

Paul Mpagi Sepuya

b. 1982 San Bernardino, California, USA

Lives and works in Los Angeles, California, USA

Education

- 2016 MFA Photography, University of California Los Angeles
2004 BFA Photography & Imaging, New York University Tisch School of the Arts

Select Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 Bortolami, New York, NY, "D.R.M.P."
2021 University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, "The Hamilton Public Art Project"
DOCUMENT, Chicago, IL, "Stage"
2020 Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE, "Drop Scene," curated by Rachel Adams.
Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zürich, Switzerland, "Paul Mpagi Sepuya"
Susanne Vielmetter Projects, Los Angeles, CA, "A conversation about around pictures"
Modern Art, London, UK, "CONDO: Paul Mpagi Sepuya"
2019-20 Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO; Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, TX, "Paul Mpagi Sepuya," curated by Wassan Al-Khudhairi. (catalogue)
2019 team (gallery, inc.), New York, NY, "The Conditions"
2018 FOAM Fotomuseum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands, "Double Enclosure"
DOCUMENT, Chicago, IL, "Dark Room"
2017 team (bungalow), Los Angeles, CA, "Dark Room"
Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY, "Figures, Grounds and Studies"
2015 DOCUMENT, Chicago, IL, "Figures / Grounds / Studies"
2013 Artspeak, Vancouver, Canada, "STUDIO WORK"
2011 Franklin Art Works, Minneapolis, MN, "STUDIO WORK" (catalogue)

Select Group Exhibitions - Museums

- 2022 National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C, “The Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today,” curated by Taína Caragol and Leslie Ureña. (catalogue)
Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA; Jepson Center for the Arts, Savannah, GA, “Elegies: Still Lives in Contemporary Art,” curated by Monique Long.
- 2021 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, “Black American Portraits,” curated by Christine Y. Kim and Liz Andrews.
- 2019-21 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA; Museum of Art and Design, Miami Dade College, Miami, FL, “The Body Electric,” curated by Pavel Pyš with Jadine Collingwood.
- 2019 VCU Institute for Contemporary Art, Richmond, VA, “Great Force,” curated by Amber Esseiva. (catalogue)
Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, “Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now,” curated by Lauren Hinkson and Susan Thompson.
Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA, “Once. Again. Photographs in Series,” curated by Mazie Harris.
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, “Whitney Biennial 2019,” curated by Jane Panetta and Rujeko Hockley. (catalogue)
Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, TX, “Stonewall 50!” curated by Dean Daderko. (catalogue)
- 2018 MOCA Chicago, Chicago, IL, “Groundings,” curated by Grace Deveney.
Museum of Contemporary Photography Chicago, Chicago, IL, “Echoes: Reframing Collage,” curated by Karen Irvine.
ICA Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, “Tag: Proposals on Queer Play and the Way Forward,” curated by Nayland Blake. (catalogue)
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, “Being: New Photography 2018,” curated by Lucy Gallun.
- 2017 New Museum, New York, NY, “Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon,” curated by Johanna Burton and Sara O’Keeffe. (catalogue)
- 2011 The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, “Evidence of Accumulation,” with Simone Leigh and Kamau Amu Patton (catalogue)

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2022 PHOTO 2022 International Festival of Photography, Melbourne, Australia, “Being Human,” curated by Elias Redstone and Brendan McCleary. Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK, “A Century of the Artist’s Studio 1920-2020,” curated by Iwona Blazwick and Candy Stobbs. (catalogue) Mitchell-Innes & Nash, Mexico City, Mexico, “Olvido, Sombra, Nada,” with Lucas Samaras and Tionna Nekkia McClodden, curated by Courtney Willis-Blair.
- 2021 Athens Biennale 7, Athens, Greece, “ECLIPSE,” curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah and OMSK Social Club.
- 2020-22 Barbican Gallery, London, UK; Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany; LUMA Foundation, Arles, France; Fotomuseum Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium, “Masculinities: Liberation Through Photography,” curated by Alona Pardo and Chris Bayley. (catalogue)
- 2019-22 Aperture Foundation Gallery, New York; Literaturhaus, Munich; McEvoy Foundation for the Arts; San Francisco, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland; C/O Berlin, Germany, “Orlando,” curated by Tilda Swinton.
- 2019 Ratio 3, San Francisco, CA, “Character Study”
The Serpentine Galleries, London, UK, “Grace Wales Bonner: A Time for New Dreams,” curated by Grace Wales Bonner.
- 2018 Matthew Marks Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, “Positioner.” Curated by Beau Rutland.
David Zwirner Gallery, New York, NY, “This is Not a Prop”
- 2017 Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, “Deana Lawson, Judy Linn and Paul Mpagi Sepuya”
Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, NY, “Compassionate Protocols,” curated by Moyra Davey and Jason Simon.
- 2016 LAXART, Los Angeles, CA, “Protuberances,” curated by Catherine Taft and Jess Arndt.
The Artists’ Institute, New York, NY, “James Baldwin / Jim Brown and the Children.” Curated by Hilton Als. (catalogue)
New Wight Gallery, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, “MFA Thesis Show #3,” with Nikita Gale and Sarah Sarchin.
- 2014 Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa, “Kings County” (catalogue)

- 2012 Koelher Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI, “The Kids Are All Right” (catalogue)
 2010 Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA, “Quadruple-Consciousness,” curated by
 Malik Gaines. (catalogue)
 Higher Pictures, New York, NY, “50 Artists Photograph the Future,”
 curated by Dean Daderko.

Select Press

- 2022 The New York Times : “Galleries: ‘D.R.M.P.’,” by John Vincler, June 1
 Hunter Magazine : “In Conversation with Mark McKnight and Paul Mpagi
 Sepuya,” by Silvi Naçi, Issue 39, Summer, pp. 26-39
 Frieze : “California in a State of Creative Incubation,” by Marko Gluhaich,
 February 14
- 2021 IMA Magazine : “The Other Side of the Layered Image,” by Yuriko Yamaki,
 October 29, pp. 25-32
 A Magazine Curated by : “A#22: Rhapsody In The Street,” by Grace
 Wales Bonner, October 18, 2021, pp. 150-158
 Wallpaper* : “All Seeing Eye,” by Aindrea Emelife, September, cover, pp.
 92-95
 Bad at Sports Podcast : “Episode 763: Paul Mpagi Sepuya,” with Brian
 Andrews and Ryan Peter Miller, March 15, 2021
 View. Theories and Practices of Visual Culture : “A Space of Negotiation:
 Paul Mpagi Sepuya's Photographic Portraits as a Reflection on the Image
 of Blackness and Nudity,” by Julia Stachura, translated by Jan
 Szelągiewicz, no. 28, March 2
- 2020 Artforum: “Paul Mpagi Sepuya at Vielmetter Los Angeles,” by Ashton
 Cooper, September, Vol. 59, No. 1, pp. 179
 The Guardian : “A new Mapplethorpe? The queer zine legend reinventing
 the nude,” by Lanre Bakare, April 28, 2020
 The Modern Art Notes Podcast : “Episode No. 426: Paul Mpagi Sepuya,
 Chiura Obata,” by Tyler Green, January 2, 2020
- 2019 ArtReview : “Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis 17
 May - 18 August,” by Rahel Aima, October, pp. 102
 Artnet News: “What the Whitney Biennial Tells us about the Future of
 Photography” by Danielle Jackson, July 3
 Artforum : “Paul Mpagi Sepuya
 at Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis,” by Vince Aletti, May

- Art in America : “Paul Mpagi Sepuya,” by David Everitt Howe, May, pp. 95
 The New Yorker : “Paul Mpagi Sepuya Mines the Queer History of the
 Portrait Studio,” by Andrea K. Scott, March 29
 The New York Times : “Paul Mpagi Sepuya,” by Martha Schwendener,
 March 28
 Artforum: “Project: Paul Mpagi Sepuya,” by David Velasco, March, cover,
 pp. 172-183
 2018 Aperture: “Paul Mpagi Sepuya,” by Andy Campbell, Issue 232 “Los
 Angeles,” Fall 2018, pp. 98-105
 Artforum : “Critic’s Pick: Paul Mpagi Sepuya at DOCUMENT,” by Jared
 Quinton, March, 2018
 Art In America : “In The Room,” by Ariel Goldberg, April, 2018
 The New York Times : “What’s New in Photography? Humanism, MoMA
 Says,” by Arthur Lubow, March 9, 2018
 2017 The New Museum : “Aesthetic Inhumanisms: Toward an Erotics of
 Otherworlding,” by Rizvana Bradley
 Contemporary Art Review LA : “Paul Mpagi Sepuya at team (bungalow),”
 by Ikechukwu Onyewuenyi, Issue 15, Fall, pp. 55-58
 The Nation: “Playing with Mirrors: Two artists push the limits of what
 cameras can do,” by Barry Schwabsky, May 2
 Artforum : “Critic’s Pick: Paul Mpagi Sepuya at Yancey Richardson,” by
 Ian Bourland, March
 The Brooklyn Rail : “Paul Mpagi Sepuya: Figures, Grounds and Studies,”
 by Phillip Griffith, March 1
 Hyperallergic : “The Solitude and Sensuality of an Artist’s Studio,” by
 Zachary Small, February 20
 2014 ArtReview : “The Expanded Photograph,” by David Everett Howe, May
 2012 Artforum: “500 Words: Paul Mpagi Sepuya,” by Joseph Akel, May 15,
 2010 The New York Times : “Art in Review – 50 Artists Photograph the Future,”
 by Holland Cotter, May 28

Bibliography

- 2022 “Prime: Art’s Next Generation,” by Bernardo Mosquiera, published by
 Phaidon, May 25, 2022, pp. 368-371
 2021 “Photography Now,” by Charlotte Jansen, published by Octopus in

- association with Tate, April 22, 2021, pp. 170-173
- 2019 “The Image of Whiteness: Contemporary Photography and Racialization,”
edited by Daniel C. Blight, published by SPBH Editions & Art on the
Underground, 2019, pp. 24-26, 114, 152, 192-194
“Body” by Nathalie Herschdorfer, Published by Thames & Hudson, 2019
“Art & Queer Culture (Edition II),” by Catherine Lord and Richard Meyer,
Published by Phaidon, 2019
- 2013 “My 1980s and Other Essays,” Eric’s Stubble, by Wayne Koestenbaum,
Published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2013, pp. 216-222
- 2008 “Queer Zines”, by AA Bronson, Published by Printed Matter, 2008

Artist Monographs and Publications

- 2020 “Paul Mpagi Sepuya,” with texts by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Grace Wales
Bonner, Malik Gaines, Lucy Gallun, Ariel Goldberg, and Evan Moffitt,
published by CAM St. Louis in association with Aperture, April 7, 2020
- 2012 “STUDIO WORK,” by Paul Mpagi Sepuya, edited by Felix Burcher, with
text by Wayne Koestenbaum, published by FAMILIAR, 2012
- 2011 “STUDIO WORK,” by Paul Mpagi Sepuya, edited by Felix Burcher, with
texts by William Oliver, Naomi Beckwith, and Boško Blagojević, published
by Franklin Art Works and FAMILIAR, 2011
- 2010 “The Accidental Egyptian and Occidental Arrangements,” by Timothy Hull
& Paul Mpagi Sepuya, self-published, 2010
- 2008 “Beloved Object and Amorous Subject (Revisited),” with texts by Nicholas
Boston, Dean Sameshima, and David Velasco, published by envoy
Gallery, 2008
- 2005-7 “SHOOT No. 1 - 7,” self-published, 2005 - 2007

Public Talks, Panels, and Juries

- 2022 “Monsen Photography Lecture,” Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA. (artist
talk)
“ICA Speaks,” ICA Miami, FL. (artist talk)
- 2021 “5 Questions, 5 Artists: Reframing Portraiture,” Los Angeles County
Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA. (panel)
Robert Giard Foundation Grant, New York, NY. (juror)

- John Herrin Memorial Scholarship for Black Photographers, FotoFest Meeting Place 2021 Virtual Portfolio Review. (juror)
- 2020 Aperture Conversations, Printed Matter Virtual Art Book Fair. (in conversation with Wassan Al-Khudhairi)
Robert Giard Foundation Grant, New York, NY. (juror)
- 2019 University of California Los Angeles, Graduate Art History Symposium, Los Angeles, CA. (keynote lecture)
Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY. (panel)
Contemporary Art Museum St Louis, St. Louis, MO. (artist talk)
Capricious Book Award, New York, NY. (juror)
- 2018 The Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA. (artist talk)
The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL. (artist talk)
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY. (panel)
The New Museum, New York, NY. (screening and artist talk with A.K. Burns and A.L. Steiner)
- 2017 Capricious Book Award, New York, NY. (juror)
- 2015 Document, Chicago, IL. With Megha Ralapati. (artist talk)
- 2014 Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL. (artist talk)
- 2013 Artspeak, Vancouver, Canada. (artist talk)
- 2011 Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY. (artist talk)
Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, NY. (juror)
- 2010 Center for Photography at Woodstock, NY. (artist talk)
- 2009 Printed Matter Artist Grant, New York, NY. (juror)
- 2006 International Center for Photography, New York, NY. (artist talk)

Awards and Residencies

- 2022 Artist-in-Residence, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO
Finalist, Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 2021 Affinity Award, Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, NY
Artadia Award, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, New York, NY
Rauschenberg Residency, Captiva Island, FL
- 2018 Artist-in-Residence, Lightwork, Syracuse, NY
- 2017 The Rema Hort Mann Foundation Grant for Emerging Los Angeles Artists, Los Angeles, CA

- 2014 Jackman Goldwasser Artist-in-Residence, Hyde Park Arts Center,
Chicago, IL
- 2013 Sikkema Fellow Artist-in-Residence, Fire Island Artist Residency, Fire
Island, NY
- 2010–11 Artist-in-Residence, Studio Museum in Harlem, Harlem, NY
- 2010 Artist-in-Residence, Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock,
NY
- 2009–10 Artist-in-Residence, Workspace, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New
York, NY

Teaching

- 2019- Associate Professor of Media Art, University of California San Diego
- 2018-19 Visiting Artist Faculty, Bard College MFA
- 2017-19 Visiting Artist Faculty, CalArts

Boards and Service

- Fire Island Artist Residency Advisory Board (Member, 2021 - current)
- Printed Matter Board (Member, 2019 - current)
- Hammer Museum Artist Council (Member, 2019 - current)
- Los Angeles Artist Advisory Committee (Member, 2018 - current)
- The Robert Giard Foundation Board (Member, 2009 - current)

Library Collections

- Brooklyn Museum Library Collection, Brooklyn, NY.
- Fotomuseum Winterthur Library Collection, Winterthur, Switzerland.
- Hirsch Library, Museum of Fine Art, Houston, TX.
- Mills College Library, Oakland, CA.
- Museum of Modern Art Library, New York, NY.
- Thomas J. Watson Central Research Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York,
NY.
- UCSD Special Collections Library and Archive, La Jolla, CA.

Select Public Collections

Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD.
Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA.
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH.
Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA.
Grinnell College Museum of Art, Grinnell, IA.
Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY.
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA.
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA.
Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL.
International Center for Photography, New York, NY.
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA.
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI.
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN.
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA.
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL.
Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago, IL.
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX.
Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL.
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA.
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.
Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford, CT.
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN.
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.
Tate Modern, London, UK.
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK.