



Welcome to Culture Type®

An essential resource focused on visual art from a Black perspective, Culture Type explores the intersection of art, history, and culture

ABOUT
DONATE
CT ON BOOKSHOP
CONTACT

SEARCH

BOOKS & CATALOGS

MAGAZINES

EXHIBITIONS

AUCTIONS

BEST ART BOOKS

YEAR IN BLACK ART

NEWS

CULTURE TALKS

As We Rise: Photography Publication and Coinciding Traveling Exhibition Explore Black Life on Both Sides of Atlantic

by VICTORIA L. VALENTINE on Nov 18, 2022 • 4:58 am

No Comments

OVER THE PAST 25 years, **Kenneth Montague** has built an expansive photography-based collection that explores Blackness and the Black experience, visualizing what Black life looks like on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Wedge Collection features images by Black artists from throughout the diaspora—from Canada, the United States, the Caribbean, Great Britain, South America, and the African continent—who work across fine art, portrait, documentary, and street photography.

Historic figures, emerging talents, and some of the most highly acclaimed photographers working today are represented in Montague's collection. The expansive list includes James Barnor, Ariele Bobb-Willis, Samuel Fosso, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Barkley L. Hendricks, Texas Isaiah, Liz Johnson Artur, Seydou Keita, Deana Lawson, Zun Lee, Gordon Parks, Jamel Shabazz, Xaviera Simmons, James Van Der Zee, and Carrie Mae Weems.



DAWIT L. PETROS, "Hadenbes," 2005 (chromogenic print). | From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021), Courtesy the artist/Bradley Ertaskiran

CONNECT



NEW POSTS



What to Look Forward to in 2024: 30 Exhibitions, Books, and Events Focused on African American Artists
Feb 9, 2024



Latest News in Black Art: 2024 United States Artists Fellows Announced, James Claiborne Returns to Barnes Foundation, Jupiter Magazine Debuts & More
Jan 26, 2024



Gordon Parks Foundation Announced Its 2024 Fellows: Larry W. Cook, Tonika Lewis Johnson, and D. Watkins
Jan 24, 2024



Filmmaker and Writer Dream Hampton is New Museum's 2024 Stuart Regen Visionary
Jan 22, 2024



Latest News in Black Art: New Executive Director at Atlanta Contemporary, Kehinde Wiley Painting Makes Cameo in Heist Film, Derek Fordjour Covers Whitewall Magazine
Jan 15, 2024

SUPPORT CULTURE TYPE

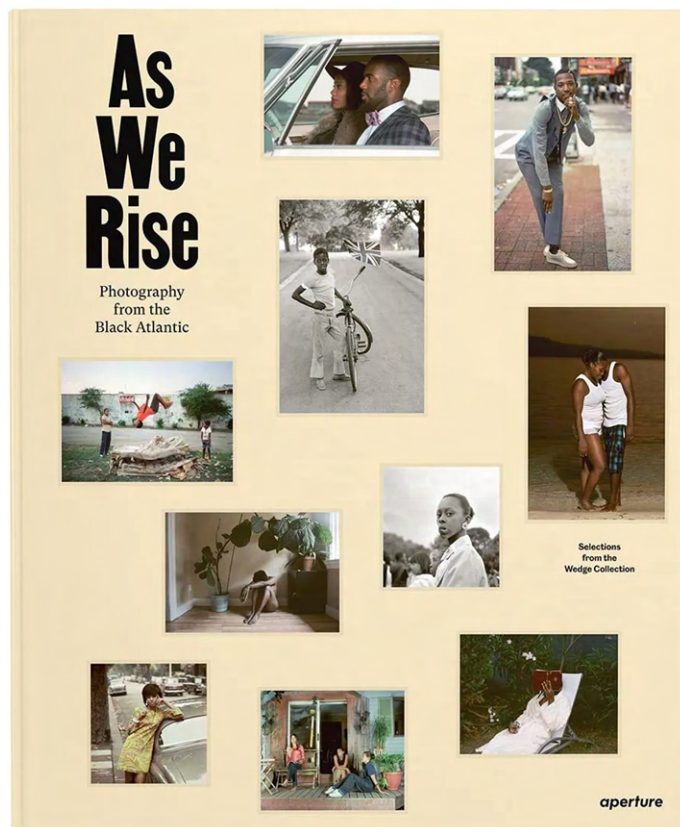
Do you enjoy and value Culture Type? Please consider supporting its ongoing production by making a donation. Culture Type is an independent editorial project that requires countless hours and expense to research, report, write, and produce. To help sustain it, make a one-time donation or sign up for a recurring monthly contribution. It only takes a minute. **Many Thanks for Your Support.**

