born To Do Great Things*.

“A thing of beauty is a joy for ever: Its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness...” – John Keats

“I Was Born to Do Great Things” are the quoted words of Sandra Bush, Mickalene Thomas’s late mother, a statement that speaks for both the dynamic life that she lived as well as her influence and inspiration on Thomas’s artistic practice as her longtime muse. Bush has been prominent as a subject in Thomas’s works over the past 14 years, inspiring her examinations of identity and style through her magnetic personality and undeniable presence. This presentation of new work explores the personal story

of the woman behind the inspiration. This is a story in celebration of womanhood, motherhood, and the power of art as a totem for personal memory, a story in celebration of Sandra.

I Was Born To Do Great Things, Mickalene Thomas’s will continue her explorations of her mother and muse, Sandra Bush. Following her film *Happy Birthday to a Beautiful Woman* (2012), the exhibition acts as a portrait of the artist’s mother through her belongings. Taking the form of a domestic installation, Thomas will exhibit a series of bronze works cast from these personal items. Carrying great significance to both her mother and herself, these articles of clothing and jewelry are destroyed through this process of casting and are preserved and transformed into highly finished objects of nostalgia and memory.



Installation views, *Mickalene Thomas: I Was Born To Do Great Things*, 2014-15, Kavi Gupta | Washington Blvd. Fl. 2.



Installation views, *Mickalene Thomas: I Was Born To Do Great Things*, 2014-15, Kavi Gupta | Washington Blvd. Fl. 2.

Aspen Art Museum
Aspen Art Museum
Aspen Art Museum
Aspen Art Museum

Mickalene Thomas: Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities



Installation view, *Mickalene Thomas: Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities*, 2016, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO.

MARCH 10-JUNE 12, 2016

In *Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities*, Mickalene Thomas recasts and reconfigures notions of beauty, gender, race, and representation in powerful new and recent works.

Known for her expressive paintings and collages, Thomas builds upon previous explorations into portraiture to create expanded narratives. In these new works she focuses on black women who inspire, who represent, and who express a wide range of possibilities and desires.

Thomas explores and explodes ideas of what it means to be a black woman in the spotlight. Her large-scale, two channel video, *Do I Look Like a Lady?*, presents a chorus of powerful female icons—including Jackie “Moms” Mabley, Wanda Sykes, Whitney Houston, and Eartha Kitt—their images woven together, reflecting an interplay of power through gender and language. Kitt is an especially important figure as Thomas gives the controversial actress and singer a thoughtful re-consideration as a rebellious, sensual, talented, and compelling force. Likewise, the principal female figures

in the 1985 film *The Color Purple*—Shug, Sofia, and Celie, the latter portrayed by Whoopi Goldberg—are central to *Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities*. The film deeply affected Thomas when she was a young woman, and in the context of the exhibition the three characters embody qualities of fortitude, power, vulnerability, creativity, and perseverance. Also relating to *The Color Purple*, Thomas created a vinyl print consisting of collaged photos and found film footage, a major new work that will cover the entirety of the 60 foot-long *Project Wall*.

Thomas has designed lounges for the main galleries reminiscent of the 1970s period décor of her childhood. These personal recreations of her domestic environment—where such personal mentors as her mother and aunts gathered together—serve as communal spaces where audiences may interact with the artwork and each other.

Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities has since been exhibited at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis from September 8 through December 31, 2017.



Installation views, *Mickalene Thomas: Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities*, 2016, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO.



Installation views, *Mickalene Thomas: Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities*, 2016, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO.

