

Deana Lawson Biography

Born in 1979, Rochester, NY.
Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Education:

2004 MFA, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence.
2001 BFA, Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

2023 *Deana Lawson: Mind's Eye*. David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles.
2022 *Deana Lawson*. MoMA PS1, New York. Traveled to: High Museum of Art, Atlanta.
2021 *Hugo Boss Prize 2020: Deana Lawson, Centropy*. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY. Traveled to: Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Sikkema Jenkins Gallery, New York.
Deana Lawson. Sikkema Jenkins, New York, NY.
2020 *Deana Lawson: Centropy*. Kunsthalle Basel.
2019 *Deana Lawson*. Huis Marseille, Museum for Photography, Amsterdam.
Deana Lawson. Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago.
2018 *Deana Lawson: Planes*. Underground Museum, Los Angeles.
Deana Lawson. Sikkema Jenkins Gallery, New York.
Deana Lawson. Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.
2017 *Deana Lawson*. Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.
Deana Lawson: New Photographs. Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago.
2015 *Deana Lawson*. Art Institute of Chicago.
2014 *Mother Tongue*. Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago.
2011 *Deana Lawson*. Baer Ridgway, San Francisco.
2009 *Deana Lawson: Light Work, Corporeal*. Syracuse University, NY

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2025 *Corps et âmes*. Bourse de Commerce, Pinault Collection, Paris.
Fringe Figure. Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago.
2024 *Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys*. Brooklyn Museum, NY. Traveled to: High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2025.
Imagining Black Diasporas: 21st Century Art and Poetics. Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
Diaries of Home. Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX.
Life with Photographs: 75 Years of the Eastman Museum. George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY.

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- Mirror of the Mind: Figuration in the Jorge M. Pérez Collection.* El Espacio 23, Miami.
- Sculpting with Light: Contemporary Artists and Holography.* Getty Center, Los Angeles.
- Transmissions: Selections from the Marciano Collection.* Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles.
- Tabula Rasa.* Paula Cooper Gallery, New York.
- OFF-SPRING: New Generations.* 21c Museum Hotel Chicago.
- Promenade: Flowers and Figuration in the Marieluise Hessel Collection.* Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on Hudson, NY.
- Century: 100 Years of Black Art at MAM.* Montclair Art Museum, NJ.
- ICP at 50.* International Center of Photography, New York.
- 2023 *Cowboy.* Museum of Contemporary Art Denver.
- A Train of Thoughts: Figuration & Conceptualism in Craig Robins Collection.* Dacra, Miami Beach, FL.
- Man of the Crowd.* Qrystal Partners, London.
- This is Me, This is You. The Eva Felten Photography Collection.* Museum Brandhorst, Munich.
- CHANGE AGENTS: Women Collectors Shaping the Art World.* Southampton Arts Center, NY.
20. David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles.
- The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century.* Baltimore Museum of Art. Traveled to: Saint Louis Art Museum; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany, 2024; Cincinnati Art Museum, 2024; Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada, 2024.
- Race, Love, and Labor (an excerpt).* The Center for Photography at Woodstock, Kingston, NY
- Black Venus.* Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco.
- The Past in Front of Us: Imagining Black Diasporas in the 21st Century.* Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
- 2022 *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic.* Museum at the University of Toronto, Canada. Traveled to: Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA, 2023; Saatchi Gallery, London, 2024.
- Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2022.* The Photographers' Gallery, London.
- As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic.* Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Canada.
- Rock My Soul Stockholm.* Karlaplan 14, Stockholm,
- Wild Strawberries.* Gallery 125 Newbury, New York.
- Beyond the Frame.* Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago.
- 34a Bienal de São Paulo - Faz escuro mas eu canto.* Centro Cultural Vale Maranhão and Casa do Maranhão, São Luís, Brazil.
- Put It This Way: (Re)Visions of the Hirshhorn Collection.* Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC.
- Pictus Porrectus: Reconsidering the Full Length Portrait.* Art and Newport, Isaac Bell House, RI.
- Black Venus.* Fotografiska, New York.
- Black Every Day: Photographs from the Carter Collection.* Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, TX.
- America. Between Dreams and Realities: Selections from the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Collection.* Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec,

