



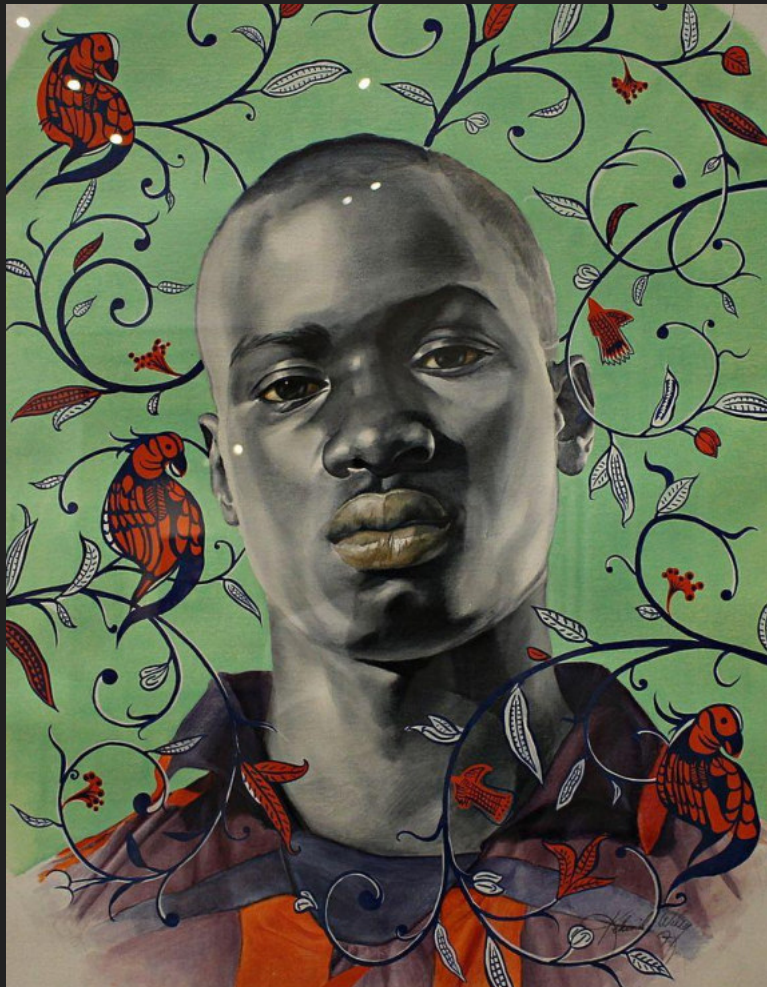
Century: 100 Years of Black Art at MAM



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.



Kehinde Wiley, *Matar Mbaye (Study I)*, 200, Oil wash on paper Sheet: 30 × 23 in. Museum purchase; Acquisition Fund 2018.7

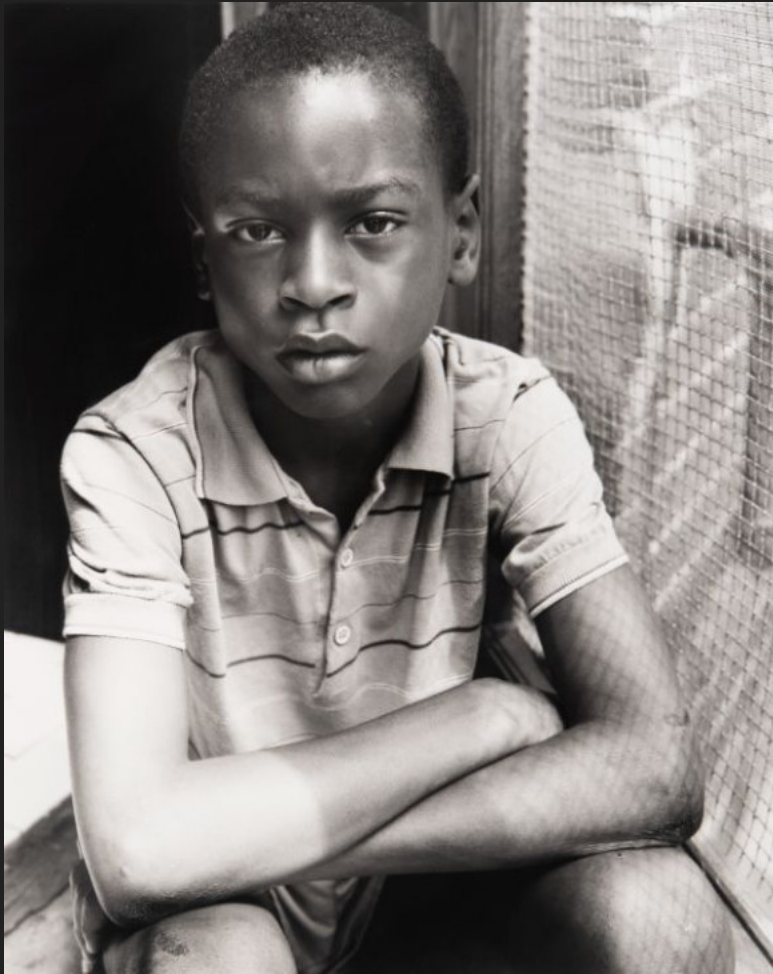
- What do you notice about this artwork?
- How would you describe the person depicted?
- Why do you think the artist chose to include this background with a portrait?
- How does the background combined with the portrait help express the different facets of this subject's identity?

Kehinde Wiley paints larger than life naturalistic portraits of people of color within the traditional classical style of the 'Old Masters'.

In 2018 Wiley became the first African-American artist to paint an official U.S. Presidential portrait for the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. He painted the official portrait of U.S. President Barack Obama.



Photo: Tony Powell



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 did the artist choose to show us this person in this way?**

Alfonso was created by Dawoud Bey, a celebrated Chicago-based photographer. His documentary photography tradition focuses on the everyday human experience.

Approaching his often-youthful subjects with a spirit of collaboration and exposing the tropes and stereotypes that have broadly come to define them, 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 works across sculpture, dance, fashion, performance, and mixed media to explore the capacity of the Black radical imagination to transcend oppression.

His *Soundsuit* series is a collection of wearable, life-sized sculptures compiled of multicolored textiles and found objects. Originally made in response to the police brutality against Rodney King, the *Soundsuits* were conceived to hide a person's identity, so they could travel the world unharmed.



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 1/4 in. Gift of Clarence Seniors 1992.6

- What's going on in this picture?
What do you see?
- How would you describe the figures in this image?
- If this artwork tells a story, what do you think it is about?

Janet Taylor Pickett's artworks explore identity and narrative in a variety of media, often using collage. In her own words: "I've always been a narrative artist and my work is about my experience as an African American female artist."

Janet Taylor Pickett taught art and art history at Essex County College in New Jersey for over 30 years, and recently had a one-woman exhibition at the Montclair Art Museum.



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's going on in this sculpture? What do you see?
- How would you describe this figure? What are they doing? Why?
- This piece is called *Harriet Tubman as Buddha*. Why would the artist combine these two historical figures?

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 many different materials to address important social and political issues, and 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!