Curriculum Vitae

Mickalene Thomas

Born 1971, Camden, NJ
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

EDUCATION

2002 MFA in Painting, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT
2000 BFA in Painting, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
1998 Southern Cross University, Lismore, Australia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *Mickalene Thomas: Avec Monet*, Musée de L'Orangerie, Paris, France
2019 *Mickalene Thomas: Découverte*, Baldwin Gallery, Aspen, CO
Mickalene Thomas: Better Nights, Bass Miami Beach Contemporary Art Museum, FL
Mickalene Thomas: A Moment's Pleasure, Baltimore Museum of Art, MD
Femmes Noires, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
Mickalene Thomas: Jet: beautés du mois, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France
2018 *Femmes Noires*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs and tête-à-tête, Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH
Mickalene Thomas: I Can't See you Without Me, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH
Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs and tête-à-tête, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA
Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs and tête-à-tête, Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, CA
2017 *Mickalene Thomas: Waiting On A Prime-Time Star*, Moody's Centre for The Arts, Houston, TX
Mickalene Thomas: Mentors, Muses and Celebrities, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO
Mickalene Thomas: Waiting On A Prime-Time Star, Newcomb Art Museum, New Orleans, LA
2016 *Mickalene Thomas: The desire of the other*, Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong, China
Mickalene Thomas: Do I Look Like a Lady?, MOCA Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA
Mickalene Thomas: Five on the Black Hand Side, MOCA Grand, Los Angeles, CA
Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs and tête-à-tête, Aperture Foundation, New York, NY
2015 *Mickalene Thomas: I am your sister*, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Brussels, Belgium
Mickalene Thomas: MUSE, Rivington Place, London, UK
Mickalene Thomas at Giverny, Jepson Center, Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA
2014 *I was born to do great things*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL
Femme au divan I, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France
Femme au divan II, L'école des Beaux Art, Monaco
Tête de Femme, Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York, NY
Mickalene Thomas: Happy Birthday to a Beautiful Woman, George Eastman House, Rochester, NY
2012 *How to Organize a Room Around A Striking Piece of Art*, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
Mickalene Thomas, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
Origin of the Universe, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
2011 *More Than Everything*, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
Mickalene Thomas—Mama Bush: One of a Kind Two, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
2010 *Put A Little Sugar In My Bowl*, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Los Angeles, CA
2009 *Mickalene Thomas*, Alumni Achievement Award Exhibition, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
Something You Can Feel, La Conservera: Contemporary Art Space, Ceuti, Spain
She's Come UnDone!, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
2008 *Girlfriends, Lovers, Still Lives and Landscape*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
What's Love Got To Do With It?, Bloom Projects, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA
2007 *An Imitation of Love, Brawlin' Spitfire Two* Project Room, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Los Angeles, CA

2006 *Something About You...*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
Brawlin' Spitfire, Proposition Special Project, Dust Gallery, Las Vegas, NV

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *In Dialogue: Unexpected Visual Conversations*, Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL
Young, Gifted, and Black, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, Davis, CA
30 Americans, New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT
Women Painting Women, The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX
BLACK VENUS, Fotografiska, New York, NY
Afro-Atlantic Histories, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Lux Et Veritas, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Guarding the Art, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
Orlando, Based on a Novel by Virginia Woolf, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century, Berkeley Art Museum And Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), Berkeley, CA
Now is the Time, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2019 *Orlando*, guest curated by Tilda Swinton, Aperture Gallery, New York, NY
- 2018 *Where We Meet*, Inman Gallery, Houston, TX
Contemporary Magic: Tarot Deck Art Project, ART CAPSUL, New York, NY
You Are Here: Light, Color, and Sound Experiences, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC
Figuring History: Robert Colescott, Kerry James Marshall, Mickalene Thomas, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
ART CAPSUL—HAUTE COUTURE SCULPTURE, ART CAPSUL, New York, NY
Rise Up! Social Justice in Art from the J. Michael Bewley Collection, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
Kinship: Celebrating 10 Years of Jessica Silverman Gallery, Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Interventions, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY
Everyday Muse, Itd los angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Multiply, Identify Her, International Center of Photography (ICP) Museum, New York, NY
- 2017 *Contemporary Magic*, Untitled Space, New York, NY
Polaroids: The Disappearing, Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York, NY
The Coffins of Paa Joe and the Pursuit of Happiness, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY
Body of Work, Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, HI
Exposition d'été, Galerie Nathalie Obadia—Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
Woman With a Camera, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL
Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon, New Museum, New York, NY
- 2016 *Group Exhibition: 40 Years Part 2: Gender. Race. Identity*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
In Living Color: Andy Warhol and Contemporary Printmaking from the Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation, Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL
Unsuspending Disbelief, Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
REMIX: Themes and Variations in African-American Art, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC
30 Americans, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
Be My Guest: The Art of Interiors, No Longer Empty, New York, NY
A Decade of Collecting Prints, Drawings, and Photographs, Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
HAUTE HIP-HOP, projects + gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 2015 *30 Americans*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
No Man's Land: Women Artists from the Rubell Family Collection, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL
Self-Proliferation, Girls' Club, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Pratt Institute Alumni Exhibition, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
US IS THEM, Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH
A Room of One's Own, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY
Speaking Back, curated by Natasha Becker, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Eye Pop: The Celebrity Gaze, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC
Pops Stars! Popular Culture and Contemporary Art, 21c Museum Hotel, Durham, NC