Donate

More than 100 works from the collection are gathered in [“As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic: Selections from the Wedge Collection.”](#)

In the book’s preface, photographer, critic, and curator Teju Cole wrote: “Too often in the larger culture, we see images of Black people in attitudes of despair, pain, or brutal isolation. As We Rise gently refuses that. It is not that people are always in an attitude of celebration—no, that would be a reverse but corresponding falsehood—but rather that they are present as human beings, credible, fully engaged in their world.”

“As We Rise’ shows us what Gordon Parks has in common with Nontsikelelo Veleko, it proposes that Seydou Keita and James Van Der Zee are brothers.” — Teju Cole



A Toronto dentist, Montague (below) was raised by Jamaican-born parents in Windsor, Ontario, just across the river from Detroit, Mich. In 1997, he established The Wedge Collection.

As Black artists in the United States and Africa experience greater global recognition, Montague is particularly interested in raising the profile of Black Canadian artists, who have received far less attention. In addition to Stan Douglas, who is currently representing Canada at the 59th Venice Biennale, Canadian photographers in Montague’s collection include Sandra Brewster, Michael Chambers, Anique Jordan, and Dawit Petros.



The Wedge Collection has grown to more than 400 works. Montague chose the name in response to the absence of Black artists in the larger narrative of contemporary art. He has told Culture Type his intention was to “provide increased visibility and ultimately ‘wedge’ them into the canon.”

Montague has curated exhibitions and loaned works from his collection to major museum shows. His latest project is the most ambitious.

“As We Rise” is laser-focused on his mission. Montague recently joined the board of Aperture, a nonprofit art institution and multi-platform publisher dedicated to photography. New York-based Aperture published the catalog and organized the coinciding touring exhibition.

Montague’s alma mater is currently hosting show. [“As We Rise”](#) is on view at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto Art Centre in University College, through Nov. 19. The international exhibition travels next to [The Polygon Gallery](#) in North Vancouver, before arriving in the United States at

the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., where it opens June 17, 2023.

MOST READ



National Portrait Gallery: Titus Kaphar and Ken Gonzales-Day Explore 'UnSeen' Narratives in Historic Portraiture



What to Look Forward to in 2024: 30 Exhibitions, Books, and Events Focused on African American Artists



50 Years Ago, Alma Thomas Made 'Space' Paintings that Imagined the Moon and Mars



Beginning in Late 1950s, African American Painters Known as 'Highwaymen' Captured Florida's Natural Landscapes



Ernie Barnes Retrospective Brings Renewed Attention to African American Artist Who Found Fame After Playing Pro Football

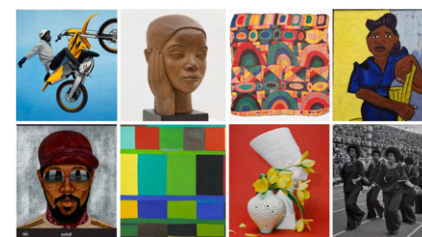


Black Art History: 10 Children's Books Illuminate the Lives of Important African American Artists and Photographers



Remembering Nelson Mandela: Statesman, Revolutionary, Artist

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2024: 30 EXHIBITIONS, BOOKS, AND EVENTS FOCUSED ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS



CULTURE TYPE: THE 13 BEST BLACK ART BOOKS OF 2023



LATEST NEWS IN BLACK ART: 2024 UNITED STATES ARTISTS FELLOWS ANNOUNCED, JAMES CLAIBORNE RETURNS TO BARNES FOUNDATION, JUPITER MAGAZINE DEBUTS & MORE

Fully illustrated, the publication is presented in three sections: Community, Identity, and Power. An impressive slate of curators and scholars contributed to the volume, including Cole, Isolde Brielmaier, Liz Ikiriko, Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi, Mark Sealy, Tekla Selman, and Deborah Willis.

