

## KWAME BRATHWAITE

### BORN

1938 New York, NY

### DIED

2023 New York, NY

### SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Kwame Brathwaite: Things Well Worth Waiting For*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2022 *Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite*, New-York Historical Society, New York, NY  
*Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite*, Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Winston-Salem, NC
- 2021 *Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI  
*Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite*, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin TX
- 2020 *Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite*, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia SC  
*The Struggle Continues, Victory is Certain*, Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 *Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite*, The Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA  
*Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite*, Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *Kwame Brathwaite: Celebrity and the Everyday*, curated by Jesse Williams and Kwame S. Brathwaite, Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 *Black is Beautiful: Empowerment Through the Lens of Kwame Brathwaite, 1962 - 1975*, Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, CA

### SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 FOG Design + Art, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Infinite Hope, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
(Forthcoming) *Disco*, Philharmonie de Paris, Paris, FR
- 2024 *Project a Black Planet, The Art and Culture of Pan Africa*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Re/Presenting: Art Beyond the Color Line*, Amherst College, Amherst, MA  
*Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beats and Alicia Keys*, The High Museum, Atlanta, GA
- 2023 EXPO Chicago, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Pocket Universe*, Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Black American Portraits*, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN  
*Black American Portraits*, Spelman College Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2022 *A Time of Gifts: Six Years of Photographs Given to the Collection, 2016-2022*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA  
*This Tender, Fragile Thing*, Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY  
*A Picture Gallery of the Soul*, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

- 2021 *Black American Portraits*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
*Who Says, Who Shows, What Counts: Thinking about History with The Block's Collection*, The Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.  
*Facing Forward: Photographic Portraits from the Collection*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA  
*Voices of Fashion. Black Couture, Beauty and Styles*, Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands
- 2020 *Brathwaite, Cheng, Coulis, Cowan, Dodge, Dove, Glabush, Huckaby, Jordan, Luck, O'Neill, PetitFrère*, Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Tools of Revolution: Fashion Photography and Activism*, Houston Center for Photography, Houston, TX  
*Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *Icons of Style: A Century of Fashion Photography*, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
*This Synthetic Moment (Replicant)*, curated by David Hartt, includes Lewis Baltz, Kwame Brathwaite, Lynne Cohen, Andrew Esiebo, David Hartt, Joanne Petit-Frère, Gabriella Torres-Ferrer, Wilmer Wilson IV and Christopher Wool, Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles  
*Mapping Black Identities*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN  
*A Brilliant Spectrum: Recent Gifts of Color Photography*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2018 *Cry of Victory and Short Walks to Freedom*, curated by Modou Dieng in association with For Freedoms, Project + Gallery, St. Louis, MO  
*Do Something To It. Do Something Else To It.*, Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles  
*This Synthetic Moment*, curated by David Hartt, includes Liz Johnson Artur, James Barnor, Kwame Brathwaite, David Hartt, Zoe Leonard, Christopher Williams, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY  
*Mod New York: Fashion Takes a Trip*, Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY

## COMMISSIONS

- 1984 Mural (4500 sq.ft.), Western Addition Cultural Center, Mayor's Office of Community Development, San Francisco, CA
- 1977 *Fire Next Time*, Mural (5500 sq.ft.), Joseph Lee Center, Arts Commission, San Francisco, CA  
*Fire Next Time*, Mural (3500 sq.ft.), Joseph Lee Center, Arts Commission, San Francisco, CA
- 1976 *People's Murals*, Mural (160 sq.ft.), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 1977 *Certain Unalienable Rights* (6 panels), Bicentennial American Issue Forum, California Historical Society, San Francisco, CA
- 1972 Untitled Mural (1500 sq.ft.), Hunters Point School #2, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 1971 Untitled Murals (3 panels), George Washington High School, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- 1968 Mural, Children's Health Center #2, Arts Commission, San Francisco, CA
- 1967 Mural, Commissioned by Smokey Robinson, Motown Record Company, Detroit, MI

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2024 Stromberg, Matt. "10 Shows to See in Los Angeles This May", *Hyperallergic*, April 30, 2024.  
 "Art Center X Kwame Brathwaite Archive", Art Center, *Art Center College of Design*, March 28, 2024.  
 Chapoteau, Nicole. "The Opening of the Brooklyn Museum's New Alicia Keys and Swizz Beats Exhibit Was a Who's Who of Black Art", *Vanity Fair*, February 8, 2024