- ReSignifications: European Blackmoors, Africana Re-Stagings*, Sala D'Arme, San Firenze in Palazzo Vecchio, Medici Palazzo, and Villa La Pietra, Florence, Italy
- Portraits and Other Likenesses from SFMOMA*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA
- As We See It: Selected Works from the Danny Simmons Collection*, African American Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- Future Seasons Past*, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
- Piece by Piece: Building a Collection*, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
- 2014 *Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet, and Contemporary Art*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- Post Pop: East Meets West*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- Beyond the Classical: Imagining the Ideal Across Time*, National Academy Museum, New York, NY
- Burn with Desire: Glamour in Photography and Film*, Ryerson Image Center, Toronto, Canada
- Rauschenberg: Collecting & Connecting*, Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, NC
- GIRL*, curated by Pharrel Williams, Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France
- Pop Departures*, Seattle Museum of Art, Seattle, WA
- Bash II*, Kleinert/James Gallery, Woodstock, NY
- Expanding the Field of Painting*, ICA Boston, Boston, MA
- Reflect, Cut, Construct*, Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Alijira at 30, Dream and Reality*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ
- Aspects of the Self: Portraits of Our Times*, Center for the Arts, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
- Domestic Unrest*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
- Aftershock: The Impact of Radical Art*, Edelman Arts, New York, NY
- 30 Americans*, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
- International Biennial of Contemporary Art of Cartagena de Indias, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
- Shakti*, Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2013 *Show and Tell: Calder Jewelry and Mobiles*, Salon 94, New York, NY
- Expanding the Field of Painting*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
- Posing Beauty*, College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, OH; Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
- Seven Sisters*, Karen Jenkins Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Glyphs: Acts of Inscription*, Pitzer College, Claremont, CA
- Amor Fati*, Pioneer Works Center for Art and Innovation, Brooklyn, NY
- Du Bois In Our Time*, University Museum of Contemporary Art, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- tête-à-tête*, QF Gallery, East Hampton, NY
- Body Language*, Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY
- Desire*, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY
- 30 Americans*, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI; Frist Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, TN
- Personal, Political, Mysterious*, Flag Art Foundation, New York, NY; Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, TX
- Décopolis: The Talent of Others*, Proposition, Brooklyn, NY
- March On Brooklyn*, Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 *Twisted Sisters*, Dodge Gallery, New York, NY
- Nailed*, Subliminal Projects, Los Angeles, CA
- Histories: The Sheldon Permanent Collection*, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE
- Re-Framing the Feminine*, Girls' Club, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 30 Americans*, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
- Look Now: Modern and Contemporary Work from Private Collections*, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
- Room In My Head: Staging Psychological Spaces*, Gutstein Gallery, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA
- Bling*, Jim Kempner, New York, NY
- Posing Beauty*, Everhart Museum, Scranton, PA; Figge Museum of Art, Davenport, IO
- 28 Days*, Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 2011 *Body Gesture*, Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, OR
- Who, What, Wear: Selections from the Permanent Collection*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- The Bearden Project*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