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- Canada.
Elegies: Still Lives in Contemporary Art. Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco.
- 2021 *Survey Exhibition*. Institute of Contemporary Art Boston. Traveled to: MoMA PS1, NY, 2022; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, 2022.
Any distance between us. RISD Museum, Providence, RI.
Black American Portraits. Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Traveled to: Spelman College Museum of Fine Arts, Atlanta, 2023; Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, 2023.
Bad Girls. Wallspaceplease, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
Though it's dark still I sing. Bienal de São Paulo.
Mother and Child. Friends Indeed, San Francisco.
In Her View. Minneapolis Institute of Art.
Spectrums: Genders in the Bell Collection. David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University, Providence, RI.
Highlights from the Photography Collection. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO.
Otherwise/Revival. Bridge Projects, Los Angeles.
Still Here: The Griffith J. Davis Photographs and Archives in Context. USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, FL.
Present Generations: Creating the Scantland Collection. Columbus Museum of Art, OH.
Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America. New Museum, New York.
Critical Fabulations. Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.
- 2020 *Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago*. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.
Vento (Wind). Pavilhão Ciccillo Matarazzo, São Paulo.
New Images of Man. Blum and Poe, Los Angeles.
Untitled, 2020. Punta della Dogana, Venice.
Masculinities: Liberation through Photography. Barbican Centre, London. Traveled to: Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin; Fotomuseum, Antwerp, Belgium, 2021.
Barring Freedom. San José Museum of Art, CA.
Black Stories. Des Moines Art Center, IA.
Take Care. Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago.
Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond. Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College Saratoga Springs, NY.
Being Seen: Recent Acquisitions from The Ringling Photography Collection. John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL.
Pictures from Another Wall: The collection of Huis Marseille at De Pont. De Pont Museum, Tilburg, Netherlands.
- 2019 *Fragments of a Crucifixion*. Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.
Here We Are. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney.
Dreamweavers. UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles.
... and justice for all. Harvey B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC.
Deana Lawson & Dru Donovan. Chicago, Rhona Hoffman Gallery.
Emissaries for Things Abandoned by Gods. Estancia FEMSA – Casa Luis Barragán, Mexico City.
The Extreme Present. Presented by Gagosian and Jeffrey Deitch, Moore Building, Miami.
Driving Forces: Contemporary Art from the Collection of Ann and Ron Pizzuti. Columbus Museum of Art, OH.

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- Young, Gifted, and Black: The Lumpkin-Boccuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art.* Osilas Gallery at Concordia College New York, Bronxville. Traveled to: Lehman College Art, Bronx, NY, 2020; Gallery 200 at the University of Illinois, Chicago, 2021; Lehigh University Art Galleries, Bethlehem, PA, 2022; The Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at University of California, Davis, 2022; The Vicki Myhren Gallery at the University of Denver, 2023; Clough-Hanson Gallery at Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, 2023; Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, CA, 2024; Hanes Art Gallery at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, 2025.
- New Ms. Thang.* Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- Mapping Black Identities.* Minneapolis Institute of Art.
- Prisoner of Love: Life and Death.* Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.
- 2018 *The Wall Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Carceral State.* Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Traveled to: Tufts Aidekman Arts Center, Medford, MA, 2020.
- Family Pictures.* Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH.
- American Family: Derrick Adams and Deana Lawson.* The Gordon Parks Foundation, Pleasantville, NY.
- The Phantom of Liberty: Contemporary Works in the RISD Museum Collection.* RISD Museum, Providence, RI.
- Be Strong and Do Not Betray Your Soul: Selections from the Light Work Collection.* Kathleen O'Ellis Gallery at Light Work, Syracuse, NY.
- Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Justice System.* Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston.
- Putting Out.* Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York.
- Unexpected Encounters.* Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO.
- Embodied Politic.* Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago.
- No Commission: Miami 2018.* Faena Forum, Miami.
- Go Figure.* Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH.
- 2017 *Whitney Biennial.* Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
- Woe – Men Keep Going.* Mary Boone Gallery, New York.
- Subjektiv.* Malmö Konsthall, Sweden.
- The Half-Life of Love.* MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA.
- Deana Lawson, Judy Linn, and Paul Mpagi Sepuya.* Sikkema Jenkins Gallery, New York.
- 2016 *Desire.* Moore Building, Miami.
- Black Cowboy.* Studio Museum in Harlem, New York.
- Human Interest: Portraits from the Whitney's Collection.* Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
- Non-Fiction.* Underground Museum, Los Angeles.
- Tête-à-tête.* Aperture Gallery, New York. Traveled to: David Castillo Gallery, Miami; Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore; Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach; Georgia Museum of Art, Athens; Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, CA; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; The Dayton Art Institute, OH,
- 2015 *I am Your Sister, tête-à-tête.* Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Brussels.
- Greater New York.* MoMA PS1, New York.
- 2014 *Crossing Brooklyn.* Brooklyn Museum, NY.
- Black Eye.* 57 Walker Street, New York.

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- 2013 *Ruffneck Constructivists*. Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia.
Homebodies. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.
Under My Skin: Contemporary Nudes in Photography. Flowers Gallery, New York.
- 2012 *Secession Seccesion*. Fitzroy Gallery, New York.
Bigger Than Shadows. Dodge Gallery, New York.
Tête-à-tête. Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York.
Tête-à-tête. Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago.
New Photo. Hélène Bailly Gallery, Paris.
- 2011 *The Collector's Guide V2*. Chelsea Art Museum, New York.
New Photography 2011. Museum of Modern Art, New York.
Prolonged Engagement. Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York.
- 2010 *Harlem Postcards*. Studio Museum in Harlem, New York.
Greater New York. MoMA P.S.1, New York.
50 Photographers Photograph the Future. Higher Pictures, New York.
Demolition Milk II. Kit Museum, Dusseldorf, Germany.
- 2009 *Undercover: Performing & Transforming Black Female Identities*. Spelman College Museum, Atlanta.
Desire. Chashama, New York.
If the Dogs Are Barking. Artist Space, New York.
The Brand New Heavies. Collette Blanchard Gallery, New York.
- 2008 *Converging Margins*. Center Of Photography at Woodstock, New York.
Dark Milk. Milk Contemporary, Copenhagen.
Bridge Art Fair. Greene Contemporary, New York.
Rochester Series. Black Rock Art Center, Bridgeport, CT.

Awards:

- 2022 Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize
 2020 Hugo Boss Prize, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
 2019 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant
 2018 Gordon Parks Foundation Fellowship
 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
 2012 Art Matters Grant
 2010 John Gutmann Photography Fellowship Grant
 Rema Hort Mann Foundation Visual Artist Fellowship Grant
 2009 Aaron Siskind Fellowship Grant
 2008 Artist Fellowship Grant, Photography, Connecticut Commission on Culture
 2006 NYFA Fellowship Grant, Photography

Teaching:

- 2021 Dorothy Krauklis '78 Professor of Visual Arts endowed professorship, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (member of Princeton's Visual Arts faculty since 2012)
- 2017 Visiting Critic, Yale University, Photography Department, New Haven, CT
 2014 Bard College, ICP-Bard MFA Program, Visiting Professor, New York
 2011 California College of the Arts, Visiting Artist Professor, San Francisco
 2008–2011 International Center of Photography, Instructor, New York

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2004

Rhode Island School of Design, Fellowship, Providence, RI