

LEBOHANG KGANYE

VISUAL ARTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER

CURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS



RECENT AWARDS:

[Norval Sovereign African Art Prize 2023, finalist](#)

[Foam Paul Huf Award 2022, Winner](#)

[MAST PhotoGrant 7th edition 2022/2023, finalist](#)

[Grand Prix Images Vevey 2021/2022, Winner](#)



Shall You Return Everything, But The Burden

– Solo Exhibition –

12 May – 5 October 2023:

Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany

The starting-point of Lebohang Kganye's exhibition project is a bundle of photographs and drawings by the German painter and photographer Marie Pauline Thorbecke, who undertook an expedition to Cameroon on assignment from the German Colonial Society between 1911 and 1913, together with her husband Franz Thorbecke. 110 years later, Kganye follows her footsteps through the country and, in a video work and room installation, weaves together memories, impressions and narratives from a female perspective.

This Exhibition is the outcome of the *Artist Meets Archive* residency and research program.

[Interview with Lebohang Kganye](#)

[Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum Residency](#)



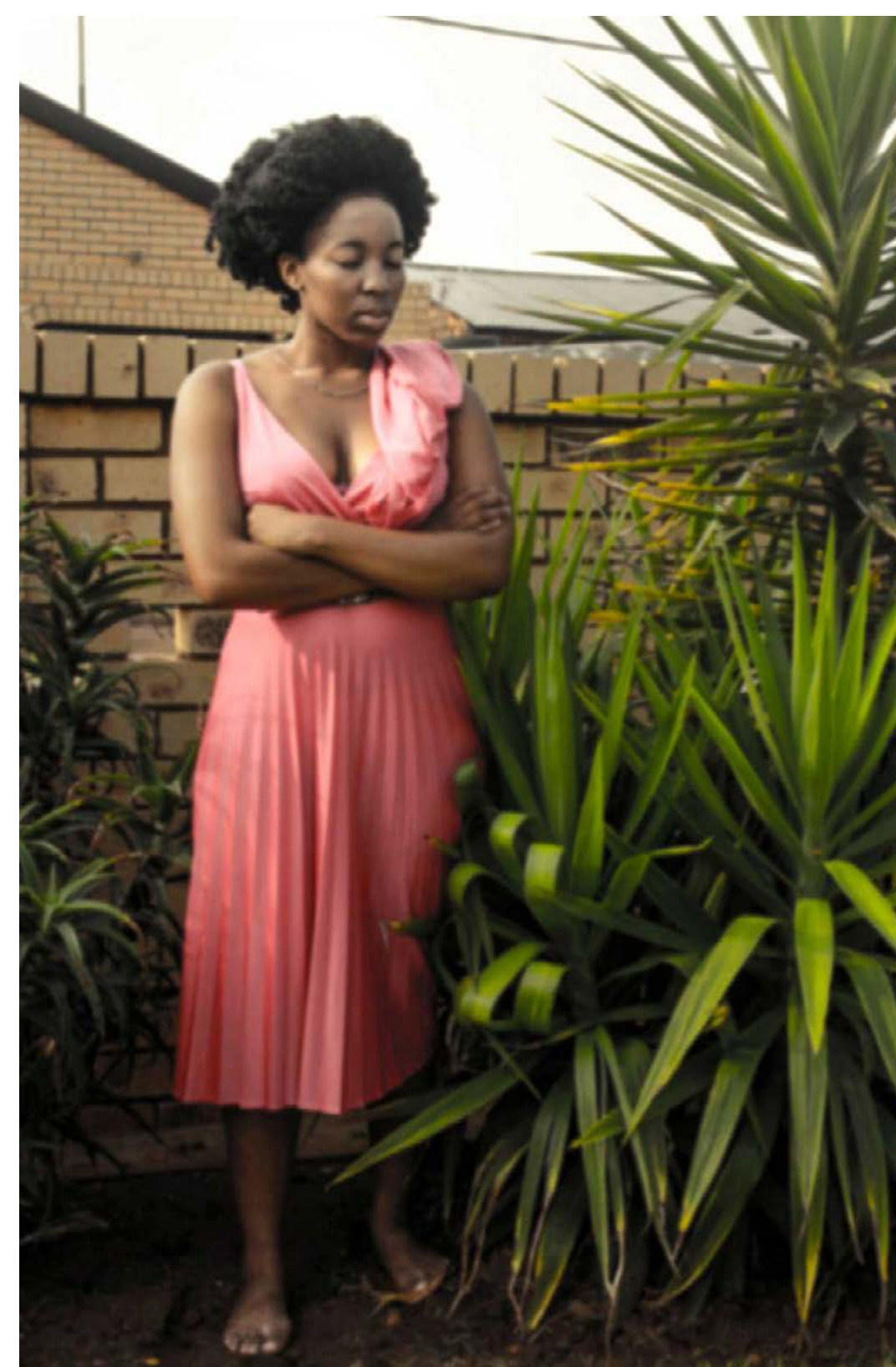
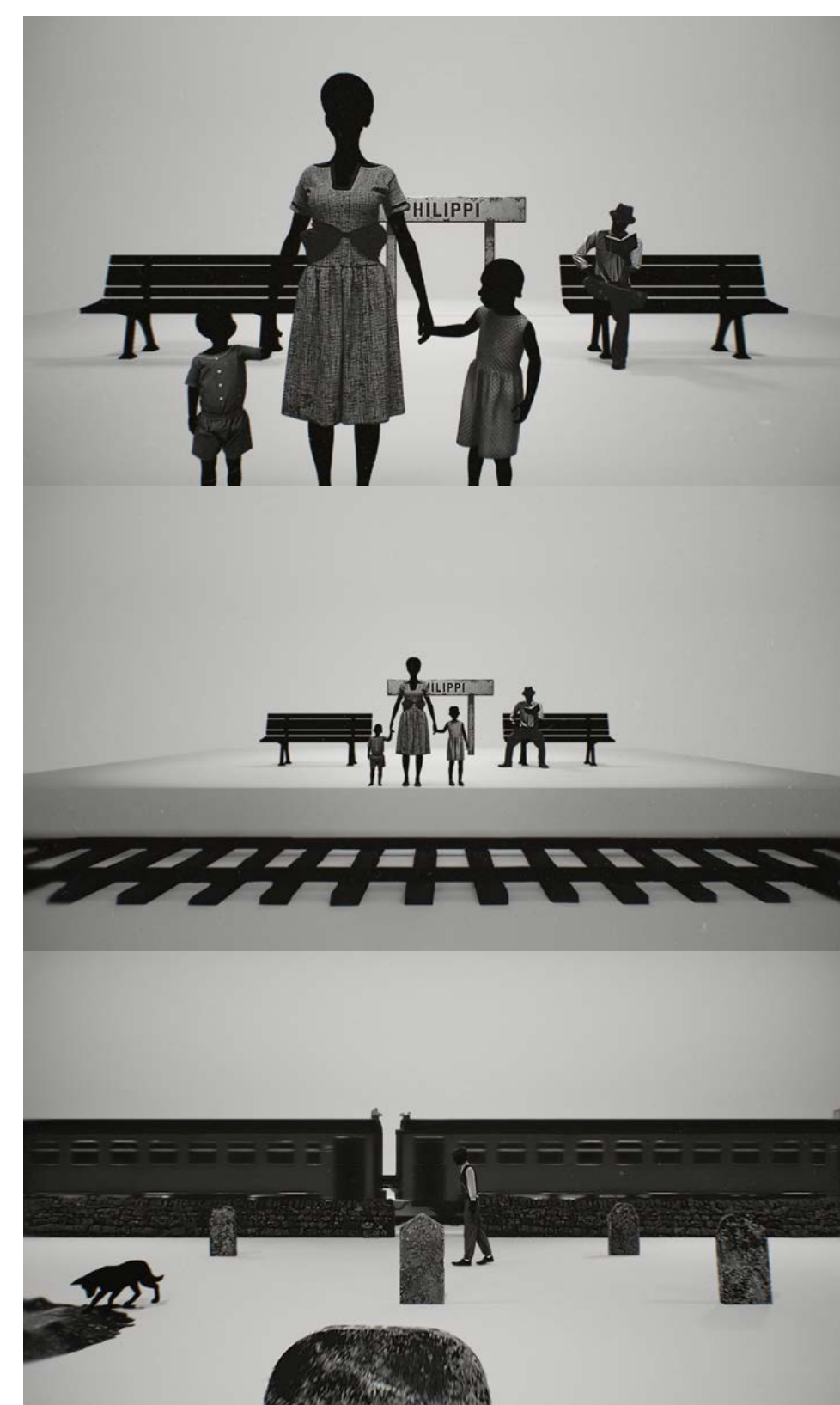
Mmoloki wa mehopolo: Breaking Bread with a Wanderer

