

SIKKEMA  
JENKINS&CO.  
DEANA LAWSON

May 8 – June 12, 2021

Sikkema Jenkins & Co. is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new work by Deana Lawson, on view May 8 through June 12, 2021. This is Lawson's second solo show with the gallery and is presented concurrent to her Hugo Boss Prize exhibition, *Centropy*, at the Guggenheim Museum, on view through October 11.

Lawson's work explores how communities and individuals hold space within a shifting terrain of racial and ecological disorder. The exhibition is an arrangement of photographs and spectral material that tune the space to an alternate frequency of unification.

While many pictures result from chance encounters, others are obsessively searched for. Lawson seeks controlled randomness through collaborations with strangers that open new pathways of visibility and kinetic affinities. Lawson's reverence for intergenerational connectivity within black culture guides her choice of subjects: the presence of elders, the centrality of women, the dynamism of men, and the celestial child all make up her ever-expanding mythological extended family.

Lawson's photographs engage documentary traditions, but the construction of hybrid scenes that bridge imagined and lived realities reigns supreme. Through this dual space, Lawson bysteps logic, and heightens dream color, to give reverence to the body, and the unseen forces surrounding it. Everyday domestic objects and elements of adornment anchor these mythological narratives in the daily realities we navigate. Relationships of value are re-ordered, shadows move forward.

Light is utilized as formative material as figures and spaces absorb wavelengths of light and reflect others in the picture taking process. The interplay between reflection and absorption is heightened by mirrored frames. The mirror is a symbolic encasing, a perimeter that not only demarcates the border of the picture, but is a reflective lining between worlds, that which is "seen" in the photograph, and that which "sees."

A hologram utilizes an alternate form of optical recording. Similar but different to the process of photography, holography uses lasers (instead of traditional lighting) to expose light sensitive emulsion. The laser becomes a forensic tool, a metaphor to pierce normal perceived reality, portraying either familiar objects with hidden symbolism, or unfamiliar forces with untapped potential.

Deana Lawson (b. 1979, Rochester, NY) received her BFA in Photography from Pennsylvania State University (2001) and her MFA from Rhode Island School of Design (2004). Her work will be the subject of a major retrospective jointly organized by MoMA PS1 and the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston in 2020-21. Other notable solo exhibitions include shows at Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland (2020); Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (2019); the Underground Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2018); the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA (2018); and Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis, MO (2017).

Her work is held in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL; Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY; Carnegie Museum of Art, PA; Huis Marseille Museum voor Fotografie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Museum of Modern Art, NY; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; and Whitney Museum of Art, NY. Lawson is the recipient of the Art Matters Grant, John Gutmann Photography Fellowship, Rema Hort Mann Foundation Grant, Aaron Siskind Fellowship Grant, and a NYFA Grant. In 2013, Lawson was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and was the 2020 recipient of the Hugo Boss Prize.

For additional information please contact Scott Briscoe at 212.929.2262 or [scott@sikkemajenkinsco.com](mailto:scott@sikkemajenkinsco.com).

ART FAIRS:  
FRIEZE OVR 2021

MAY 5 – 14, 2021



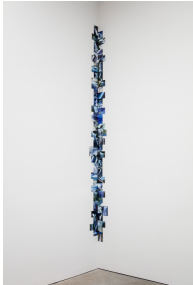
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**ENTRY GALLERY (clockwise from left):**

1.  *Taneisha's Gravity*, 2019  
Inkjet print  
50 x 62.875 inches  
127 x 159.7 cm  
Edition 1 of 4  
DL 18900

**MAIN GALLERY (clockwise from left):**

2.  *Fragment (Jacqueline and Taneisha)*, 2020  
16mm film  
1 minute, 44 seconds, looped  
DL 19465
3.  *White Spider*, 2019  
Pigment Print  
58 x 73.5 inches  
147.3 x 186.7 cm  
Edition 1 of 4  
DL 18894
4.  *Waterfall Assemblage*, 2020  
Photographic assemblage  
Installation dimensions variable, 300-500 prints, 4 x 6 inches (10.2 x 15.2 cm) each  
DL 19080

5.



*Boombbox*, 2020  
Hologram  
12 x 16 inches  
30.5 x 40.6 cm  
Edition 1 of 3  
DL 18903

6.



*House of My Deceased Lover*, 2019  
Pigment print with collage elements  
73.375 x 58 inches  
186.4 x 147.3 cm  
Edition 2 of 4  
DL 18890

7.



*Bendy*, 2019  
Pigment Print  
73.375 x 58 inches  
186.4 x 147.3 cm  
Edition 1 of 4  
DL 18896

8.



*Fragment (Church)*, 2019  
16mm film  
2 minutes, 18 seconds, looped  
DL 19464

9.



*Ms. Bell At Home*, 2021  
Inkjet print  
49.625 x 62.5 inches  
126 x 158.8 cm  
Edition 1 of 4  
DL 19422