

# MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANNOUNCES TWO EXHIBITIONS THAT USE PHOTOGRAPHY TO EXPLORE LEGACIES OF THE PAST AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO TODAY

On view this spring, *Masterworks of Photography from the Lamar Dodd Art Center* and *Jared Ragland: What Has Been Will Be* speak to the issues of today through photography.



Jim Alexander (American, born 1935), *Son Thomas*, 1984, silver gelatin print on paper, 28 1/2 x 24 1/2 inches framed, Courtesy of the Lamar Dodd Art Center, LaGrange, Georgia

**Montgomery, AL, June 22, 2022** – The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is excited to present *Masterworks of Photography from the Lamar Dodd Art Center* and *Jared Ragland: What Has Been Will Be Again*. Both exhibitions have roots in the past yet speak to our current time. Through photography, we are transported by both images of contested spaces and open landscapes and portraits of everyday people as well as figures well known in our world.

About the exhibitions on view, MMFA Curator of Art, Jennifer Jankauskas, says, "These two exhibitions help us filter the present through our past. With images of joy and hardship, beauty and the ordinary, we can celebrate the strength and resilience of our world."

Director Angie Dodson continues, "Collectively, these powerful photographs—the ones from the collection at LaGrange College's Lamar Dodd Art Center and those from LaGrange alum Jared Ragland's journeys across Alabama's cultural and physical landscape—offer windows onto global, national, and regional identity and issues. Each work serves as a poignant place to reflect on our own perspectives and, perhaps, seek to better understand others' positions at a time when so much is a stir in our lives and world."

Board President Cathy Martin adds, “As with the *Lava Thomas: Homecoming* exhibition, also on view, many of the photographs on view in the galleries will provide the community with an important opportunity to acknowledge and reckon with the past for the purpose of creating a better present and future for all.”

## MASTERWORKS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE LAMAR DODD ART CENTER

On view April 29 through July 24, 2022



Douglas Kirkland, (Canadian, 1934), *Remake of “La Strada”*, 2008, silver gelatin print on paper, 25 1/2 x 31 1/2 inches framed, Courtesy of the Lamar Dodd Art Center, LaGrange, Georgia

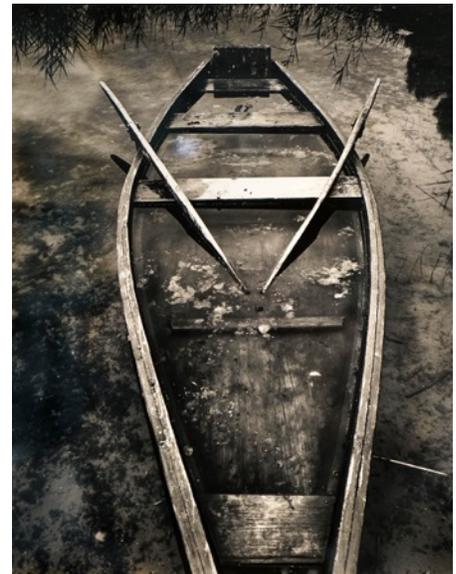
*Masterworks of Photography* highlights artists who, since its conception, have not only used photography to capture reality but also experimented with various techniques and equipment, often with magical results. From portraits to landscapes, still lifes to street scenes, this exhibition features images by many of the great practitioners of photography working throughout the 1900s and into the 2000s.

The fifty photographs on view are part of the collection of the Lamar Dodd Art Center, LaGrange College, Georgia, acquired during the tenure of former director, John D. Lawrence. Although the images were primarily intended to be teaching tools,

they became one of the largest and most significant collections of photography in the Southeast.

Works such as Alfred Stieglitz’s *The Steerage*, 1907, depicting packed crowds on a ship, Alfred Newman’s illuminating portrait of composer Igor Stravinsky, Gary Winogrand’s images of the absurdity found in everyday life, and the simple interior of an Alabama church captured during the depression era by Walker Evans, provide glimpses into different places and times throughout the last two centuries.

This exhibition is organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in partnership with the Lamar Dodd Art Center, LaGrange College, Georgia, with support provided by sponsors Mr. Will Hill Tankersley and Dr. Kristin Tankersley with additional support from co-sponsors AmeriFirst Bank; Balch & Bingham, LLP; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin H. Campbell II; Mr. and Mrs. L. Daniel Morris, Jr.; Dr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Newman, Jr.; River Bank & Trust, and Valley Bank.



Roman Lorance (Polish, born 1956), *Boat*, 2010, silver gelatin print on paper, 30 x 26 inches framed, Courtesy of the Lamar Dodd Art Center, LaGrange, Georgia

## JARED RAGLAND: WHAT HAS BEEN WILL BE AGAIN

On view June 17 through September 11, 2022



Jared Ragland (American, born 1977), *Spring Hill, Barbour County, Ala. Michael Farmer, 57, fashions a scarecrow next to his garden on Election Day, 2020*, Photograph courtesy of the artist

In a time of pandemic and protest, economic uncertainty, and political polarization, the project *What Has Been Will Be Again* led Jared Ragland (American, born 1977) across more than 15,000 miles and 40 counties to survey Alabama's cultural and physical landscape at this consequential moment. By tracing historic colonial routes with a particular focus on some of the state's most rural and isolated areas, the project bears witness to generational racial, ecological, and economic injustice.

