

## Paul Mpagi Sepuya

1982

Born in San Bernardino, CA  
Lives and works in Los Angeles

### Education:

2016

MFA Photography, University of California, Los Angeles, CA

2004

BFA Photography & Imaging, New York University Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY

### Solo Exhibitions:

2019-20

**Contemporary Art Museum**, St. Louis, MO (forthcoming, May-August 2019, and traveling to Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, TX, October 2019 – March 2020)

2019

**Team Gallery**, New York, NY, *The Conditions*

2018

**Foam Fotografiemuseum**, Amsterdam, NL, *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*  
**KMAC Museum**, Louisville, KY, *Portraits / Positions*

2015

**DOCUMENT**, Chicago, IL, *Figures / Grounds / Studies*

2014

**Platform Centre for Photography**, Winnipeg, MB, Canada, *STUDIO WORK*

2013

**Clough-Hanson Gallery at Rhodes College**, Memphis, TN, *RECENT PICTURES*  
**Artspeak**, Vancouver, BC, Canada, *STUDIO WORK*

2011

**Franklin Art Works**, Minneapolis, MN, *STUDIO WORK*

2010

**NP Contemporary Art Space**, New York, NY, *Portraits / Positions*

2009

**Envoy Enterprises**, New York, NY, *Alexandria*

2007

**Envoy Gallery**, New York, NY, *Beloved Object and Amorous Subject* (with catalogue)

Two and Three Person Exhibitions:

2019

**Team (bungalow)**, Venice, CA, *Sheree Hovsepian and Paul Mpagi Sepuya*

2017

**Sikkema Jenkins & Co.**, New York, NY, *Deana Lawson, Judy Linn and Paul Mpagi Sepuya*

2016

**MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art**, Los Angeles, CA, *storefront: Public Fiction* (curated by Lauren Mackler)

**New Wight Gallery, University of California**, Los Angeles, CA, *MFA Thesis Show #3*

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2019-20

**The Guggenheim Museum**, New York, NY, *Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now* (forthcoming July 2019-January 2020)

2019

**The Getty**, Los Angeles, CA, *Once. Again. Photographs in Series* (forthcoming July-December)

**Ratio 3**, San Francisco, CA, *Character Study* (forthcoming)

**The Whitney Museum of American Art**, New York, NY, *The Whitney Biennial* (organized by Jane Panetta and Rujeko Hockley, with catalogue)

**Contemporary Arts Museum**, Houston, TX, *Stonewall 50* (curated by Dean Daderko)

**Walker Art Center**, Minneapolis, MN, *The Body Electric*

**Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac**, London, UK, *Artists I Steal From* (curated by Alvaro Barrington)