– Solo Exhibition –

15 June – 15 October 2023:

Brundyn Arts and Culture, Cape Town, South Africa

Lebohang Kganye's first solo exhibition in Cape Town features a decade's worth of work from five diverse projects. Through photography, family archives, and interdisciplinary approaches, Kganye skillfully explores the materiality of art and the interconnectedness of memory, home, refuge, and identity. In a society marked by division and inequity, Kganye's unwavering determination to foster connections resonates with viewers, inviting them to engage with her profound visual vocabulary and critically examine the porous nature of their own narratives.



On view: *Ke Lefa Laka* (2013), *Tell Tale* (2018), *Shadows of Re-memory* (2021), *Keep The Light Faithfully* (2022) and *Mosebetsi wa Dirithi* (2022 – ongoing)

[About the opening of the exhibition at Brundyn Arts & Culture](#)

[More about the exhibition](#)



On view: *Ke Lefa Laka: Her-Story* (2013)

The Struggle of Memory – Deutsche Bank Collection

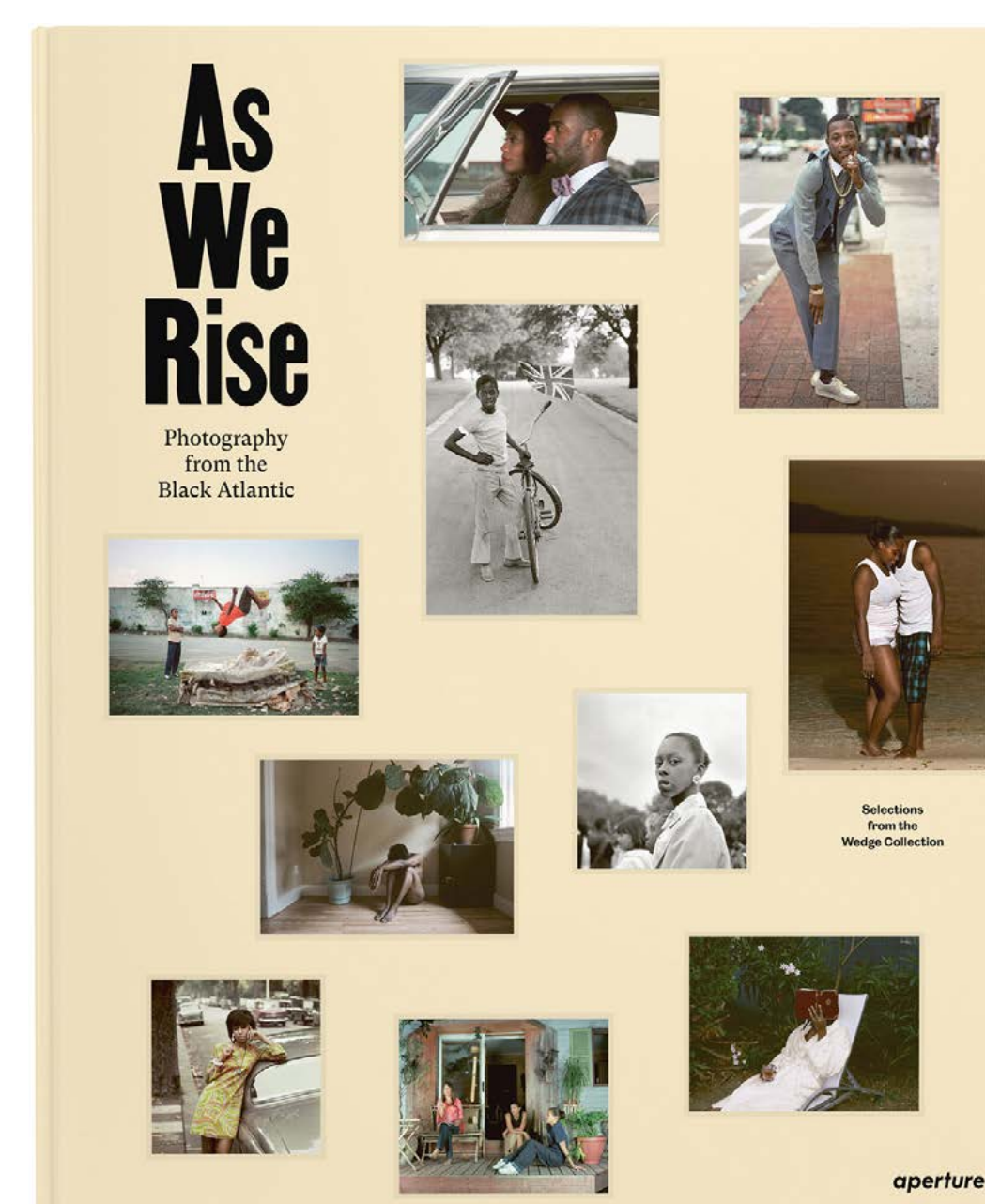
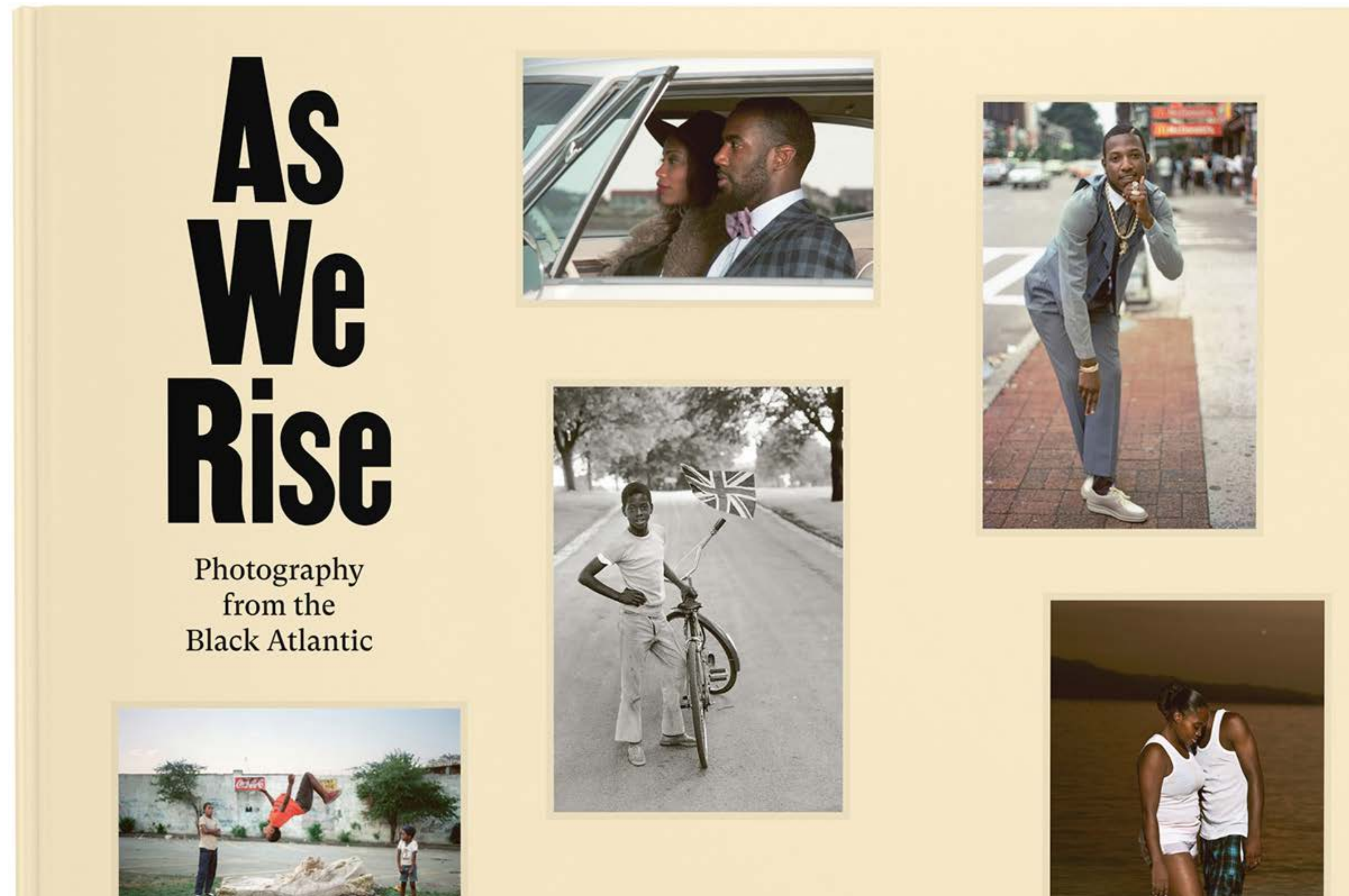
– Group Exhibition –

