

# LYONS WIER GALLERY

542 W. 24th Street • New York, NY • 10011

## FAHAMU PECOU



*BlackBoy*

2020, Acrylic on canvas  
66 x 54 in / 168 x 137 cm

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## FAHAMU PECOU



*Black Skin White Masks*  
2020, Acrylic on canvas  
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm

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*Mules and Men*  
2020, Acrylic on canvas  
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm

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## FAHAMU PECOU

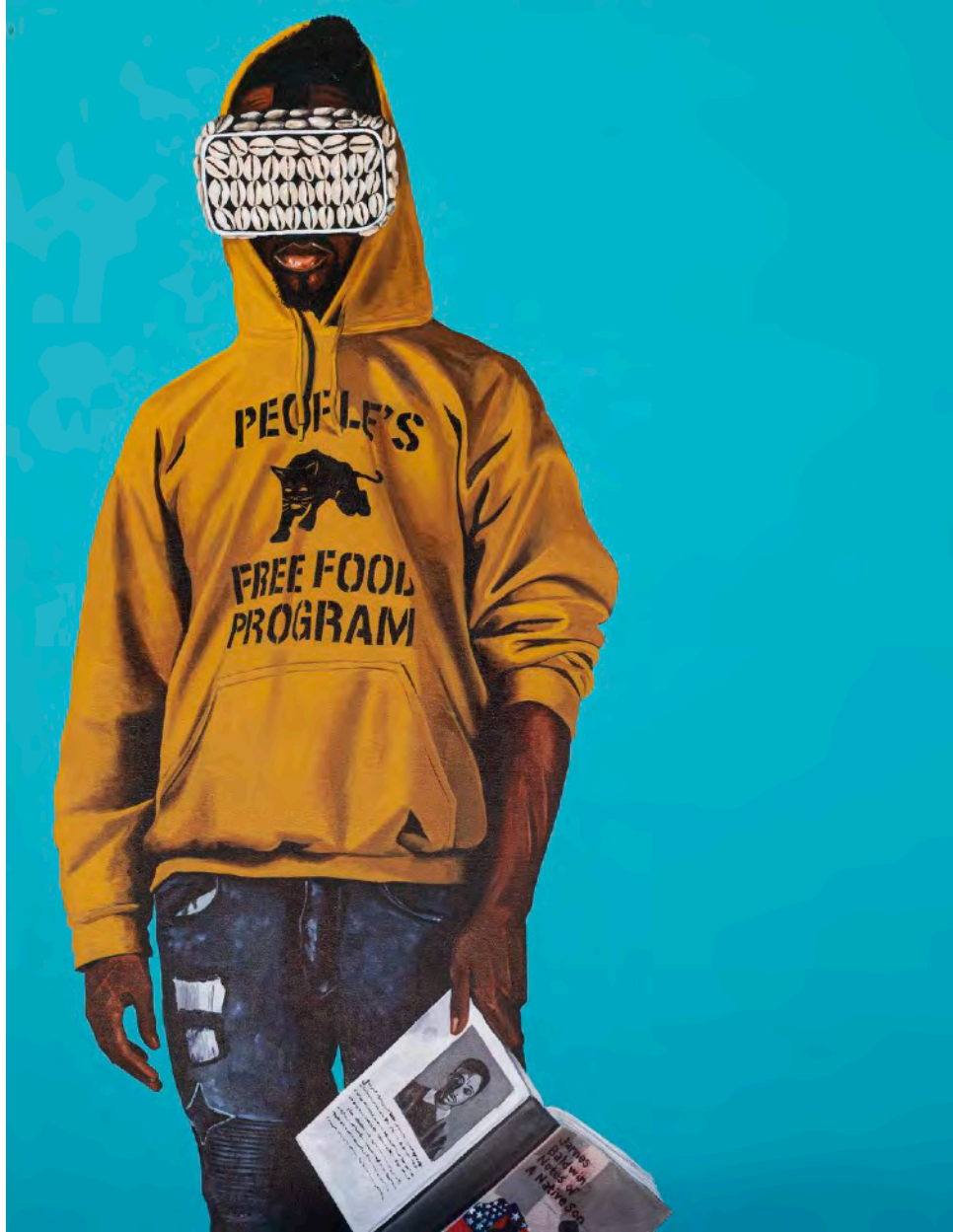


*Things Fall Apart*  
2020, Acrylic on canvas  
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm

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## FAHAMU PECOU



*Notes of a Native Son*  
2020, Acrylic on canvas  
48 x 36 in / 122 x 91 cm

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## FAHAMU PECOU



*The Spook Who Sat by the Door*

2020, Acrylic on canvas

48 x 30 in / 122 x 76 cm

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## FAHAMU PECOU



*Heavy*

2020, Acrylic on canvas  
40 x 20 in / 102 x 71 cm

[www.LyonsWierGallery.com](http://www.LyonsWierGallery.com)

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## FAHAMU PECOU

[New York] Lyons Wier Gallery is pleased to present “**Trapademia II: LIT**,” a new exhibition of paintings by **Fahamu Pecou**.

With this exhibition, Pecou weaves together two concepts--Trapademia™ and notions of light-based performance found in contemporary African diasporic practice--that reframe contemporary Black culture. In 2017, He began developing Trapademia™, a concept which he believes more broadly defines the phenomenon now known as “trap.” Thanks to the popularity of trap music - a sub-genre of hip-hop music emerging from southern states - trapping has become synonymous with drug dealing and drug usage. Atlanta’s Trap Museum enshrines aspects of trap/drug culture and is a wildly popular destination for rap fans and social media junkies. However, the drug economy, so often referenced in trap music, is but one small aspect of the broader functions of what he calls ‘trap ideology’.

Trapademia™ considers trap as a technology where various social, cultural, racial, sexual, economic, and political oppressions become remedied through innovative and inventive social practices. Trapping refers to the collaborative survival strategies and coping mechanisms that develop when people are denied full access to resources. By advancing pioneering principles and often unremarked genius that emerge within marginalized communities, Trapademia™ elevates the liminal spaces of cultural knowledge and understanding, spaces often overlooked or misinterpreted by the mainstream.

Pecou continues to explore Trapademia™ via an artistic exploration of trap idioms and mannerisms, those spoken as well as performed. His latest installment, “**Trapademia II: LIT**,” a triple entendre referring to the euphemism “lit” meaning aroused or excited as well as an abbreviation for literature. “LIT” juxtaposes trap bodies with critically acclaimed literary works by Black scholars and writers including Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, and Frantz Fanon. The works challenge us to not judge a book by its cover. This noble liberty is rarely given to Black men who are often prejudged based on their appearance and social circumstances of communities in which they reside. As a result, we fail to see the genius in their potential or even in their creative expression. “LIT” allows us to look upon these trap bodies with new eyes and encourages a surprising dialogue.

“LIT” also refers to light or illumination. In *Shine: The Visual Economy of Light in African Diasporic Practices*, art historian Krista Thompson argues that in the 19th and early 20th century, print media produced by Black intellectuals and political leaders helped to shape the way the African diaspora both saw and thought of itself. She goes on to explain that visual technologies such as cell phone cameras, video lighting, and other bright and reflective surfaces offer new and distinct performances of Blackness articulated through visual mediums. The manipulation of light allows subjects to subvert the white gaze by manipulating one’s own visibility. In this way, Black people dictate not only what gets seen, but also when that seeing might occur.

As detailed in Thompson’s text, Pecou plays with light and refraction, remaking his subjects visible and valuable - a counter-narrative to the mainstream, which often presents these bodies as flawed or troubled. Pecou’s paintings utilize flat, bold, near-neon color fields. Track pants and sagging jeans hang low on the figure’s waist, carefully color-coordinated with the background palette. All of these elements contrast sharply with the figure’s dark brown skin, rendered shiny and reflective creating an arresting display of tones and textures.

“Trapademia II: LIT” enhances the inherent brilliance of Black masculinity. Rather than re-articulating Black male bodies to conventional standards of beauty and acceptance, Pecou present these bodies as they are and invite the audience to look upon them with new eyes.

*Dr. Fahamu Pecou was the subject of a retrospective titled “Miroirs de l’Homme” at Société Générale in Paris in 2017. He has been featured in several solo and group museum exhibitions in the US and abroad. Museum shows include: “Do or Die: Affect, Ritual, Resistance” traveling exhibition organized by the Halsey Museum of Art, Charleston, SC, “Reclamation! Pan-African Works from the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection,” “Imagining New*



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## FAHAMU PECOU

*Worlds," High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA., "State of the Art" Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR., "GRAV-I-TY," at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MOCAGA), "Southern Accent: Seeking the South in Contemporary Art," Nasher Museum of Art Duke University, Durham, NC., Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA, the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA), Brooklyn, NY, the Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum, Amistad Center, Hartford, CT, and Austin Museum of Art, Austin, TX. just to name a few.*

*Pecou's work has been reviewed in numerous publications such as Art in America, Los Angeles Times, Harper's Magazine, Ebony, NY Arts Magazine, among others. Pecou was honored in 2018 with the NBAF Fine Art + Fashion Visual Artist Award and is a recipient of the 2016 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Award and Artadia Award (2009), the first ever Artist in Resident for the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts & Culture Resident at the McColl Center for Visual Art in Charlotte, NC (2010) and a winner of the 2012 West Collection Prize.*

*Fahamu Pecou's work is featured in noted private and public collections including the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C., the Nasher Museum at Duke University, The High Museum of Art, Paul R. Jones Collection, Clark Atlanta University Art Collection, The Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia, The West Collection and Société Générale, Paris, France, among many others. Pecou received his Ph.D. degree at the Institute of Liberal Arts (ILA) at Emory University in 2018. The artist lives and works in Atlanta, GA*

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## FAHAMU PECOU

b. 1975, Brooklyn, New York. Lives in Atlanta, GA.

### EDUCATION

- 2018 PhD, Institute of Liberal Arts, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 2017 MA, Institute of Liberal Arts, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 1997 BFA, Painting & Digital Art, Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, GA
- 1996 Independent Study / Painting, Spellman College, Atlanta, GA

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Trapademia II: LIT, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
I-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Marrakesh, Morocco
- 2019 MEMORY, Weeksville Cultural Center, Brooklyn, NY  
Of Crowns & Kings, Backslash Gallery, Paris, France  
Trapademia, Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
REAL NEGUS DONT DIE, EYP/Gallery 100, Atlanta, GA
- 2018 M E M O R Y, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017 Miroirs de l'Homme - Fahamu Pecou: A Retrospective, Société Générale, Paris, France  
Black Magic, Backslash Gallery, Paris, France  
Music as a Weapon, Seattle Art Fair, Backslash Gallery, France  
The People Could Fly, Conduit Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2016 Re-Membering, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX  
#BLACKMATTERLIVES, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
Do or Die, Halsey Museum of Art, Charleston, SC  
Talking Drum, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA
- 2015 Imagining New Worlds, (with Alfredo Lam) High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
I Know Why The Caged Bird Blings, Backslash Gallery, Paris, France
- 2014 GRAV-I-TY, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, GA  
Pursuit of Happiness, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
WORD.SOUND.POWER, The Arts Company, Nashville, TN
- 2013 NEGUS IN PARIS, Backslash Gallery, Paris, France  
All Dat Glitters Aint Goals, BlueOrange Gallery, Houston, TX  
How to Eat Watermelon, Conduit Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2012 Native Sun: Selected Works 2008-2012, Sumter County Gallery of Art, Sumter, SC  
All Dat Glitters Ain't Goals, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
Sophisticated Ignorance, Allen Priebe Gallery, University of Wisconsin, Osh Kosh, WI
- 2011 Sophisticated Ignorance, Mason Murer Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
Hard 2 Death, Backslash Gallery, Paris France  
Art History neXt, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
Second Childhood, Conduit Gallery, Dallas, TX  
Fahamu Pecou, Rowan University Art Gallery, Glassboro, NJ
- 2010 Whirl Trade, The Shooting Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
ALL FALLS DOWN, Get This! Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
ALL FALLS DOWN, Grambling State University, Grambling, LA
- 2009 Blak Presidential, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
INSTANT ART HISTORY IMMEDIATELY: The Fak'try, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
Blak Presidential, Volta 5, Basel, Switzerland - Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
Whirl Trade, Get This! Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
Coming From Where I'm From, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

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## FAHAMU PECOU

- 2008 FAHAMENON:VIP, NEXT Chicago, Chicago, IL – Lyons Wier Gallery, New York  
Something Like a FAHAMENON, Vaknin Gallery, Atlanta GA  
Sitting By The Front Door, MM Galleries, San Francisco, CA  
Stunt'd Like My Daddy, Conduit Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2007 Million Dolla Baby, Lyons Wier Ortt, New York, NY  
Hustle & Show, Flanders Gallery, Raleigh, NC  
Things Done Changed, Vaknin, Atlanta, GA
- 2006 NEOPOP and Circumstance, Conduit Gallery, Dallas, TX  
NEOPOPular Demand, Michael Martin Galleries, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 NEOPOP Goes the World, Ty Stokes Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2004 Sacred Spaces, Wood is Wonderful Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2001 Bible Stories, The Gilbert House, Atlanta, GA
- 1996 Life After Death, Gallery 100, Atlanta, GA

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Fashion-Conscious*, Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art, CA
- 2018 *Reclamation! Pan-African Works from the Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection*, Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA  
*RESPECT: Hip-Hop Style & Wisdom*, Oakland Museum of California, (OMCA), Oakland, CA  
*Pop Stars! Popular Culture and Contemporary Art*, 21c Museum Hotel, Louisville, KY (traveling exhibition)  
*The Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art from the Univ. of Alabama*, MocaGA, Atlanta, GA
- 2017 *Luminance*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
*Black Art Matters*, Carnegie Center for Art and History, New Albany, IN  
*High John the Conqueror*, curated by Danny Simmons and Shantrelle P. Lewis, Rush Arts Foundation, Philadelphia, PA  
*Art Miami*, Lyons Wier Gallery (New York), Miami, FL
- 2016 *Southern Accent: Seeking the South in Contemporary Art*, Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, NC  
*REMIX: Themes and Variations in African-American Art*, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC
- 2015 *Pulse Miami*, Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL  
*BLACK MATTERS: 12 African American Male Artists* curated by Cheryl R. Riley, Artspace.com  
*MayFair* Exhibition, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
*A Corps Perdu #2: Commissariat*: Marc Donnadieu, Galerie Gourvennec, Marseille, France
- 2014 *State of The Art: Discovering American Art Now*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR  
*Summer Session*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
*Downtown Art Fair*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
*Art Paris*, Backslach Gallery, Grand Palais, Paris, France  
*MIA in MIA*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013 *A Corps Perdu (Lost Bodies)*, Backslach Gallery, Paris, France  
*Drawing Inside the Perimeter*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
*Aqua Miami*, Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL  
*The Miami Project*, Conduit Gallery, Miami, FL  
*Art Miami*, Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL  
*Pulse Miami*, Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2012 *Resourced*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
*Recent Acquisitions*, Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, NC  
*Dallas Art Fair*, Lyons Wier Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2011 *Pulse Miami*, Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL  
*Dallas Art Fair*, Lyons Wier Gallery, Dallas, TX  
*24/7*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
*LIVE AND IN STEREO(TYPE)*, Fahamu Pecou & Marcia Jones, Harvey B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC  
*Here and Now*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY

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- 2010 Pulse Miami, Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL  
The Reflected Gaze, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA  
Backslash Presents... Backslash Gallery, Paris, France
- 2009 Pulse Miami, Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami, FL  
Endless Summer Exhibition, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 Group Show, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
I Am a Man, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn, NY  
Bare Walls, No Boundaries, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum, Hartford, CT  
Spectrumed, Flanders Gallery, curated by Fahamu Pecou, Raleigh, NC  
Modern Art. Modern Lives. Then + Now, Austin Museum of Art, Austin, TX
- 2007 Taking Possession, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AK  
Pulse Art Fair, Miami, FL and New York, NY  
Swab International Art Fair, Barcelona, Spain  
Kindred Spirits; Arturo Lindsay & Fahamu Pecou, Blackburn Museum, Georgia  
College and State University, Milledgeville, GA
- 2006 What's Goin Down, Taller Portobelo, Portobelo, Panama
- 2005 Selections, Ty Stokes Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
Pool Art Fair, Solita Hotel, New York NY  
Altars: Encuentra Cultural, Taller Portobelo, Panama
- 2005 Arts, Beats & Lyrics, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2003 Ferias de Portobelo, Las Orquedias, Portobelo, Panama
- 2002 The Delphina Project (performance), Spellman College, Atlanta, GA
- 2001 Santuario de los Reyes, Festival Iberoamericana de Teatro de Cadiz  
Baluarte de Candelaria, Cadiz, Spain
- 1997 Precise Significance, Hammonds House Galleries, Atlanta, GA

### CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015 MASK-ularity, Zuckermann Museum, Kennesaw, GA
- 2011 Home: An Emerging Artist Exhibit, City Gallery at Chastain, Atlanta, GA
- 2007 Spectrumed, Flanders Gallery, Raleigh, NC

### SELECTED TALKS / PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2017 The American Society for Aesthetics, New Orleans, LA  
Visible Man: Re-Membering Black Male Identity, Emory University Alumni Association, Paris France  
interSessions: The Art X Hip-Hop Dialogues f/ Negarra Kudumu and Frank William Miller Jr, Seattle, WA
- 2016 Kentucky College of Art and Design, Louisville, KY  
Princeton University Center for African American Studies, Princeton, NJ  
University of Texas Corpus Christie, Corpus Christie, TX  
interSessions: The Art X Hip-Hop Dialogues featuring Killer Mike and Dr. Arturo Lindsay, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC  
Basquiat Still Fly @55, "Feeling Gray: Music, Art, And Being the Only One in the Room", New York University, New York, NY  
Behind the Canvas, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC
- 2015 Black Portraiture{s} II: Imaging the Black Body and Re-Staging Histories, "Habitual Line Steppers", Florence, Italy  
Meet the Maker, Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC  
The 15 Project, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
interSessions: The Art X Hip-Hop Dialogues, Museum for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA
- 2014 interSessions: The Art X Hip-Hop Dialogues, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
interSessions: The Art X Hip-Hop Dialogues, Burnaway, Atlanta, GA  
The Bruce Crane Show featuring Fahamu Pecou, The Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA

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- 2013 SoundVision Miami, Lyons Wier Gallery, Miami FL  
All Dat Glitters Aint Goals, A3C Festival, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 The 15 Project, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden  
Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA  
Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA  
University of Wisconsin, Osh Kosh, Kennesaw State University
- 2011 The 15 Project, Southwest Arts Center, Atlanta, GA  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL  
Harvey B Gantt Center for African American Art and Culture, Charlotte, NC  
Passage of Right, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA
- 2010 The 15 Project, Atlanta, Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA  
The 15 Project, Harvey B Gantt Center for African American Art & Culture, Charlotte, NC  
The 15 Project, McColl Center, Charlotte, NC  
Passage of Right, McColl Center, Charlotte, NC  
Passage of Right, Hammonds House Museum, Atlanta, GA  
Passage of Right, Get This! Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
The Champ is Here, San Francisco, CA  
Bust A Move, Charlotte, NC  
Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries, Atlanta, GA  
Grambling State University, Grambling, LA
- 2009 SCAD Atlanta, Atlanta, GA  
Executive Order, Volta 5, Basel, Switzerland  
Inaugural Ball, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY  
University of Delaware, Newark, DE  
Fort Worth Museum of Modern Art, Fort Worth, TX  
Visual Arts Network of South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa  
The 15 Project, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA
- 2008 University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL  
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston MA  
The 15 Project, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA  
"VIP Lounge", NEXT Art Fair, Chicago, IL
- 2007 "The Kenny Burns Show featuring Fahamu Pecou", Vaknin Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
"Entourage", Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
- 2006 "Fan Club", MM Galleries, San Francisco, CA  
"Art Star", Conduit Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2005 "Red Carpet", Ty Stokes Gallery, Atlanta, GA

### ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

- 2015 Gravity: Oppositional Fashion & the politics of sagging, Black Portraiture(s) II: Imaging the Black Body & Re-Staging Histories, Florence, Italy
- 2013 Men of Still (Stuporman): Regressive Aesthetics in Contemporary Hip-Hop Culture, Critical Juncture Conference, Emory University

### CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015 RiTES, Zuckermann Museum, Kennesaw, GA
- 2011 Home: An Emerging Artist Exhibit, City Gallery at Chastain, Atlanta GA
- 2007 Spectrumed, Flanders Gallery, Raleigh N.C.

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## FAHAMU PECOU

### AWARDS

- 2016 Joan A. Mitchell Foundation, Painters and Sculptors Award
- 2015 Robert A. Paul Award, Emory University
- 2013 Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences, Nellie Mae Rowe Fellowship  
Working Artist Fellowship, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia
- 2012 West Collects Prize, West Collection
- 2011 NBAF Impressions Emerging Artist Award
- 2009 Artadia Award, Atlanta, GA
- 2008 Caversham Fellowship, Fulton County Arts Council, Atlanta, GA

### RESIDENCIES

- 2020 Artist in Residence, Motresso Art Foundation, Marrakesh, Morocco
- 2014 Guest Editor, Art Papers Magazine "Art x Hip-Hop"
- 2013 Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences, Nellie Mae Rowe Fellowship  
Working Artist Fellowship, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MocaGA)
- 2011 Rising Sons Lounge, Atlanta, GA
- 2010 Harvey B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC  
McColl Center for the Visual Arts, Charlotte, NC
- 2008 The Caversham Center, Printmaking, Balgowan, South Africa
- 2004 Taller Portobelo, Portobelo, Panama (four year residency)

### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- 21c Museum Hotels, Louisville, KY
- Clark Atlanta University Collections, Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA
- Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
- Fulton County Arts Council, Atlanta, GA
- Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia, Atlanta
- Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC
- Paul R. Jones Collection, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
- Public art commission by City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, Atlanta, GA
- Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C
- Société Générale, Paris, France
- The High Museum, Atlanta, GA

### SELECTED PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

- Samir d'Acre, Paris, France
- Peggy Cafritz, Washington, D.C.
- Beth Rudin DeWoody, New York, NY
- Dimitris Gigourtakis, Athens, Greece
- Noel Kirnon, New York, NY
- Jean-Gabriel Mitterand, Paris, France
- Takashi Murakami, Japan
- John & Amy Phelan, New York, NY
- Roc Nation, New York, NY
- Rex Sinquefeld, St. Louis, MO
- Daniel Templon, Paris, France
- Howard Tullman, Chicago, IL
- Lena Waithe, Los Angeles, CA
- Alice Walton, Millsap, TX
- The West Collection, Paige West, Oaks, PA
- Jeremy Zimmer, Los Angeles, CA