**Halsey McKay Gallery**, East Hampton, NY, *Vanishing Act*

**LX Arts**, New York, NY, *Last Night I Wore A Costume* (curated by Lisa Cooley)

**International Center for Photography**, New York, NY, *Your Mirror: Portraits from the ICP Collection*

**Smart Museum of Art**, Chicago, IL, *Smart to the Core: Embodying the Self*

**Fierman Gallery**, New York, NY, *Circus of Books* (curated by David Fierman and Rachel Mason)

**Baby COMPANY**, New York, NY, *Fire* (curated by Ryan McNamara)

**Gordon Robichaux**, New York, NY, *Siobhan Liddell: Nobody's World*

**Serpentine Galleries**, Kensington Gardens, London, *Grace Wales Bonner*

2018

**Matthew Marks Gallery**, West Hollywood, CA, *Positioner* (curated by Beau Rutland)

**Museum of Contemporary Photography**, Chicago, IL, *Echoes: Reframing Collage*

**Museum of Contemporary Art**, Chicago, IL, *Groundings* (organized by Grace Deveney and Tara Aisha Willis)

**David Zwirner Gallery**, New York, NY, *This is Not a Prop*

**Yossi Milo Gallery**, New York, NY, *Intimacy*

**Stevenson Galleries**, Capetown and Johannesburg, South Africa, *Both, and*

**Museum of Modern Art**, New York, NY, *Being: New Photography 2018*

**ICA Philadelphia**, Philadelphia, PA, *Tag: Proposals on Queer Play and the Way Forward*  
(curated by Nayland Blake)

2017

**The New Museum**, New York, NY, *Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon*

**Westbeth Gallery**, New York, NY, *Discursive Selves*

**Western Exhibitions**, Chicago, IL, *A Sag, Harbored*

**Vamiali's**, Athens, Greece, *Encounters I may or may not have had with Peter Berlin*  
(curated by Caroline May)

**Praz-Delavallade**, Los Angeles, CA, *Over the Rainbow*

**P.P.O.W. Gallery**, New York, NY, *Visual Notes for an Upside-Down World*

**Jack Shainmann Gallery's The School**, Kinderhook, NY, *The Coffins of Paa Joe and the Pursuit of Happiness*

**The Studio Museum in Harlem**, New York, NY, *Regarding the Figure*

**Katonah Museum of Art**, Katonah, NY, *Picturing Love: Photography's Pursuit of Intimacy*

**Callicoon Fine Arts**, New York, NY, *Compassionate Protocols* (curated by Moyra Davey and Jason Simon)

2016

**David Castillo Gallery**, Miami, FL, *Tête-à-tête* (curated by Mickalene Thomas)

**LAXART**, Los Angeles, CA, *Protuberances*

**Ochi Projects**, Los Angeles, CA, *Occupy Space Differently*

**ONE Archive**, Los Angeles, CA, *A Subtle Likeness*

**The Artists' Institute**, New York, NY, *James Baldwin / Jim Brown and the Children*  
(curated by Hilton Als)

**University of Nevada**, Reno, NV, *Jack Pierson: Tomorrow's Man* (curated by Jack Pierson)

**Center for Book Arts**, New York, NY, *Queering the Biblioproject* (curated by John Chaich)

**Glass Curtain Gallery, Columbia College**, Chicago, IL, *Terms of Use : Reproducing the Photographic Image* (curated by Aron Gent)

**MOCA**, Los Angeles, CA, *storefront: Public Fiction*

**University of California**, Los Angeles, CA, *MFA Thesis Show #3*

2015

**Charlie James Gallery**, Los Angeles, CA, *Record. Collect. Compose* (curated by Masood Kamandy with catalogue)

**Houston Foto Fest**, Houston, TX, *I Am a Camera*

**Yancey Richardson Gallery**, New York, NY, *A Room of One's Own*

**Stevenson Gallery**, Cape Town, South Africa, *Nine Artists*

**Paris Photo LA**, Los Angeles, CA, *Introducing! Young California Photographer Award*

**The Studio Museum in Harlem**, New York, NY, *In Profile: Portraits from the Permanent Collection*

2014

**Stevenson Gallery**, Cape Town, South Africa, *Kings County* (with catalogue)

**Foxy Production**, New York, NY, *Spain & 42 St*

**Marianne Boesky Gallery**, New York, NY, *Something Beautiful*

**Interstate Project**, Brooklyn, NY, *Beyond the Pale* (curated by Sam McKinniss with catalogue)

**Dorsky Museum of Art**, SUNY New Paltz, NY, *Race, Love, and Labor* (curated by Sarah Lewis with catalogue)

**Yancey Richardson Gallery**, New York, NY, *The Thing Itself*

**Boston University**, Boston, MA, *Lighting Speed of the Present* (curated by Lynne Cooney)

2013

**QF Gallery**, East Hampton, NY, *Tête-a-Tête* (curated by Mickalene Thomas)  
**The Studio Museum in Harlem**, New York, NY, *Body Language*  
**Weatherspoon Museum of Art**, Greensboro, NC, *The Kids Are All Right*  
**Cantor-Fitzgerald Gallery at Haverford College**, Philadelphia, PA, *White Boys* (curated by Hank Willis Thomas and Natasha Logan with catalogue)

2012

**Kohler Arts Center**, Sheboygan, WI, *The Kids Are All Right*  
**VOGT Gallery**, New York, NY *BENEATH*  
**Andrew Edlin Gallery**, New York, NY, *B-OUT*  
**Center for Photography at Woodstock**, Woodstock, NY, *Surface Tension*