18 April – 3 October 2023 / 20 October 2023 – 11 March 2024
Palais Populaire, Berlin, Germany

“The first step in liquidating a people ... is to erase its memory. Destroy its books, its culture, its history. Then have somebody write new books, manufacture a new culture, invent a new history. Before long that nation will begin to forget what it is and what it was. The world around it will forget even faster.” — Milan Kundera, *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*, 1980

Societies require continuity and connection with the past and people need to know where they come from to be able to adjust to the circumstances of the present and challenges of the future. One of the consequences of the slave trade and European colonialism in Africa was the devaluing and dismantling of precolonial histories and cultures. Artists shown in this exhibition are taking steps like mining family archives, highlighting individual stories, recuperating lesser-known histories, imagining different power dynamics, and constructing alternative narratives.

[More about the exhibition](#)



As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic

– Group Exhibition –

17 June – 31 December 2023:

Peabody Essex Museum, (fall 2023) Salem, MA, USA

PAST: Art Museum at Museum of Toronto & Polygon Gallery
Vancouver, Canada

Familiarity resides not just in the exhibition collectively, but in the photographs unto themselves. Black subjects are depicted by Black photographers, presented as they wish to be seen. The gaze is mutual and consensual. But the imagery produced is far from uniform. It is as varied, surprising, and heterogeneous as the Black Atlantic itself. Like a family album, it is idiosyncratic.

* The texts in this exhibition are adapted from the book *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic* (Aperture, 2021).