- 2023 Ludel, Wallace. “Kwame Brathwaite, Photographer of ‘Black is Beautiful’ Movement, Dies at 85”, *CNN*, April 4, 2024.
- 2022 Battiste, Nikki. “CBS Evening News”, *CBS Evening News*, October 2, 2022.  
 Zahn, Paula. “NYC-Arts PBS 13”, *NYC-Arts*, September 29, 2022.  
 Boyd, Herb. “Kwame Brathwaite at NYHS”, *The Amsterdam News*, August 25, 2022.  
 “The Keeper of the Images: Kwame Brathwaite’s Harlem”, *Reynolda House*, March 19, 2022.  
 Davis, Angela Michaela. “Cutting My Hair Was My First Revolutionary Act”, *The Atlantic*, March 5, 2022.  
 “Long Live Jazz”, Interview with swizz Beats and Kwame S. Brathwaite, Jr. *12on12.com*, February 25, 2022.  
 Stinson, Tevin. “Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite”, *The Winston Salem Chronicle*, February 10, 2022  
 Workneh, Lilly. “Meet the Faces Who Ushered in the Black is Beautiful Movement”, *Essence*, January 28, 2022.  
 Rodney, Seph. “Black Can Be Even More Beautiful,” *The New York Times*, November 23  
 Brathwaite, Kwame S.. “A Look at Life Through My Father’s Lens,” *National Geographic*, June 17
- 2021 Ogunnaike, Lola. “Inside Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz’s Art-Filled Modernist Home Overlooking the Pacific Ocean,” *Architectural Digest*, November 2  
 Faires, Robert. “‘Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite’ at the Blanton Museum of Art,” *The Austin Chronicle*, August 6  
 Sokolove, Sofia. “New Blanton Exhibit Showcases Prominent but Under-recognized Figure of the Second Harlem Renaissance,” *Alcade*, July 9  
 Lenamond, Jessica. “‘Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite’ Opens at the Blanton,” *Austin Monthly*, June 23  
 Bradley, Adam. “Kwame Brathwaite, the Photographer Who Captured the Beauty in Blackness,” *The New York Times Style Magazine*, June 17  
 “Two-Thirds of PAFA’s New Acquisitions Are By Women and African American Artists,” *Art Fix Daily*, April 1  
 Angeleti, Gabriella. “Pérez Art Museum Miami renames endowment fund for Black art to reflect the wider diaspora,” *The Art Newspaper*, February 8  
 Fine, Zachary. “Photography in Fragments,” *Art in America*, January 7
- 2020 Adesina, Precious. “The birth of the Black is Beautiful movement,” *BBC Culture*, August 31  
 Scott, Chadd. “Kwame Brathwaite Shows ‘Black Is Beautiful’ At Columbia Museum of Art,” *Forbes*, July 27  
 Marcoci, Roxana. “Staff Picks: Art for This Moment,” *MoMA Magazine*, July 6  
 McCarthy, Fiona. “House tour: the kaleidoscopic Upper East Side apartment of a beauty executive,” *Vogue Australia*, June 18  
 Coleman, Lauren DeLisa. “Kwame Brathwaite Photos Immortalized The ‘Black Is Beautiful’ Identity Movement. Here’s Why They’re Undergoing Resurgence,” *The Moguldom Nation*, February 27  
 Sabir, Wanda. “‘Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite,’ closing March 1,” *San Francisco Bay View*, February 26  
 Graver, David. “All the Celebrities at the Parties and Premieres of Sundance, Weekend One,” *Vogue*, January 29  
 Harshaw, Pendarvis. “The Faces and Conversations of MoAD’s Winter Opening Reception,” *KQED Arts*, January 24  
 Judah, Hettie. “14 Unmissable fashion exhibitions opening in 2020,” *Vogue Australia*, January 14
- 2019 Sargent, Antwuan. *The New Black Vanguard Photograph between Art and Fashion*, *Aperture*, p. 14,  
 Doggett, Jolie A. “Everything You Need To Know About Rihanna’s Latest Muse, The Grandassa Models,” *Huff Post*, May 31