Re-Framing the Feminine, Girls' Club, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Melodymania, RH Gallery, New York, NY
30 Americans, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Histories: The Sheldon Permanent Collection, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE
Becoming: Photos from the Wedge Collection, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC
AFRICOLOR, Danziger Projects, New York, NY
EAT ME!, Goodman Gallery, Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa
Beyond Bling, Ringling Museum, Sarasota, FL
A Room of Her Own, Lu Magnus Gallery, New York, NY
Surface Value, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA
Converging Voices/Transforming Dialogue: Selections from the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Collection, University Museum, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX
Recent Acquisitions: Prints and Photographs, New York Public Library, New York, NY
Building the Contemporary Collection: Five Years of Acquisitions, Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, NC
Seeing Now: Photography Since 1960, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
The Way We Are Now: Selections from the 21c Collection, Cincinnati Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH
Stargazers: Elizabeth Catlett in Conversation with 21 Contemporary Artists, The Bronx Museum, Bronx, NY
American Dream, DZ Bank Kunstsammlung, Frankfurt, Germany
Images from a Floating World: 18th and 19th Century Japanese Erotic Prints and the Echo in Modern Contemporary Art, Fredericks & Freiser Gallery, New York, NY
The Truth is Not in the Mirror, Haggerty Museum, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI; University Galleries, Illinois State University, College of Fine Art, Normal, IL
Safety in Numbers? Images of African American Identity and Community, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
Posing Beauty, Newark Museum, Newark, NJ; Fisher Museum of Art, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
Figured Spaces: Selections from the John Morrissey Collection, University Galleries, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
2010 *Annual Exhibition 2010–2011*, Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions, New Brunswick, NJ
XX-XY/Gender Representation in Art, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL
Now WHAT?, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL
Sharon Stone in Abuja, Location One, New York, NY
Contemporary Magic: A Tarot Deck Art, Project National Arts Club, New York, NY; Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA
Summer Surprises, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
4 Eccentrics, Proposition, New York, NY
ART in Embassies exhibition, United States Mission to the United Nations, New York, NY
40, Texas Gallery, Houston, TX
Inside the Collection: Interiors from the Studio Museum, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Global Africa Project, Museum of Art and Design, New York, NY
Inspired, curated by Beth Rudin DeWoody, Steven Kasher Gallery, New York, NY
Americans Now, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC
Collected: Reflections on the Permanent Collection, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Shrew'd: The Smart & Sassy Survey of American Women Artists, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE
Pattern ID, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
Searching for the Heart of Black Identity: Art and the Contemporary African American Experience, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY
Versus, Hous Projects, New York, NY
Posing Beauty, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA; Art Gallery of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Taubman Museum, Ranoake, VA
2009 *Landscape Revisited*, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY
Extended Family: Contemporary Connections, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

- Posing Beauty*, New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY
Dress Codes: The Third ICP Triennial of Photography and Video, International Center of Photography, New York, NY
Creating Identity: Portraits Today, 21C Museum, Louisville, KY
Black Is, Black Ain't, Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
Undercover: Performing and Transforming Black Female Identities, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
First Look: An Exhibition of Emerging Artists from Los Angeles Galleries, House of Campari, Los Angeles, CA
Remix, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
The Female Gaze: Women Looking At Women, Cheim and Read, New York, NY
Crash Proof, Scholar and Feminist Online, Barnard Center for Research on Women, online exhibition
Elsewhere, Saltworks, Atlanta, GA
The Glamour Project, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
2008 *CAN & DID – Graphics, Art, and Photography from the Obama Campaign*, Danziger Projects, New York, NY
30 Americans, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL
Group Show, Andréhn-Schiptjenko, Stockholm, Sweden
Belle du Jour, Collette Blanchard Gallery, New York, NY
21: Selections of Contemporary Art from the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
As Others See Us: The Contemporary Portrait, Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, Brattleboro, VT
The Other Mainstream II: Selections from the Collection of Mikki and Stanley Weithorn, Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ
Becoming: Photographs from the Wedge Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
City Stage, New Orleans Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, LA
Black Is, Black Ain't, Renaissance Society, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Perverted by Theater, apexart, New York City, NY
2007 *Performed Identity*, Kathleen Cullen Fine Arts, New York City, NY
Sweet SweetBack's Baadasssss Song, Von Lintel Gallery, New York, NY
Commemorating 30 Years 1976–2007, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
Distinctive Messenger, House of Campari, New York, NY
Sex in the City, Dumbo Arts Center, Brooklyn, NY
Taking Aim, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
Some Kind of Portrait, Marc Selwyn Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA
Flava, Wedge Curatorial Projects, Toronto, Canada
Prime Time, Caren Golden Fine Art Gallery, New York, NY
My Love is a 187, Luggage Store Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Inspired in New York, Echo Gallery, New York, NY
2006 *Not An Ocean Between Us: Voices of Women From African and the African Diaspora*, Winston Salem State University, Winston Salem, NC
Lag Time Line Up, Mumbo Jumbo Gallery, New York, NY
Materiality, Kravets/Wehby Gallery, New York, NY,
Wild Girls, Exit Art, New York, NY
The Pulse of New Brooklyn, MoCADA Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Do You Think I'm Disco, Longwood Art Gallery, Bronx, NY
2005 *NeoVernacular*, Steve Turner Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Five Artists/Five Projects, Wertz Contemporary, Atlanta, GA
Frequency, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Tête-à-Tête, Greenberg Van Doren Gallery, New York, NY
Maximum Flavor, Atlanta College of Art Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Greater New York 2005, P.S.1/MoMA, Long Island City, NY
African Queen, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
2004 *Me, Myself and I*, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
Glamour, Glory and Gold, Proposition, New York, NY
Seeds and Roots, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