[Peabody Essex Museum](https://www.peabodyessexmuseum.org/)



A World In Common: Contemporary African Photography

– Group Exhibition –

08 July – 10 September 2023:

TATE Modern, London, UK

A World in Common consider the ways contemporary artists have used photography and time-based media to reimagine Africa's cultural and historical narratives. Exploring the dialogue between past and present, the exhibition is addressing the innovative ways contemporary African photography challenges perceptions of history, culture, and identity. Focusing on transhistorical themes, the exhibition draws together diverse perspectives on cultural heritage, spirituality, urbanism, and climate emergency to reveal new artistic imaginaries.

[More about the exhibition](#)



BOOK_SPACES

– Group Exhibition –

06 July 2023 – 14 January 2024:

Museum für Photographie Braunschweig, Germany

The group exhibition *Book_Spaces* presents book projects from different cultural spaces and contexts, that understand the medium as an explicitly participatory and democratic one. The participating artists do not regard the book as a singular object, but rather place it in the museum and urban space with the aid of performative or installative practices. In the interaction of different media such as film, sound, text, sculpture, drawing, and performance with photography their multiple perspectives are made visible.

[More information about the exhibition](#)



Insistent Presence: Contemporary African Art from the Chazen Collection

– Group Exhibition –

05 September – 30 December 2023:
Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, USA

The group exhibition shows works by twenty-four contemporary artists living and working on the African continent and in the diaspora. It comprises new acquisitions made possible by a significant five-year gift from the Straus Family Foundation. *Insistent Presence* examines how artists have reimagined the human figure as a lens to pose questions about social and political histories, contested identities, and the possible future of how we relate to one another. The exhibition title was inspired by renowned African art scholars and curators Okwui Enwezor and Chika Okeke-Agulu.

[More about the exhibition](#)



On view: *Ke Lefa Laka: Her-Story* (2013)

Dancing in the Light, The Wedge Collection

– Group Exhibition –

7 September 2023 – 4 February 2024:
MOCA Toronto, Canada

This exhibition continues MOCA Toronto's ongoing series, *The City is a Collection*, which brings some of Toronto's most engaging private collections to the public. Featuring the work of over 40 artists, *Dancing in the Light* examines portraiture across a variety of mediums as a way of entering into a more nuanced consideration of contemporary Black life. Rethinking moments of stillness and vulnerability as instances of strength, the exhibition works against the flattened and commodified image of Blackness so often experienced within art history and popular visual culture.

Curated and designed by Farida Abu-Bakare and Kate Wong

[More about the exhibition](#)



Mickalene Thomas / Portrait of an Unlikely Space

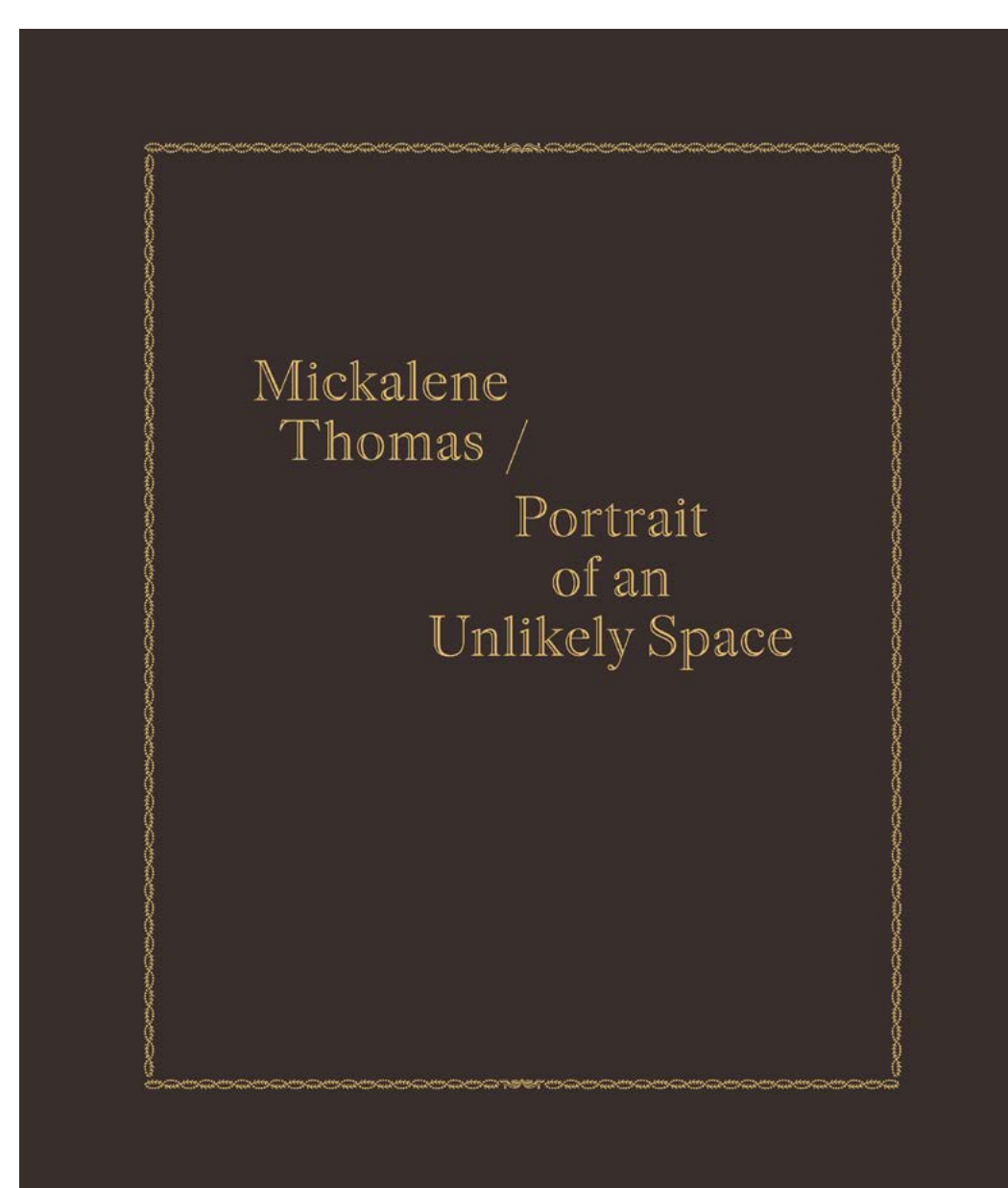
– Group Exhibition –

8 September 2023 – 7 January 2024:

Yale University Art Gallery, USA

Mickalene Thomas / Portrait of an Unlikely Space, the first historical-contemporary exhibition of its kind. As cocurators, the celebrated artist Mickalene Thomas, M.F.A. 2002, and Keely Orge-man, the Gallery's Seymour H. Knox, Jr., Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, bring together a group of small portraits of Black American sitters from the era before the Civil War (1861–65) with drawings, paintings, sculpture, and photographs by Black artists working today on a similarly intimate scale.

The exhibition is accompanied by the catalogue that includes an expansive section of installation photography.





On view: Messages from the Memory Palace (2020)

Rooms with a View. Aby Warburg, Florence and the Laboratory of Images

– Group Exhibition –

19 September – 10 December 2023:

Uffizi Galleries, Florence, Italy

The exhibition, dedicated to the art historian Aby Warburg, stages a three-fold dialogue between his *Mnemosyne Atlas* plates; the works of the permanent collection of the Uffizi Galleries; the interventions of contemporary artists William Kentridge, Lebohang Kganye, Alexander Kluge, Goshka Macuga, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Sissi Daniela Olivieri, and Akram Zaatari. This dialogue invites reflection on the coordinates and paths, past and present, of the Uffizi Gallery itself, at the same time, it demonstrates the topicality of thinking with images enacted by Warburg with his practice of cutting, scaling, and mounting ever-changing constellations: images, he asserts, are migrating, in space and time.