2011

**Mason Gross Galleries at Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ, *Pride & Prejudice Reprise* (curated by LaToya Ruby Frazier)  
**The Studio Museum in Harlem**, New York, NY, *Evidence of Accumulation: Simone Leigh, Kamau Amu Patton, Paul Mpagi Sepuya* (with catalogue)  
**I-20 Gallery**, New York, NY, *Portraits* (curated by Simon Watson)

2010

**Vox Populi**, Philadelphia, PA, *Quadruple-Consciousness* (curated by Malik Gaines with catalogue)  
**Skylight Projects**, New York, NY, *In Translation (Portraiture)* (curated by Joe Sheftel)  
**Exile Berlin**, Berlin, Germany, *Lost Horizon / Head Shop* (curated by Billy Miller)  
**Façade/Fasad**, Brooklyn, NY, *The Accidental Egyptian and Occidental Arrangements*  
**Higher Pictures**, New York, NY, *50 Artists Photograph the Future* (curated by Dean Daderko)  
**Office for Contemporary Art**, Oslo, Norway, *Printed Matter's Queer Zines*

2009

**Union Theological Seminary**, New York, NY, *Compassion* (curated by AA Bronson)  
**The Studio Museum in Harlem**, New York, NY, *30 Seconds Off an Inch*  
**Space 414**, Brooklyn, NY, *Buddy List*  
**Overgaden Institut for Samtidskunst**, Copenhagen, Denmark, *Lyst*  
**PHIL**, Los Angeles, CA, *Inside of Me*  
**Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions**, Los Angeles, CA, *My Bloody Valentine* (curated by Darin Klein)

2008

**Center for Book Arts**, New York, NY, *Artist as Publisher*  
**Deichtershallen Hamburg**, Hamburg, Germany, *LEADAWARDS*  
**White Columns**, New York, NY, *Male: photographs, drawings, paintings and ephemera from the collection of Vince Aletti* (book)

2007

**Australian Centre for Photography**, Sydney and Neon Parc Galery, Melbourne, Australia, *Come Join The Brotherhood*  
**The powerHouse Arena**, Brooklyn, New York, NY, *The Male Gaze*

2006

**Daniel Reich Gallery**, New York, NY, *When Fathers Fail*

**Stefan Stux Gallery**, New York, NY, *Six Degrees of Separation*  
**Artist Space**, New York, NY, *When Artists Say 'We'* (curated by Andrea Geyer)

2005

**Westport Art Center**, Westport, CT, *Face & Figure: Portrait and Figure Study in Contemporary Photography* (curated by Daniel Cooney)

Selected Bibliography:

2019

Scott, Andrea K., "Paul Mpagi Sepuya Mines the Queer History of the Portrait Studio," **The New Yorker**, March 29 (with illustrations).

Schwendener, Martha, "Review: Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **The New York Times**, p. C17 (with illustration).

Velasco, David, "Project: Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **Artforum**, cover, pp. 172-183 (with illustration.)

2018

Schwabsky, Barry, "Without Warning: Margins and the Mainstream at the New Museum's 'Trigger,'" **The Nation**, January 26.

Norman, Lee Ann, "Intimate Moves In A Dark Room, Paul Mpagi Sepuya at Document," *Newcity Art*, April 19.

Goldberg, Ariel, "In The Room," **Art In America**, April.

Allegretto, Dan, "We All Wear The Mask : New Photography at the Museum of Modern Art," **Art In America**, April.

Wheeler, André-Naquian, "MoMA's 'New Photography' Series Asks What It Means to be Human," **i-D**, March 27.

Indrisek, Scott, "At MoMA, Photography Doesn't Have to Reinvent Itself to be Radical," **Art.sy**, March 20.

"Five Questions with Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **Cultured**, March 20.

Woodward, Richard B., "MoMA's Human Focus," **The Wall Street Journal**, March 14.

Jones, Gregory Eddi, "Picture, Paper, Friend and Flesh: An Interview with Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **The In-Between**, March.

Lubow, Authur, "What's New in Photography? Humanism, MoMA Says," **The New York Times**, March 9.

2017

Schwabsky, Barry, "Playing with Mirrors: Two artists push the limits of what cameras can do.," **The Nation**, May 2.

Dafoe, Taylor, "Paul Mpagi Sepuya at Yancey Richardson Gallery," **Blouin ArtInfo / Modern Painters**, March.

Bourland, Ian, "Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **Artforum Critic's Pick**, March.

Griffith, Phillip, "Paul Mpagi Sepuya: Figures, Grounds and Studies," **The Brooklyn Rail**, March 1.

Small, Zachary, "The Solitude and Sensuality of an Artist's Studio," **Hyperallergic**, February 20.

Rachel, T. Cole, "Paul Sepuya On Finding Your Form," **The Creative Independent**, February 9.

Yau, John, "Three Photographers and What They Show Us About Everyday Life: Deana Lawson, Judy Linn, Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **Hyperallergic**, February 12.

"Goings On About Town: Deana Lawson, Judy Linn and Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **The New Yorker**, February 1.

Onyewuenyi, Ikechukwu Casmir, "Paul Mpagi Sepuya at team (bungalow)," **Contemporary Art Review Los Angeles**.

Pieterston, Mark, "The sinuous nature of desire + alternative ways of seeing with Paul Mpagi Sepuya's photographic explorations of queer presence," **AQNB**, October.

Cunningham, Vinson, "How Radical Can A Portrait Be?," **The New Yorker**, May 5.

Pofalla, Boris, "Zeigen und Verbergen," **Monopol Magazine**, October.

2016

Als, Hilton, "James Baldwin / Jim Brown and the Children," **The Artists Institute**.

Garcia, Lindsay, "The Autonomous Limbs of Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **Tiger Strikes Asteroid**.

Malick, Courtney, "From the Singular to the Indexical in Contemporary Portraiture," **SFAQ San Francisco Art Quarterly**.

Cole, Teju, "At home in Brooklyn."

2015

Reznik, Eugene, "Enter the Private World of Photographers' Studios," **American Photo Magazine**, August 13.

"Goings On About Town: A Room of One's Own," **The New Yorker**, August 8.

"Goings On About Town: Spain & 42 St.," **The New Yorker**, January 6.

2014

Russeth, Andrew, "To Bushwick! Shows to See Right Now...," **ARTnews**, October 30.

Scheffler, Daniel, "Brooklyn Inspires African Artists," **The New York Times**, October 14.

"Goings on About Town: The Thing Itself," **The New Yorker**, August 19.

Howe, David Everett "The Expanded Photograph," **Art Review**, May.

2013

Fialho, Alex "Nuggets of Queerness: Year 3 of the Fire Island Artist Residency," **ARTFCITY**, August 29.

Koestenbaum, Wayne "Eric's Stubble," **My 1980s and Other Essays**. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 216 - 222.

Benderson, Bruce "Petits Portraits Entre Amis," **Têtu**, March.

2012

Akel, Joseph "500 Words: Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **Artforum**, May 15.

2011

Lopes, Fabiana "Review: Portraits, at I-20 Gallery," **Flash Art International**, October.

Haynes, Lauren and AA Bronson "Evidence of Accumulation," The Studio Museum in Harlem, **Exhibition catalogue**, illus.

2010

Aletti, Vince "Goings On About Town: 50 Artists Photograph the Future," **The New Yorker**, June 10.

Cotter, Holland, "Art in Review - 50 Artists Photograph the Future," **The New York Times**, May 28.

2009

Cotter, Holland, "In Books and Fine Arts, Filling the Down Time of New Year's," **The New York Times**, December 31.

Cotter, Holland, "All the Books You'll Never Catch on a Kindle," **The New York Times**, October 2.

Forteza, Pepo Moreno, "Paul Mpagi Sepuya: Natural Light Portrait," **REVISTA METAL**, April 15.

Ryzik, Melena, "At a Clinic, Artists Reflecting on Home," **The New York Times Art & Design**, May 10.

Blagojevic, Bosko, "Paul Sepuya's 'Alexandria' at envoy," **ArtCat**, February 10.

Gartenfeld, Alex, "Jack Pierson interviews Paul Sepuya," **Interview**, January 30.

Courtney, Kenneth, "Alexandria," **This.Hearts.On.Fire**, January 5.

2008

Bronson, AA, "Queer Zines", **catalogue**, 2008

Velasco, David, "ARTFORUM 500 WORDS: AA Bronson," **Artforum**, October 23.

Limnander, Armand "Fine Print: Beloved Object and Amorous Subject, Revisited," **The New York Times T Style Magazine**, April 4.

Mancini, Umberto, "La fotografia americana," **Il Terzo Occhio**, January 28.

2007

Packum, Monte, "Clean Sheets: Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **SLEEK** magazine, Autumn.

Trebay, Guy, "Gay Art: A Movement, or at Least a Moment", **The New York Times**, May 6.

2006

van Benekom, Jop and Jonkers, Gert, **BUTT BOOK**.

Polly, John, "Art Zines Rule! Part One," **LOGO New Now Next Blog**. September 20.

Tierney, Paul, "Zine Scene," **V Man issue 7**. September, pp. 84, illus.

Klein, Darin, "Thing: New Penis Art from America."

Weskott, Aljoscha, "Designing Men- Shoot", **de:bug**, July – August, pp. 49, illus.

"Weniger ist mehr: Paul Sepuya besticht mit eindrucksvollen Portraits," **GAB-Frankfurt Magazin**, April, illus.

"He SHOOTs, He Scores," by David White, **INSTINCT**, March, illus.

"Slide Slam" by Allen Frame, **Teaching Photo**, February, illus.

"Boys", **BUTT**, issue 15.

2005

"Canadian Professor in New York gets hyper-realistic portrait taken by young photographer," **BUTT**, issue 14 October, pp. 65-67, illus.

"Paul Mpagi Sepuya," **EYEMAZING** 08, pp. 84 – 91, illus.

#### Awards and Residences:

2018

Artist-in-Residence, Lightwork

2017

Rema Hort Mann Foundation Grant for Emerging Los Angeles Artists

2015

Finalist, Paris Photo Los Angeles inaugural *Introducing!* Young California Photographer Award

2014

Jackman Goldwasser Artist-in-Residence, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago

2013

Artist-in-Residence, Fire Island Artist Residency (Sikkema Fellow Award)

2010-2011

Artist-in-Residence, Studio Museum in Harlem

2010

Artist-in-Residence, Center for Photography at Woodstock, NY

2009-2010

Artist-in-Residence, Workspace, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council  
Visiting Artist, New York University

2009

HomeBase, New York

2008

LEAD Academy, Hamburg

Public Collections:

**The Birmingham Museum of Art**, Birmingham, AL

**The Carnegie Museum of Art**, Pittsburgh, PA

**The Center for Photography at Woodstock Collection at SUNY**, New Paltz, NY

**The Cleveland Museum of Art**, Cleveland, OH

**The Columbus Museum of Art**, Columbus, OH

**The Getty**, Los Angeles, CA

**The Guggenheim Museum**, New York, NY

**The International Center for Photography**, New York, NY

**The Irish Museum of Modern Art**, Dublin, Ireland

**The JP Morgan Collection**, New York, NY

**The Leslie Lohman Museum of Art**, New York, NY

**The Los Angeles County Museum of Art**, Los Angeles, CA

**The Mead Art Museum**, Amherst, MA

**The Milwaukee Art Museum**, Milwaukee, WI

**The Museum of Contemporary Art**, Chicago, IL

**The Museum of Contemporary Art**, Los Angeles, CA

**The Museum of Contemporary Photography**, Chicago IL

**The Museum of Fine Arts Houston**, Houston, TX

**The Museum of Modern Art**, New York, NY

**The Museum of Modern Art Library Collection**, New York, NY

**The Palm Springs Art Museum**, Palm Desert, CA

**The Smart Museum**, Chicago, IL

**Smith College**, Northampton, MA

**The Studio Museum in Harlem**, New York, NY

**The Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery**, Saratoga Springs, NY

**The University of New Mexico**, La Cruces, NM

**The Whitney Museum of American Art**, New York, NY