*What Has Been Will Be Again* illustrates a haunting yet tender look at the artist's home state's troublesome past and tenuous present while simultaneously suggesting a strategy for connecting with each other: by empathetically bearing witness

to one another's experience and acknowledging that we are indeed linked together—through shared stories and histories, across geography and time. Images such as *Dallas County, Ala. Perine Well at Old Cahawba, 2020*, demonstrate Ragland's interest in history and its effects on the changing landscape. Other photographs such as *Evergreen, Conecuh County, Ala. Antoine, 2021*, are poignant reminders of the people who continue to face hardships in the rural areas Ragland documents.

### About the Artist

Jared Ragland is a fine art and documentary photographer and former White House photo editor. He received his BA from LaGrange College (studying under John Lawrence) and his MFA from Tulane University. Ragland is the photo editor of National Geographic Books' *The President's Photographer: Fifty Years Inside the Oval Office*, and he has worked on assignment for NGOs in the Balkans, the former Soviet Bloc, East Africa, and Haiti. In 2015, Ragland was named one of *TIME* magazine's "Instagram Photographers to Follow in All 50 States." He is a 2020 Magnum Foundation grantee, 2020-21 Do Good Fund Artist-in-Residence, 2021 Photolucida Critical Mass Top 50 artist, and 2022 Aftermath Project Finalist. He has exhibited internationally, produced three artist books under his collaborative publishing platform, One Day Projects, and his photographs have been featured by *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair Italia*, *Forbes*, and *The Oxford American*, among others. His first film, *Some Million Miles* (co-directed with Adam Forrester), received the Reel South Short Award at the 2019 Sidewalk FilmFestival and is currently distributed by PBS.



Jared Ragland, Photograph courtesy of the artist.

This exhibition was organized by the MMFA and was made possible with the support of The Do Good Fund, the Magnum Foundation, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Support for this exhibition was provided by sponsors Mr. Will Hill Tankersley and Dr. Kristin Tankersley with additional support from co-sponsors AmeriFirst Bank; Balch & Bingham, LLP; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin H. Campbell II; Mr. and Mrs. L. Daniel Morris, Jr.; Dr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Newman, Jr.; River Bank & Trust, and Valley Bank.

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## **FOR YOUR SAFETY | COVID-19**

The MMFA remains committed to serving our members and visitors in a safe and responsible manner, especially during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. According to your comfort level, all Museum visitors are welcome to mask and encouraged to practice social distancing during their visit. If you are feeling ill or have recently been exposed to COVID-19, please [refer to CDC quarantine guidelines](#) before visiting the Museum.

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## **MMFA BACKGROUND**

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts was founded in 1930 by a group of local artists as a place for both exhibiting art and space for art education. The original intentions of our founders—to exhibit and teach—continue to inspire and inform every action and activity here at the Museum which, since 1988, has shared the 277-acre Blount Cultural Park with our partners across the lake at the celebrated Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Today's MMFA visitors stroll through art-studded grounds and permanent collection galleries. They see compelling changing exhibitions and learn about art by playing in our interactive gallery, ArtWorks, making art in its bustling studios, or by participating in other engaging events and programs. And, as of late September 2018, MMFA visitors can now relax and recharge in the serenity of our stunning new three-acre sculpture garden.

While the Museum's collection is still home to the art of many of the regional artists who first established it, over time it has become known for its strength in American art and Old Master Prints. Recent, important acquisitions of art made by African American and Asian artists and works inspired by images and themes related to the experiences of these groups represent the breadth and depth of the lives and concerns of those who now call Montgomery and the River Region home. Through the exhibition of this work as well as the programs and events that help connect our communities with it, the MMFA is recognized as a leading arts and cultural resource here in the state and Southeastern region.

The MMFA is a department of the City of Montgomery and is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery, with additional funds from the Montgomery County Commission and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**WHAT:** *Masterworks of Photography from the Lamar Dodd Art Center*  
*Jared Ragland: What Will Be Will Be Again*

**WHEN:** *Masterworks of Photography from the Lamar Dodd Art Center*  
April 29 through July 24, 2022

*Jared Ragland: What Will Be Will Be Again*  
June 17 through September 11, 2022

**WHERE:** Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts  
Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park  
One Museum Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117

**INFORMATION:** mmfa.org  
334.625.4333  
@MontgomeryMFA

**HOURS:**  
Galleries, ArtWorks, Mondays, Closed  
Sculpture Garden, Tuesdays–Saturdays, 10 AM–5 PM  
Terrace, and Store: Sundays, Noon to 5 PM  
Last entry at 4:45 PM

**ADMISSION:** Free! With ample, free parking.

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### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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