[More about the exhibition](#)



On view: *Mosebetsi wa Dirithi* (2022 – ongoing)

Memory is the Seamstress

– Group Exhibition –

18 September – 3 November 2023:

Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

In Orlando: A Biography, Virginia Woolf proposed textile work as a metaphor for the unpredictable processes of memory, its ability to suture together the disparate fragments of daily life into a narrative fabric that can feel both connected and disjointed.

Showcasing the diversity within textile arts, this exhibition brings together artists using a variety of techniques to translate the photographic into fabric. Mixing the personal with the political, it juxtaposes artists who draw on the family photo album to unpack experiences of displacement and loss, with those who excavate personal and collective archives to interrogate colonial and post-colonial histories of violence and oppression.

[More about the exhibition](#)



On view: *Ke Lefa Laka: Her-Story* (2013)

I Am Not What You See Of Me

– Group Exhibition –

4 October 2023 – 26 January 2024:

La Fondation Francès, Clichy, France

This exhibition focuses on different approaches to the body, feminism and gender and takes up discursive approaches and highlights several expressions of the body and gender negotiated outside the frameworks imposed by heteronormative and heterosexist societies.

Among the artists exhibiting: Marina Abramović, Kader Attia, Romain Bernini, Jonny Briggs, Nina Childress, Tracey Emin, Nina Mae Fowler, Nan Goldin, Oda Jaune, Lebohang Kganye, Phumzile Khanyile, Jakob Lena Knebl, Senzeni Marasela, Roghayeh Najdi, Nazanin Pouyandeh, Valérie Oka, Ashley Hans Scheirl, Amadou Sanogo, Sandy Skoglund, Mircea Suci, Jeanne Vicérial, Bri Williams, Philemona Williamson...

[More about the exhibition](#)

RECENT PRESS, SELECTION

[Times Live SA](#), August 2023

[Reader's Digest](#), July 2023

[Apollo International Art Magazine](#), July 2023

[Artforum](#), July 2023

[LuxuryXclusives](#), July 2023

[Dazed](#), July 2023

[FNB Joburg](#), May 2023

[Kunsten](#), June 2023

[Photoszene](#), May 2023

[Interview by Photoszene](#), May 2023

[ARD Mediatek](#), May 2023

[34th Street](#), May 2023

[The Art Blog](#), June 2023

[Aperture](#), May 2023

[Photograph Mag](#), May 2023

[WDR](#), May 2023

[Harpers Magazine](#), May 2023

[Art News Africa](#), April 2023

[Frieze](#), April 2023

[Elle Decor Italy](#), April 2023

[Art Limited](#), April 2023

[ArtThrob](#), March 2023

[Ebony](#), March 2023

[Art Daily](#), March 2023

[FOAM](#), March 2023

[FRI](#), March 2023

[Il Manifesto](#), February 2023

[Whidewalls](#), February 2023

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

: **Ke Lefa Laka: Heir-story**
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, USA

: **Ke Lefa Laka: Her-story**
Wedge Collection, Toronto, Canada
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, USA
Walther Collection, Ulm, Germany
JP Morgan Chase Art Collection, New York, USA
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA
Margaux and Raphael Blavy Collection, Paris, France
Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, USA
CNAP (Centre National des Artes Plastiques), Paris, France
Getty Museum, LA, USA
Museum of Modern Art Paris, France

: **Reconstruction of a Family**
Chazen Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA
de Bont, LA, USA

: **Ke Sale Teng**
Frac Réunion, Réunion, France
Jean Pigozzi Collection of African Art, Geneva, Switzerland
Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, USA

: **Tell Tale**
JP Morgan Chase Art Collection, New York, USA
Margaux and Raphael Blavy Collection, Paris, France
de Bont, LA, USA

: **Shadows of Re-Memory**
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK