



Century: 100 Years of Black Art at MAM



Van Der Zee, James (1886–1983) Black Red Cross March, Harlem, 1924 Silver print mat: 16 x 22 in. sheet: 5 x 7 in. Museum purchase; Acquisition Fund 1996.35

This exhibition features artwork created by Black Americans throughout the past century, up to the present day, starting with this photograph by James Van der Zee of the Black Red Cross March in Harlem from 1924.

When you visit the Montclair Art Museum you will see many different types of art, and learn about how artists use a variety of materials and techniques to represent people and explore ideas about identity.



- What do you notice about this artwork?
- How would you describe the person depicted?
- Why do you think the artist chose these colors? The glitter?
- How might these different materials and colors help express the different facets of this subject's identity?

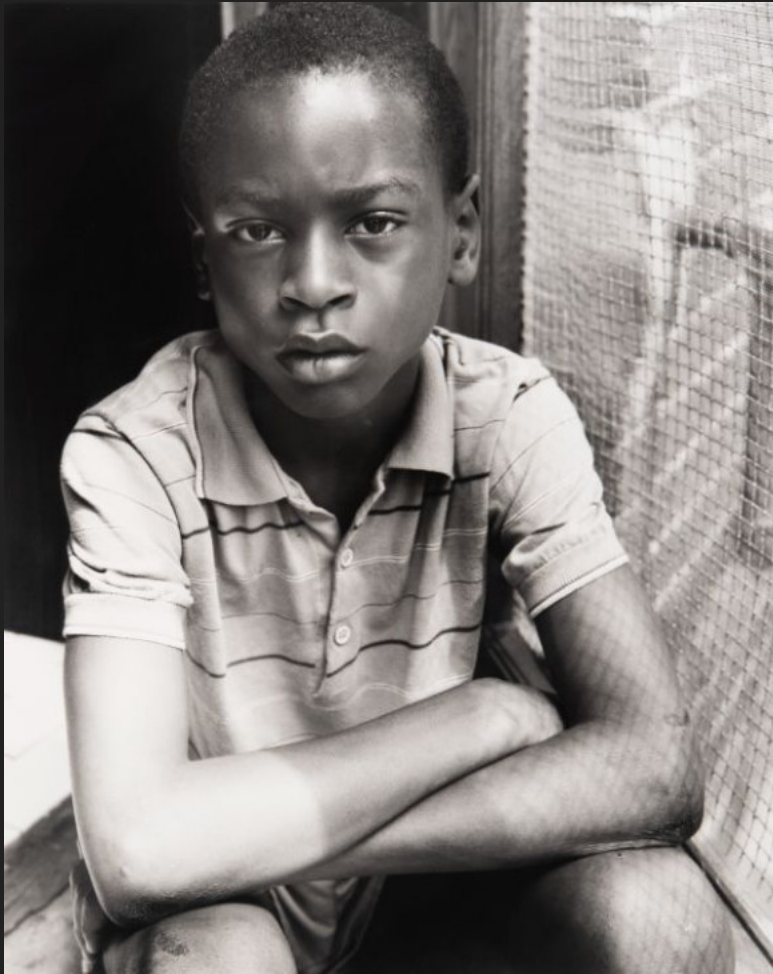
Untitled #28 was made by the artist Mickalene Thomas, who grew up in New Jersey.

It is a large mixed-media assemblage, meaning the artist combined a number of different materials such as paint, glitter, rhinestones, oil pastel, and pencil in one piece.

Mickalene Thomas is known for challenging stereotypes about Black women by creating strong powerful images that look right at us.



Photo: TAYLOR JEWELL / INVISION / AP IMAGES



Dawoud Bey, (b.1953), Alfonso, 1989, Gelatin silverprint, Ed. 1/10 +2 Aps Gift of Patricia A.Bell 2003.9.1

- **What's going on in this picture? What do you see?**
- **How would you describe the person depicted?**
- **Why might the artist choose to show us this person in this way?**

Dawoud Bey is a photographer who created this portrait *Alfonso*.

Bey wanted to capture the everyday human experience through his art.

In his photography, Bey explores, "how young people see themselves through the lens of race, gender, class, and culture".



Dawoud Bey at Lake Erie, 2018. Photo: Mike Majewski.



- What do you see in this sculpture?
- Does it remind you of anything you have seen before?
- How would it feel to wear this suit?
What can you tell about the person underneath?

Soundsuit was created by the artist Nick Cave who grew up in Midwest on a farm.

Cave has also been a dancer, and his *Soundsuits* are costumes that make noise when they move.

He wanted the person wearing them to feel safe and hidden away from any harm.



Ironsides Photography/Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art



Janet Taylor Pickett, (b. 1948), Incantations and Invocations, 1990. Mixed media; Oil on canvas, opaque watercolor, metallic paint, colored crayons and cut out paper collage elements on black paper sheet: 18 x 24 ¼ in. Gift of Clarence Seniors 1992.6

- What do you see in this picture?
- How would you describe the people? What does it look like they are doing?
- If you could hear them speak, what do you think they would say?

Incantations and Invocations was created by artist Janet Taylor Pickett, who lived in New Jersey and taught art at Essex County College for 30 years.

She explores storytelling and identity through collage. She has said, “I’ve always been a narrative artist and my work is about my experience as an African American female artist.”



Photo: Samantha Taylor Pickett



Joyce J. Scott, (b. 1948), *Harriet Tubman as Buddha*, 2017 Plastic and glass, beads, metal, thread, yarn and rocks, Museum purchase; Acquisition Fund 2018.15

- What do you notice about this sculpture?
- How would you describe this person? What are they doing? Why?
- This piece is called *Harriet Tubman as Buddha*. Have you heard these names before? Why would the artist combine them?

Joyce Scott created her sculpture, *Harriet Tubman as Buddha*, using plastic and glass beads, metal, threads, yarn, and rocks.

She grew up in Baltimore, Maryland and learned about craft traditions from her mother who was a quilt-maker.

Scott combines a lot of different materials to address important cultural topics and to explore themes of spiritual healing in her artwork.



Photo: Christina Hicks, © National Academy of Design

Through photography, painting, sculpture, collage, and mixed-media, artists express different ideas about the world, and the people in it. You will create your own artworks exploring identity in class, or when you visit the Museum.



We look forward to seeing you at the Montclair Art Museum!