

VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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FALL 2021 EVENTS

USC-LACMA History of Photography Seminar



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

5:30-7pm PST
Zoom Discussion

Black American Portraits

MATTHEW FOX-AMATO

Associate Professor, History, University of Idaho
and

DHYANDRA LAWSON

Assistant Curator, Wallis Annenberg Photography Department, LACMA

Professor Matthew Fox-Amato and Curator Dhyandra Lawson will discuss the exhibit *Black American Portraits*, which accompanies LACMA's presentation of *The Obama Portraits Tour*. Spanning over two centuries from c. 1800 to the present day, this selection of approximately 150 works draws primarily from LACMA's permanent collection and highlights emancipation and early studio photography, scenes from the Harlem Renaissance, portraits from the Civil Rights and Black Power eras, and multiculturalism of the 1990s. *Black American Portraits* chronicles the ways in which Black Americans have used portraiture to envision themselves in their own eyes. Countering a visual culture that often demonizes Blackness and fetishizes the spectacle of Black pain, these images center love, abundance, family, community, and exuberance.

In conjunction with this virtual event, the USC-LACMA History of Photography seminar will host a gallery visit at LACMA on Sunday, November 7 at 11am for a limited number of participants.

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vsri@usc.edu for
more information
or to be added to
our Slack channel.

James Van Der Zee, Atlantic City, 1930, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Gift of Emerald and Harriet Merrill, © James Van Der Zee Estate, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA.