“‘As We Rise’ shows us what Gordon Parks has in common with Nontsikelelo Veleko, it proposes that Seydou Keita and James Van Der Zee are brothers,” Cole wrote.

He likens the volume to a treasured photo album: “These are family pictures. This is a family album.” **CT**



LATOYA RUBY FRAZIER, “Huxtables, Mom and Me,” 2008 (gelatin silver print). | From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021). © LaToya Ruby Frazier, Courtesy the artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York, and Brussels



BUILDING HISTORY: KIMBERLY DOWDELL IS AIA'S 100TH PRESIDENT. FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO LEAD ARCHITECTURE ORGANIZATION PLANS TO 'DO MORE'



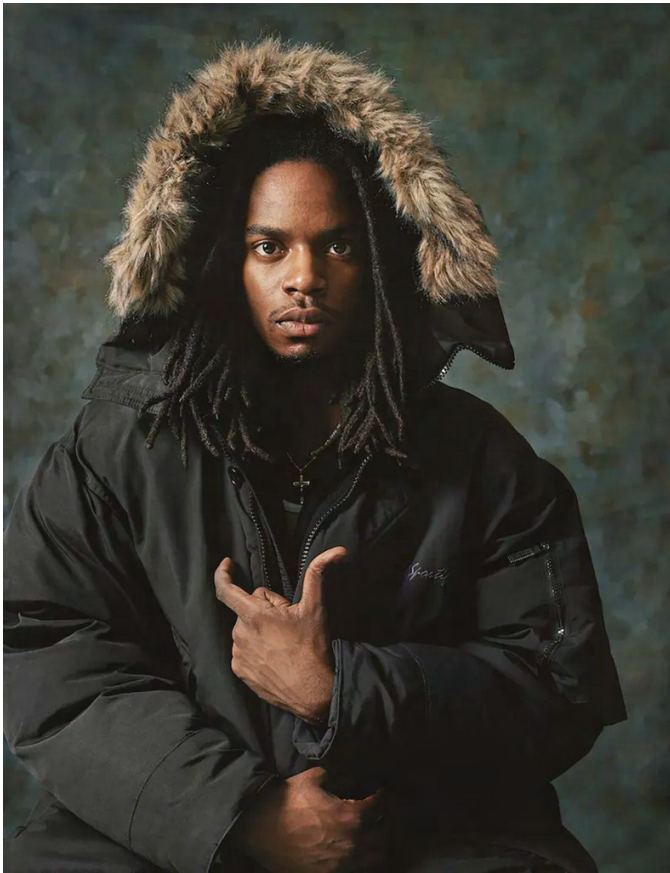
JULIE MEHRETU PAINTING SELLS FOR \$9.3 MILLION, SETTING AUCTION RECORD FOR A WORK BY AN AFRICAN-BORN ARTIST, ALSO NEW BENCHMARK FOR BLACK FEMALE ARTIST LIVING OR DEAD



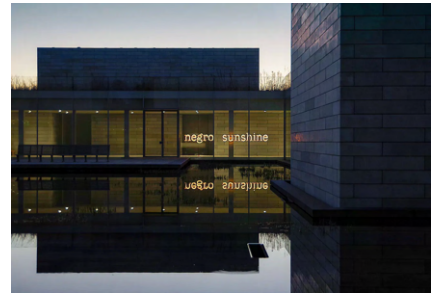
FROM THE ARCHIVES: CULTURE TALK: KELLIE JONES DISCUSSES ‘SOUTH OF PICO,’ HER RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS IN LOS ANGELES IN THE 1960S AND ’70S



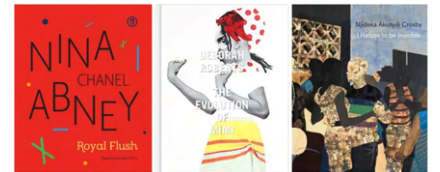
FROM THE ARCHIVES: AT GLENSTONE MUSEUM, GLENN LIGON'S NEON ‘WARM BROAD GLOW’ IS A WELCOME BEACON



DAWIT L. PETROS, "Sign," 2003 (chromogenic print). | From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021), Courtesy of artist/Bradley Ertaskiran



FROM THE ARCHIVES: THERE'S A NEW WAVE OF CRITICALLY RECOGNIZED BLACK FEMALE ARTISTS. THESE PUBLICATIONS ARE THE FIRST TO DOCUMENT THEIR WORK



SPORTS AGENT RICH PAUL ADVISES ATHLETES TO INVEST IN ART: 'THERE'S MORE AREAS TO PARK YOUR FINANCES THAN CLOTHES, SHOES, AND CARS. THOSE ARE DEPRECIATING ASSETS'



FROM THE ARCHIVES: ARTIST CHARLES WHITE WAS A DEVOTED TEACHER WHO SERVED AS A 'LIFE MODEL' TO COUNTLESS STUDENTS IN LOS ANGELES AND BEYOND



FROM THE ARCHIVES: NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY: TITUS KAPHAR AND KEN GONZALES-DAY EXPLORE 'UNSEEN' NARRATIVES IN HISTORIC PORTRAITURE



SAMUEL FOSSO, "70s Lifestyle," 1975–78 (gelatin silver print). | From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021). © Samuel Fosso, Courtesy JM.PATRAS/PARIS



JAMEL SHABAZZ, "Rude Boy, Brooklyn, New York," 1982 (chromogenic print). | From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021), Courtesy of Jamel Shabazz



10 CHILDREN’S BOOKS TELL UPLIFTING STORIES ABOUT THE LIVES AND WORK OF BLACK ARTISTS INCLUDING TYREE GUYTON, FRANK BOWLING, LAURA WHEELER WARING, AND ERNIE BARNES



MOVING ON UP: AMID FINANCIAL SETBACKS AT MUSEUMS, 31 CURATORS AND ARTS LEADERS TOOK ON NEW APPOINTMENTS IN SECOND HALF OF 2023



FROM THE ARCHIVES: AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL: VISION OF ARTIST LORRAINE O’GRADY AND VOICE OF RAY CHARLES INSPIRE NEW BIDEN-HARRIS VIDEO

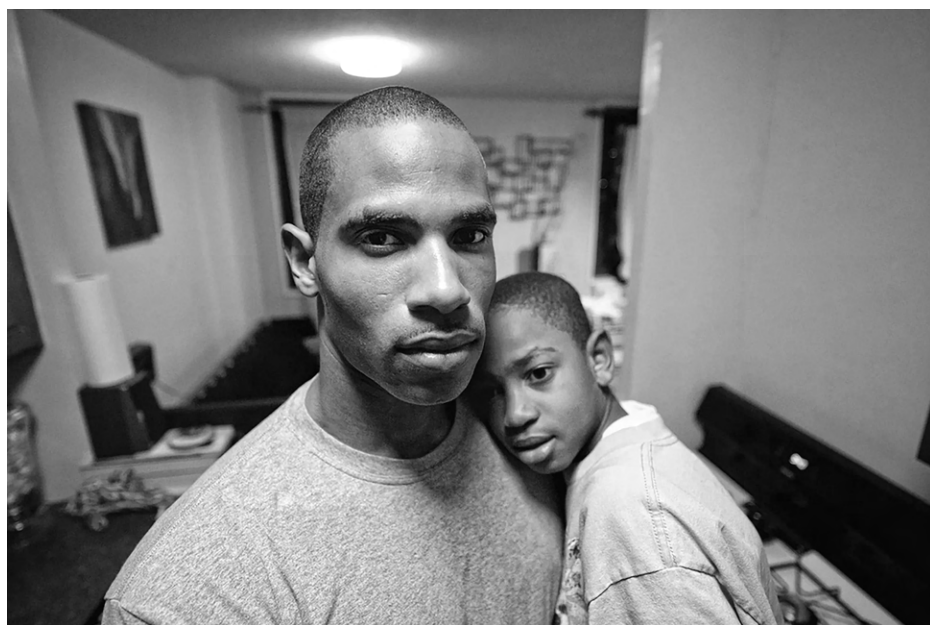


ARCHIVES



Select Month ▼

JAMEL SHABAZZ, "Best Friends, Brooklyn, New York," 1981 (chromogenic print). From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021). Courtesy Jamel Shabazz



ZUN LEE, "Jebon Felder and his son Jae'shaun at home, Harlem, New York," September 2011 (selenium split-tone K7 on Hanhemüle Photo Rag). I From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021), Courtesy of Zun Lee, from the *Father Figure Project*



KENNEDI CARTER, "Untitled (Self-Portrait)," 2020 (digital print on Hanhemüle Photo Rag). | From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021). Courtesy Kennedi Carter



TAYO YANNICK ANTON, *Untitled*, 2009-2014, from the series *Yes Yes Y'all* (digital print). | From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021), Courtesy of the artist



LIZ JOHNSON ARTUR, "Burgess Park," 2010 (gelatin silver print). | *From As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021). Courtesy Black Balloon Archive, Liz Johnson Artur



ARIELLE BOBB-WILLIS, "Union City, New Jersey," 2018 (archival pigment print). | *From As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021). | Courtesy Arielle Bobb-Willis



Installation view of "As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic," Art Museum at the University of Toronto (Sept. 7–Nov. 19, 2022). | Courtesy of Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid



Installation view of "As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic," Art Museum at the University of Toronto (Sept. 7–Nov. 19, 2022). | Courtesy of Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid



JAMES BARNOR, "Drum Cover Girl Erlin Ibreck, Kilburn, London," 1966. | *From As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021). Courtesy Autograph ABP



Installation view of "As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic," Art Museum at the University of Toronto (Sept. 7–Nov. 19, 2022). | Courtesy of Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid

Installation view of "As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic," Art Museum at the University of Toronto (Sept. 7–Nov. 19, 2022). | Courtesy of Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid

Installation view of "As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic," Art Museum at the University of Toronto (Sept. 7–Nov. 19, 2022). | Courtesy of Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid



TEXAS ISAIAH, "My Name Is My Name I," 2016. | From *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021). © Texas Isaiah

BOOKSHELF

The exhibition catalog "[As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic: Selections from the Wedge Collection](#)" showcases the holdings of Canadian collector Kenneth Montague, exploring the Black experience through images by Black artists from Canada, the United States, the Caribbean, Great Britain, South America, and the African continent. "[A Time Before Crack: Photographs from the 1980s](#)" gathers photographs by Jamel Shabazz. "[The New Black Vanguard: Photography Between Art and Fashion](#)" presents the work of an international slate of rising photographers. Also consider, "[Kwame Brathwaite: Black Is Beautiful](#)" and "[Afro-Atlantic Histories](#)," which documents a major international travelling exhibition that presents a sweeping account of the "historical experiences and cultural formations" of Black people of African descent, across five centuries dating from the 17th century to the present.

SUPPORT CULTURE TYPE

Do you enjoy and value Culture Type? Please consider supporting its ongoing production by making a donation. Culture Type is an independent editorial project that requires countless hours and expense to research, report, write, and produce. To help sustain it, make a one-time donation or sign up for a recurring monthly contribution. It only takes a minute. **Many Thanks for Your Support.**



[Donate](#)

Tags: Aperture, Jamel Shabazz, Kennedi Carter, Kenneth Montague, Liz Johnson Artur, Samuel Fosso, Teju Cole, Texas Isaiah, Zun Lee

Previous post

Culture Talk: Lisa Edmiston on Auctioning Major Artworks by Norman Lewis, Sam Gilliam, and Romare Bearden From Estate of Her Father, a Black Gallery Owner in Harlem

Next post

Appointment: Courtney Willis Blair Will Lead White Cube Gallery in New York

What do you think?

Name *required*

Email *required*

Website

Submit

Culture Type® participates in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate program designed to help sites earn modest commissions by linking to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). When you make any purchase from Amazon, and the many independent vendors, small businesses, and booksellers that partner with Amazon, via a link from this site, Culture Type receives a minute percentage of its price. The program helps offset a small portion of the countless hours and expense required to research, report, write and produce Culture Type's content.

Culture Type® is also an affiliate of [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org), whose mission is to financially support local, independent bookstores. Culture Type earns a nominal commission when you access Bookshop via a link on this website and/or make a purchase from one of Culture Type's book lists on Bookshop.

© 2013-2024 Culture Type, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Culture Type® is a registered trademark of Culture Type, LLC., and is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office