



Culture Type: The Year in Black Art 2016

by VICTORIA L. VALENTINE on Dec 31, 2016 - 10:00 pm

FROM THE MOMENT Kerry James Marshall's 35-year survey exhibition opened at MCA Chicago this spring, the artist has been praised with honors, his work has been lauded in the media, and his message has resonated. His years-long mantra, that in order to push the Western canon of art history in a more diverse and representational direction images of black people and the black experience should hang in museums alongside the so-called "masters," dovetailed with a promising moment for a select group of African American modern and contemporary artists.

Throughout 2016, major museums around the country announced acquisitions of works by black artists, bringing into their collections works by Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Sam Gilliam, Wadsworth Jerrell, Alma Thomas, Mickalene Thomas, Kara Walker, and Marshall, among many others. As the year unfolded, impressive awards, fellowships, and residencies were also bestowed upon many artists. African American curators pursued new opportunities and African American artists joined major galleries. A monumental Smithsonian museum opened on the National Mall dedicated to African American history and culture with a commitment to presenting visual art. Meanwhile, police violence, along with race baiting and culture clashes that sprouted from the fractious election season sewed both consternation and inspiration in artists. A review of the past year in black art makes clear that the challenges are as real as the possibilities.

FEBRUARY

APPOINTMENT | Artist Rashid Johnson is elevated to vice chair of Performa board of directors.

EXHIBITION | "Glenn Ligon: What We Said The Last Time," features a new suite of 17 inkjet prints by **Glenn Ligon** that document the paint-spattered pages of the Ligon's well-worn copy of James Baldwin's seminal 1953 essay "Stranger in the Village" opens at Luhring Augustine in Chelsea, N.Y., on Feb. 27.

AWARD/HONOR | Anderson Ranch in Snowmass Village, Colo., announces it will honor **Carrie Mae Weems** with the National Artist Award at an annual dinner to be held July 21.

MARCH

AWARD/HONOR > I Baltimore artist **Amy Sherald** wins major prize for her 2013 painting “Miss Everything (Unsupressed Deliverance)” in the 2016 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition at Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery

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IMAGE: AMY SHERALD, “Miss Everything (Unsupressed Deliverance),” 2013 (oil on canvas, 54” x 43”). I Collection of Frances and Burton Reifler“

JULY

APPOINTMENT | Artist Rashid Johnson joins the board of trustees of Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation.



APPOINTMENT | In 2016, RASHID JOHNSON is elevated to vice chair of the Performa board of director and becomes the first artist to serve on the board of the Guggenheim Foundation since Hilla Rebay, the institutions founding director and curator. I Photo courtesy Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and Museum

NOVEMBER

EXHIBITION | Barney’s New York unveils holiday windows with a Love, Peace, Joy theme. The project is meant to counter “the world’s current climate of chaos and divisiveness” and bring people together with displays created by artists including Nick Cave and Ebony G. Patterson.