- It's About Memory*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2003 *Beauty*, Kravets/Wehby Gallery, New York, NY
Pantone, Massimo Audiello Gallery, New York, NY
Because I'm Worth It, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY
Hands on Hands Down, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 2002 *Why Don't We Do It In The Road*, Ambrosino Gallery, Miami, FL
- 1999 Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Elizabeth Stockel, Battel Gallery, Norfolk, CT
- 1997 *Brush*, video (4 minutes), Yellow Door Gallery, NY
The Knitting Factory, New York, NY
Downtown Community Television Center, New York, NY

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 2016 *Untitled*, mural project, Art in Embassies, U.S. Department of State, Dakar, Senegal
- 2015 *Untitled*, mural project, Queens Museum, New York, NY
- 2014 *Untitled*, mural project, Art in Embassies, U.S. Department of State, Dakar, Senegal
Le Lecon D'Amour I-70 Sign Show, Missouri, IL
The Water Tank Project, New York, NY
Lena, blanket, Pendleton Mills and Artware Editions, New York, NY
- 2013 *Faux Real*, Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach, FA
Portrait de Priscilla la Petite Chienne Deux :), LittleCollector, New York, NY
Better Days Volkshaus, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Mickalene Thomas for Brother Vellies, Brother Vellies, New York, NY
- 2012 *Untitled*, Barclays Center, Brooklyn, New York
- 2010 *Le Déjeuner Sur l'Herbe: Les Trois Femmes Noires*, Modern Window at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Le Déjeuner Sur l'Herbe: Les Trois Femmes Noires, On-Site, P.S.1/MoMA, Long Island City, NY

SCREENINGS

- 2014 *Happy Birthday to a Beautiful Woman*, New Orleans Film Society, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
HBO Documentary, HBO West
HBO Documentary, HBO East
Happy Birthday to a Beautiful Woman, HBO Premiere, HBO Theater, New York, NY
Atlanta Television Festival, Savannah College of Art & Design, Atlanta, GA
- 2013 Second Annual BlackStar Film Festival, International House, Philadelphia, PA
The Poetics of Unforgetting, Hackney Picturehouse, London, England
Happy Birthday to a Beautiful Woman, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
Reel Artists Film Festival, Tiff Bell Lightbox, Toronto, Canada

PERFORMANCES

- 2013 *Takeabite: The Opera*, Performa 13, El Museo Del Barrio, New York, NY
- 2009 *Oh Mickey!*, Kreemart and the American Patrons of Tate, Haunch of Venison, New York, NY
Professor of Music and DJ Dean of Admissions, MoMixx at Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

CURATORIAL

- 2022 *Set It Off*, curated by Racquel Chevremont and Mickalene Thomas (Deux Femmes Noires), Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY
- 2013 *tête-à-tête*, QF Gallery, East Hampton, NY
Another New York, ArtBridge, New York, NY
Mickalene Thomas' Decopolis: The Talent of Others, Proposition, New York, NY
- 2012 *tête-à-tête*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois; Yancey Richardson, New York, NY
- 2009 *The Brand New Heavies*, Collette Blanchard Gallery, New York, NY

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2013 Board of Directors, Momenta Art, Brooklyn, NY
- 2013 Advisory Board, Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY
- 2013–16 Board of Directors, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012–14 Board of Directors, Museum of Modern Art PS1, Long Island City, NY

LECTURES/SYMPOSIA

- 2020 Arts Leader Lecture Series, Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach, FL
- 2018 Artist's Talk, The Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Artist's Talk, Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
- 2017 *In Conversation with Mickalene Thomas*, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
- 2015 Artist's Talk, American University, Washington, DC
- 2014 *In Conversation: Larry Wheeler, Linda Dougherty & Mickalene Thomas*, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC
Art After Dark, Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach, FA
- 2013 *In Conversation with Charles Desmarais*, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA
Artist's Talk, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME
Artist Talk: Tandem Press Visiting Artist, Mickalene Thomas, Chazem Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Madison, WI
- 2012 *New Paradigms: Mickalene Thomas in Conversation with MCA Curator Naomi Beckwith*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Conversations: Among Friends, Featuring Artists Derrick Adams, Clifford Owens, Xaviera Simmons, and Mickalene Thomas, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Artist's Talk, Art Institute of Chicago's Leadership Advisory Committee's New Paradigms Program, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Artist's Talk, Intersection of Culture and Identity, Hara Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 Artist's Talk, Contemporary Arts Council of the Museum of Modern Art Casual Lunch Series, New York, NY
Panel Member, 2011 New York Artadia Residency Selection Panel, New York, NY
Artist's Lecture, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Generation Next: Mickalene Thomas and the Legacy*, Santa Monica Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Artist's Talk, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT
- 2008 *reIGNITE: Making Art in the World*, Panel Discussion, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 Artist's Talk, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
MICA Senior Thesis Seminar, Brown Center Falvey Hall, Baltimore, MD
- 2006 *The Stoop Series*, Bric's Rotunda Gallery & New York Magazine, New York, NY
- 2005 *Conversations with the Artists*, MoMA, New York, NY
- 2004 *Artist's Voice*, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
- 2003 Fine Arts Seminar, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
Artist's Voice, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Panel Discussion, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
Two Years, Pratt Panel, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- 2002 Artist's Talk, Exploration Senior Summer Program, New Haven, NY

RESIDENCIES

- 2015 Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO
- 2013 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME
- 2011 Versailles Foundation Munn Artists Program, Giverny, France
- 2010 Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Aspen, CO
Durham Press, Durham, PA
- 2003 Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 2001 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT

1999 Yale Norfolk Summer of Music and Art, Norfolk, CT

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2015 Visiting Faculty, MFA Art Practice, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- 2014 Visiting Core Critic for Graduate Painting/Printmaking, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT
- 2013 Visiting Core Critic for Graduate Painting/Printmaking, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT
Visiting Faculty, Bard MFA, Milton Avery School of the Arts, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Visiting Assistant Professor, Fine Arts Department, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 Visiting Faculty, MFA Art Practice, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- 2011 Visiting Assistant Professor, Fine Arts Department, Graduate Studies, MFA Program, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- 2010-11 Core Critic for Graduate Painting/Printmaking, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT
- 2008-10 Visiting Assistant Professor, Fine Arts Department, Undergraduate Studies, Junior and Senior, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- 2005 Adjunct Instructor in Contemporary Art Issues, Saturday Program, Cooper Union School of Art, New York, NY
- 2004 Visiting Faculty, Seminar course on contemporary issues, examined and discussed artists, communities, contemporary curators and exhibition spaces; Graduate Studies Department, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
- 2002 Project Instructor, Supervised and taught high school students painting; After School Program, Publicolor, New York, NY
Instructor, Taught pre-college students printmaking, drawing, and portfolio preparation; Exploration Senior Summer Program, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2001 Teacher Assistant, Assisted Suzanne Song, taught undergraduate and graduate students the foundations of lithography, organized assignments, critiques, and grades; Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT
- 1999-01 Project Instructor, Supervised and taught high school students painting; After School Program, Publicolor, New York, NY
- 1996-97 Art Instructor, Taught painting and printmaking to New York City school students in an after school art program; Studio in a School Program, New York, NY
- 1995 Teacher Assistant, Taught beginner painting and drawing to high school students; Saturday Art School Program, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
Teacher Assistant, Instructed painting and drawing to mentally disabled adults; Hospital Audience, Inc. New York, NY

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Eckardt, Stephanie. "Mickalene Thomas and Racquel Chvremont Live by Their Lists." *W Magazine*, May 12,

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- 2020 Brown, Timothy. "Review: Mickalene Thomas's 'découverte' at Baldwin Gallery in Aspen." *The Aspen Times*, January 2, 2020.
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- 2018 Hernandez, Jasmin. "Mickalene Thomas And Racquel Chevremont Run On Adoration And Activism." *Elle*, November 30, 2018.
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- 2017 Krentcil, Faran. "Mickalene Thomas On Identity, Finding Joy, And Glitter." *Elle*, December 18, 2017.
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- 2016 Alleyne, Allyssia. "What makes a muse? Mickalene Thomas on the power of the model." *CNN Style*, May 31, 2016.
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2014 Grabner, Michelle. "Mickalene Thomas—Kavi Gupta Gallery." *ArtForum International*, December 2014: print.

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2014.

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"American artist Mickalene Thomas exhibits at École Supérieure d'Arts Plastiques, Monaco." *Artdaily.org*, July 29, 2014.

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Zhong, Fan. "Twinkle Twinkle." *W Magazine*, July 3, 2014.

Arikoglu, Lale. "Mickalene Thomas Brings Collage and Glitz to Lehmann Maupin." *The New York Observer*, June 28, 2014.

Tinson, Teddy. "Making Up With Mickalene Thomas." *Interview Magazine*, June 26, 2014: print.

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"Artists Collaborate with Henzel on Luxury Rug Collection." *Arts Observer*, May 14, 2014.

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Newton, Mike. "Art in the Flesh." *The Independent*, May 2, 2014.

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"Culture/Context with LeRonn P. Brooks: Mickalene Thomas." *Afropunk*, April 17, 2014.

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"10 Things You Should Know About Mickalene Thomas." *Sound of Art*, March 28, 2014.

Bell, Jonathan. "Henzel gives us a preview of its new art rugs ahead of their Salone del Mobile unveiling." *Wallpaper*, March 24, 2014.

Valentine, Victoria L. "This Week in Black Art | March 15-21." *Culture Type*, March 21, 2014.

Cassone, Sarah. "Mickalene Thomas Signs with Kavi Gupta." *Artnet*, March 20, 2014.

Murray, Derek Conrad. "Mickalene Thomas: Afro-Kitsch and the Queering of Blackness." *American Art: Smithsonian American Art Museum*. Spring 2014: 28/1.

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Kaye, Joshua. "Film Review: HBO's 'Happy Birthday To A Beautiful Woman.'" *The Source*, March 1, 2014.

"MICKALENE THOMAS RELEASES FILM, ESSAY ON THE LIFE OF HER MOTHER." *Artobserved*, February 25, 2014.

Giancana, Norell. "Artist Mickalene Thomas Debuts Her First Film on HBO: The renowned portraitist celebrates the life of her mother and muse." *BET*, February 24, 2014.

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Thomas, Mickalene. "A Different Type of Beauty: Painter Mickalene Thomas Eulogizes Her Late Mother." *CreativeTime Reports*, February 24, 2014.

Obenson, Tambay A. "Tonight On HBO: Artist Mickalene Thomas Honors Mother In Doc 'Happy Birthday To A Beautiful Woman.'" *Indiewire*, February 24, 2014.

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Frank, Priscilla. "Mickalene Thomas Directs Stunning Documentary For Her Mother And Muse." *Huffington Post*, February 21, 2014.

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"Decoradora Plastica." *Casa Vogue*, January 2014: p. 106-108.

2013 "The *Artinfo* Staff's Favorite Art of 2013." *Blouin Artinfo*, December 19, 2013.

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"Mickalene Thomas and Priscilla Announce New Print!" *Little Collector*, October 1, 2013.

"Série Mode: Mickalene Thomas." *L'OFFICIEL Art*, Paris, October–November 2013: pp. 180–189.

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Gibble, Mary. "New Season, New Mural." *Palm Beach Illustrated*, September 17, 2013.

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Ekrich, A. Roger. "Segmented Sleep." *Harper's Magazine*, August. pp. 35–36.

Traff, A. "Away With The Cliche." *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2013.

Leland, John. "Slow Dance in Brooklyn." *The New York Times*, July 19, 2013.

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"Solange Knowles Performs in Switzerland." *Zimbio*, June 11, 2013.

"First Look: Mickalene Thomas's 1970s Cocktail Den for Art Basel." *Artsy*, June 10, 2013.

"Insert: Mickalene Thomas." *Parkett*, no. 92: pp. 200–212.

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- 2012 Melandri, Lisa, ed. *Mickalene Thomas: Origin of the Universe*. Santa Monica Museum of Art.
- 2011 *Vitamin P2: New Perspectives in Paintings*. Phaidon.
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- RE: COLLECTION Selected Works from The Studio Museum in Harlem*. Studio Museum in Harlem.
- Surface Value*. Des Moines Art Center.
- 2010 Barnett, Erin, ed. *Stargazers: Elizabeth Catlett in Conversation with 21 Contemporary Artists*. The Bronx Museum of Art.
- The Global Africa Project*. Museum of Arts and Design.
- Inspired: Curated by Beth Rudin DeWoody*, Steven Kasher Gallery, New York.
- Pattern ID*. Akron Art Museum.
- Jones, Ben, Adam Kuo, Adam McEwan, Alison Saar, and Aurel Schmidt, eds. *Between the Lines: Volume 2*.

- RxArt, Inc.
- 2009 Brielmaier, Isolde and Iván López Munuera. *Mickalene Thomas*. La Conservera Centro de Arte Con temporaneo, Región de Murcia.
Ditner, Judy, ed. *Dress Codes: The Third ICP Triennial of Photography and Video*. The International Center of Photography/Steidl.
Holzwarth, Hans Werner, ed. *100 Contemporary Artists: L-Z*. Taschen.
Leive, Cindi. *The Glamour Project*. Lehmann Maupin Gallery.
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- 2008 Hobbs, Robert, Glenn Ligon, Franklin Sirmins, and Michele Wallace (contributors). *30 Americans: Rubell Family Collection*. DAP Books and Rubell.
Holzwarth, Hans Werner, ed. *Art Now 3*. Taschen.
Lineberry, Heather Sealy and Dr. Derek Conrad Murray. *The Other Mainstream II: Selections from the Mikki and Stanley Weithorn Collection*. Arizona State University.
Taschen, Angelika, ed. *Art Now: 2008 Taschen Calendar*. Taschen.
- 2007 Crooks, Julia et al. *Flava: Wedge Curatorial Projects (1997-2007)*. Wedge Curatorial Projects, Toronto.
- 2005 Biesenbach, Klaus ed. *Greater New York*. DAP Books.
Golden, Ima and Christine Y. Kim. *Frequency: The Studio Museum in Harlem*. The Studio Museum in Harlem.
Morrissey, John. *Palm Beach Collects: The John Morrissey Collection*. Armory Art Centerm, Palm Beach.
Sirmins, Franklin. *NeoVernacular: Pop, Portraiture, Pulp and Porn*. Steve Turner Gallery, Los Angeles.
- 2004 Bennett, Paula. *Because I'm Worth It*. Assouline, New York.
- 2003 "Hands On Hands Down. Artists-In-Residence 2002-2003." The Studio Museum in Harlem: pamphlet.

AWARDS

- 2013 Audience Award: Favorite Short, 2nd Annual Black Star Film Festival
Anonymous Was A Woman Grant
- 2012 Asher B. Duran Award, Brooklyn Museum of Art
- 2010 Timerhi Award for Leadership in the Arts
- 2009 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant
- Pratt Institute Alumni Achievement Award
- 2007 Rema Hort Mann Grant
- 2002 Barry Cohen Scholarship, Yale University
- 2001 Paul Harper Fellowship, Yale University
- 2000 Presidential Merit Scholarship, Yale University
- 1999 Elizabeth Stokel Battell Fellowship, Yale University
- 1998 Pratt Institute Student Leadership Award
- 1995-97 Pratt Institute Black Alumni Scholarship

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

21c Museum
The Guggenheim Museum, New York
The Museum of Modern Art
The Akron Art Museum
The International Center of Photography
New York Public Library
Art Institute of Chicago
Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal
Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art
Baltimore Museum of Art
The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Philadelphia Academy of Fine Art
Brooklyn Museum
National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

The Rubell Family Collection
Taschen Collection
The Mikki and Stanley Weithorn Collection
The Studio Museum of Harlem
West Collection
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Whitney Museum of American Art
Yale University
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Sender Collection