- Freeman, Liam. "Rediscovering Photographer Kwame Brathwaite, Rihanna's Inspiration For Fenty," *British Vogue*, May 30
- Fredette, Meagan. "Rihanna's Debut Fenty Collection Was Inspired by the 'Black Is Beautiful' Movement," *Teen Vogue*, May 29
- Renshaw, David. "Rihanna discusses influence of 1960s 'Black Is Beautiful' movement as Fenty launches," *The Fader*, May 29
- Mower, Sarah. "Rihanna reveals the story behind her latest collection's imagery," *Vogue*, May 29
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- Griffin, Chanté. "The Bold and The Beautiful: Kwame Brathwaite at The Skirball," *LA Weekly*, May 1
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- Little, Colony. "How Photography and Jazz Merged to Forge the 'Black Is Beautiful' Movement," *Hyperallergic*, April 23
- McClure, Diana. "The Beauty of Blackness in Kwame Brathwaite's Images," *Afropunk*, April 28
- Franklin, Erica. "Ruth E. Carter Celebrates Opening of Skirball Cultural Center's 'Black Is Beautiful' Exhibit," *The Hollywood Reporter*, April 12
- Newman, Scarlett. "Kwame Brathwaite's powerful photos of the 'Black Is Beautiful' movement," *CNN*, April 12
- Agyemang, Nana. "An Uptown Photographer Who Captured Harlem Life," *The Cut*, April 9
- Jenkins, Morgan. "Kwame Brathwaite's Photographic Vision of a Black Female Utopia," *Artsy*, April 8
- Eshun, Ekow. "Black Is Beautiful: The Photographs of Kwame Brathwaite," *Financial Times*, April 5
- Sajej, Nadja. "Black Is Beautiful: Celebrating the significance of Kwame Brathwaite," *The Guardian*, March 26
- Foggatt, Tyler. "Showcase: Kwame Brathwaite," *The New Yorker*, March 18
- 2018 Rawles, Erica. "Critics' Picks: Kwame Brathwaite," *Artforum International*, December 30
- Smith, Melissa. "The Photos That Lifted Up the Black Is Beautiful Movement," *New York Times LENS Blog*, November 27
- Mizota, Sharon. "Review: Exhibitions by Kwame Brathwaite, Deana Lawson and Meleko Mokgosi challenge how blackness is represented," *Los Angeles Times*, November 14
- Riefe, Jordan. "Jesse Williams Co-Curates Photo Show on Black Icons and Ordinary People," *The Hollywood Reporter*, November 5
- Bohnacker, Siobhán. "Photo Booth: An Artist's Ornate Natural Hair Styles, Through the Eyes of a Legendary Photographer of Black Beauty," *The New Yorker*, March 30
- "The Fantastic Designs of 'Hair Wars: A Crew of Stylists Flaunt Their Creations at MoMA PS1," *The New Yorker*, March 19
- Sykes, Morgan. "A Photographic Meditation on Time," *The Cut*, March 4
- Laneri, Raquel. "How a Harlem fashion show started the 'Black Is Beautiful' Movement," *New York Post*, February 5
- Nnadi, Chioma. "How One Photographer Captured the Soul of the 'Black Is Beautiful' Movement," *Vogue*, February 2
- 2017 Ford, Tanisha C. "Kwame Brathwaite Black is Beautiful," *Elements of Style, Aperture*, October, pp. 46-53.

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- 2016 Hyland, Véronique. "8 Runway Shows That Pushed Fashion Forward," New York Magazine, May
- Ford, Tanisha C. "Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul," University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, pp. 41-66.
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- 1976 Thompson, Cordell M. "New York Beat," New York Beat, April 1
- 1975 Thompson, Cordell M. "New York Beat," New York Beat, November 27
- Thompson, Cordell M. "New York Beat," New York Beat, July 24
- 1974 Brathwaite, Kwame. "The Jackson 5 in Africa," Blues and Soul Magazine, December 25

## SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL  
 Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL  
 Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY  
 JPMorgan Chase Art Collection, New York, NY  
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
 Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN  
 Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul, MN  
 MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA  
 Museum of the City of New York, New York, NY  
 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX  
 Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
 National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON  
 National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC  
 Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA  
 Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL  
 Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA  
 Sidley Austin LLP, New York, NY  
 Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN  
 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY