

DEBORAH WILLIS, PH.D.  
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*Publications – Books*

- Image of the Black in Western Art, photography chapter, Harvard University Press, June 2013 (*forthcoming*)
- Out [o] Fashion Photography: Embracing Beauty, Henry Art Gallery and the University of Washington, 2013
- Envisioning Emancipation, Temple University Press, January 2013.
- Black Venus 2010: They Called Her Hottentot, editor, Temple University Press, 2010.
- Michelle Obama: The First Lady in Photographs, W .W. Norton & Co, 2009.
- Posing Beauty in African American Images from the 1890's to the Present, W.W. Norton & Co, 2009.
- Obama: The Historic Campaign in Photographs, Amistad/HarperCollins, 2008.
- Let Your Motto be Resistance – African American Portraits, Smithsonian National African American Museum Association, Washington, DC 2008.
- Family History Memory: Photographs by Deborah Willis, Hylas Publishing, 2005.
- Black: A Celebration of a Culture, Hylas Publishing, 2004 (author)
- A Small Nation of People: W.E.B. DuBois & African American Portraits of Progress, The Library of Congress and Amistad Press, 2003 (co-author with David Levering Lewis)
- The Black Female Body in Photography, co-author with Carla Williams, Temple University Press, 2002.
- Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers – 1840 to the present, W. W. Norton& Co, 2000.
- The Family of Black America, co-author, Michael Cottman, Crown Publishers, 1996.
- Visual Journal: Photography in Harlem and DC in the Thirties and Forties, co-editor, Jane Lusaka, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1996.
- Picturing Us: African American Identity in Photography, The New Press, 1994.
- VANDERZEE: The Portraits of James VanDerZee, Harry Abrams Publishing, 1993.
- J.P. Ball, Daguerreotypist and Studio Photographer, Garland Publishing, Inc, 1993.
- Lorna Simpson, Untitled Series 54, Friends of Photography, San Francisco, 1992.
- Early Black Photographers, postcard book, The New Press, 1992.
- Black Photographers 1840 - 1940: An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography, Garland Publishing, Inc., 1985.

Black Photographers 1940 - 1988: An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography, Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988.

*Education*

- George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, - Cultural Studies Ph.D.
- City College of New York, Art History Department, New York, NY, - M.A. Art History and Museum Studies.
- Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y., M.F.A. Photography.
- Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA. -B.F.A. Photography.

*Professional Experience – Teaching*

- University Professor, New York University
- 2006 to present – Chair, Department of Photography and Imaging, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University
- 2001 to present – New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, Professor of Photography and Imaging, affiliated faculty member in Africana Studies
- 2011 – Artist in Residence, University of Pennsylvania, African American Studies
- 2006 – Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Visiting Prof, African American Studies – (Seminar: Body and the Lens)
- 2003 – Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. Visiting Prof. African American Studies and Art History (Seminar: Beauty Matters)
- 2000-2001 – Duke University and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Lehman Brady Professor in Documentary Studies and American Studies, Durham, N.C. (Visualizing Culture)
- 2000 – Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD (Art Matters)
- 1999 – Visiting Lecturer, New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY (Seminar: Visualizing Culture)
- Fall 1995 – Critic-in-Residence, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 1988-1989 – Historian in Residence, Photo Dept, New York University, TSOA, New York, NY
- 1989-1990 – Adjunct Professor, History of Photography, City University of New York, New York, NY
- 1984-1986 – Instructor, Museum Studies (Ethnicity in Museums) New York Theological Seminary, College of New Rochelle, New York, NY

*Awards, Fellowships Funded Proposals*

- Susan Koppelman Award for the Best Edited Volume in Women's Studies by the Popular Culture/American Culture Association, 2011

- Enfoco Honor for Service in Photography, New York, NY, November 2011
- President's Award, The Amistad Center for Art & Culture, Inc., Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, November, 2011
- Aljira Art Achievement Award, Newark, NJ, 2011
- Harvard University, WEB DuBois Fellow 2010
- New York University Humanities Institute, 2010
- Society for Photographic Education, Honored Educator, 2010
- Honorary Doctorate, Pratt Institute, 2007
- John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow, 2005
- Alphonse Fletcher, Jr. Fellowship, 2005
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Planning Grant for Documentary Film, "Reflections in Black," 2003
- Honorary Doctorate, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD. 2003
- James VanDerZee Award, Brandywine Printmaking Workshop, Philadelphia, PA 2002
- Exposure Group's John H. Johnson Award for Lifetime Achievement in Photography, Washington, DC, 2002
- Townsend Harris Medalist for Distinguished, The Alumni Association of the City College of New York, 2001
- The 2001 Missouri Honor Medal, University of Missouri School of Journalism.
- The Studio Museum in Harlem Award for Achievement in Scholarship, 2001
- The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellow, 2000.
- Women of Color Research Grant, Ford Foundation, University of Maryland, 1999-2001
- The Trellis Fund for the exhibition and colloquium, "Locating the Spirit: Religion and Spirituality in African American Art," 1999.
- The Nathan Cummings Foundation for the colloquium, "Religion and Spirituality in African American Art," 1999.
- Anonymous Was A Woman Foundation, 1996.
- Sister Scholars: Black Women and Work Project, University of Maryland, funded by Ford Foundation, 1995-1998.
- The International Center of Photography Infinity Award for Writing in Photography, 1995.
- University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, Alumni of the Year, 1995.
- The Glen Eagles Foundation for the exhibition, "Imagining Families: Images and Voices," 1994.
- The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for the exhibition, "Imagining Families: Images and Voices," 1994.
- The 1993 Golden Light Photographic Book of the Year Competition for J.P. Ball: Daguerrean and Studio Photographer.
- Pratt Institute Alumni Achievement Award in Education, 1993.
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Travel to Collections, 1990.
- Skeel Fund, for the biography on James P. Ball, New York Public Library, New York, 1990.
- Maryland Art Place, Critic in Residence, Baltimore, MD, 1990.

Deborah Willis

- Light Works, Artist in Residence, Syracuse, NY, 1990.
- Manhattan Borough President's Award for Excellence in the Arts, 1986.
- Greater Hartford Community College, Hartford, CT, Excellence in Photography, 1986.

*Visiting Artist*

- 2009 – University of Washington, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle
- 2008 – University of Oregon, Eugene
- 2008 – Visiting Artist, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
- 2002 – The School of the Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, IL
- June 1996 – Visiting Artist, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- April 1996 – Visiting Artist, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- March 1996 – Visiting Artist, Art Institute of Boston, Boston, MA
- April 1996 – Visiting Artist, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
- Fall 1995 – Visiting Artist, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
- Spring 1994 – Visiting Artist, Mills College, Oakland, CA
- Summer 1992 – Workshop Instructor, The Friends of Photography, San Francisco, CA
- Summers 1978, 1979 – Instructor of Photography/Research Consultant, Brooklyn Museum, Education Department, Brooklyn, NY

*Museum/Curatorial*

- 1992-2000 – Associate Director for Research and Collections, Exhibitions Curator, Smithsonian Institution, Center for African American History & Culture, Washington, DC
- 1980-1992 – Curator, Photographs and Prints, The New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY

*Museum and Academic Consultant: 1988 – 2012*

- August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh, PA
- School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of African American History & Culture
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, (American Studies)
- School of Visual Arts, New York (Photography)
- New York University (American Studies)
- International Center of Photography, New York, NY
- Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, FL
- University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- George Washington University, Washington, DC. – American Studies
- Howard University, Washington, DC. – Fine Arts Dept.

- Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, Photography Department
- University of Delaware, Newark, Art Department
- New York University/International Center of Photography
- School of Visual Arts, New York, NY – Graduate Photography Department
- City College of New York, Museum Studies Program
- Ohio State University, Photography Department
- Rochester Institute of Technology, Photography Department
- University of New Mexico, Photography Department

*Publications – Book Chapters, Essays and Articles*

- Essay, “We the People: Triumph and Image,” Aperture, Fall 2012
- Essay, “Imagining Themselves: Photography, Race and Representation, 1945–1980,” **IDENTITY AND AFFIRMATION: AFRICAN AMERICAN POST WAR PHOTOGRAPHY**, Cal State Northridge Press, 2012
- Introduction, **CHARLES TEENIE HARRIS: IMAGES, MEMORY, HISTORY**, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012
- Essay, **Malick Sidibe: The Front of the Back View** in “Self: Portraiture and Social Identity” curated by Okwui Enwezor, Walther Collection, 2010.
- Essay, “Heroes of the Storm: Five Years After Katrina – Photographs by Keith Calhoun and Chandra McCormick in Aperture, 2010.
- Essay, “The New Negro Woman, Black Womanhood, Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, NH, 2008
- Foreword, Eudora Welty, University of Mississippi Press, 2008
- Introduction, Photographs from the Memphis World 1949-1964, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, University Press of Mississippi, 2008
- Art and Social Activism, Responsible Looking. 2006
- (Foreword) African American Vernacular Photography: Selections from the Daniel Cowin Collection, International Center of Photography/STEIDL, 2006
- Looks and Gazes: Photographic Fragmentation and the Found Object,”
- Betye Saar: Extending the Frozen Moment.” University of Michigan Museum of Art. University of California Press, 2006
- Contributor: The Oxford Companion to the Photograph edited by Robin Lenman, Oxford University Press, 2005.
- The Polaroid Book: Selections from the Polaroid Collections of Photography, Taschen
- “Appreciation” Gordon Parks’s Hungry Heart, The Crisis Magazine Spring 2006
- Black Issues Book Review – “Gordon Parks” (book reviewer).
- “Angola Bound: Angola Prison: No Place to Be” Aperture Spring 2006, Issue 82.
- Cancer Diary, CRMagazine, Spring 2006 (photo essay-self-portrait)
- Photography and Social Activism, Treasures from the Moorland Spingarn Collection, Howard University, National Geographic Publishers 2006
- American Visual Cultures, “Civil Rights and Photography,” Continuum Press 2005.2005.

- Only Skin Deep, International Center of Photography, "Exposure: Civil Rights Photography", ICP, 2003.
- Small Towns, Black Lives: The Photographs of Wendel A. White, Noyes Museum of Art, 2003, essayist
- Time of Change: Bruce Davidson: Civil Rights Photographs, 1961-1965 (Introduction), St. Ann's Press, 2002.
- One Shot: Photographs of Teenie Harris, (Afterword) Abrams, 2002
- Sister Circle, "Searching for Memories" Rutgers University Press, 2002
- In Their Mothers' Eyes, Stemmler Editions, 2001
- African American Photography, in Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience, 1999.
- A Search for Self: The Photograph and Black Family Life, in ed. Marianne Hirsch, The Familial Gaze, Dartmouth College, Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999.
- Our Grandmothers, Stewart, Tabori and Change, 1998. photograph and essay
- "The Image and Paul Robeson" in ed. Jeffrey C. Stewart, Paul Robeson: Artist and Citizen, Rutgers University Press, 1997.
- "Talking Black: Black Women's Visual Liberation Through Photography" in Transforming The Crown: African, Asian and Caribbean Artists in Britain, 1966-1996, The Caribbean Cultural Center and the Dia Foundation, 1996.
- Photo Editor, in Michael Cottman, The Million Man March, Crown Publishing, 1995.
- Clarissa Sligh, Aperture 138 On Location II, 1995.
- Women's Stories/Women's Photobiographies in Diane Neumaier, Reframings: New American Feminist Photographies, edited by Diane Neumaier, Temple University Press, 1994.
- "Jacob Lawrence and the Schomburg Center, Jacob Lawrence and the Migration Series, The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, 1993.
- "Photography Section", Encyclopedia of Afro-American Culture, edited by Jack Salzman and Robert O'Meally, MacMillan Publishing, Inc., New York, 1993.
- Photography, A Yearbook on Blacks in the Arts, edited by Donald Bogle, Garland Publishing, Inc., New York, NY, 1989, 1990, 1991.
- Photobiographers, ARTPAPERS, Inc., Atlanta, May, 1992.
- Reviewer, Ron Lee: Women With Wet Hair, ARTPAPERS, Inc., Atlanta, GA. November/December, 1988.
- "The Harmon Foundation and Photography", in Gary Reynolds and Beryl Wright, Against the Odds: The Harmon Foundation, Newark Museum and the Luce Foundation, 1988.
- "Historical Photographic Collections", Ten:8, Quarterly Magazine, London, England, 1987.
- "James VanDerZee", in Mary Schmidt Campbell, Harlem Renaissance: The Art of Black America, Harry N. Abrams, 1987.
- "Jack Franklin, Photographer", Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, Philadelphia, PA (newsletter, Feb. 1989)
- "Black Women Photographers", Houston FotoFest, Texas, 1988.
- "Benny Andrews, Master Artist", CRT's Craftery Gallery, Hartford, 1987

- "Mothers and Daughters", historical photographic essay, Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women, Vol.1, No. 2, 1984.
- "Collecting African American Resources", SCRIPT, African American Museums Association Newsletter, 1983.
- "James Conway Farley, Studio Photographer, 1868-1910", Dictionary of American Negro Biographies, Eds. Michael Winston and Rayford Logan, New York: WW Norton, 1981.

*Publications – Exhibition Catalogs*

- Locating the Spirit: Religion and Spirituality in African American Art, Smithsonian Institution, 1999.
- TechnoSeduction, The Cooper Union and the College Art Association, 1997.
- In Search of Balance: The Artist Scholar Smithsonian Institution, Center for African American History and Culture, 1997.
- Life on the Road: The Photographs of Milt Hinton, Smithsonian, Center for African American History and Culture, 1997.
- Imagining Families: Images and Voices, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 1995.
- Meg Andrews: Photographer, CRT's Craftery Gallery, Hartford, CT, 1989.
- Convergence: 8 Photographers, The Photographic Resource Center, Boston, 1989.
- Black Photographers Bear Witness: 100 Years of Social Protest, The Williams College Museum of Art, 1989.
- "A Likeness Preserved", Afro-American Philadelphians: Color, Class and Style, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, PA, 1988.
- Moneta Sleet, Jr., Pulitzer Prize Winning Photojournalist, New York Public Library, NY, 1987 (with Julia Van Haften), 1987.
- On Freedom: The Art of Photojournalism, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, 1986.
- Carl Van Vechten Photographs, The New York Public Library, New York, 1986.
- Reflections of Self: Women Photographers, Fordham University, New York, NY., 1986.
- New World Images, New World Africans, 19th Century of Images of Blacks in South America and the Caribbean, Schomburg Center, New York, NY, 1985.
- John Pinderhughes, Photographer, Gallery 62, National Urban League, New York, NY, 1984.
- Fourteen Photographers, A Contemporary Exhibition, Schomburg Center, New York, NY, 1983.
- Black Images in Film, A Photographic Exhibition, Schomburg Center, New York, NY, 1983.
- Bert Andrews, Photography of Black Theatre, Schomburg Center, New York, NY. 1982.
- Introspect: Photography by Anthony Barboza, Studio Museum in Harlem, NY. 1982.
- Harlem HeyDay, Photographs by James VanDerZee, Studio Museum in Harlem, NY, 1982.
- Doris Ullman, Photographs of the Gullah People, Schomburg Center, NY. 1981.

*Publications – Books and Articles Photographs Reproduced/Cited In (selected)*

- Veronica Chambers, Double Dutch: A Celebration of Jump Rope, Rhyme and Sisterhood, Hyperion, 2002.
- In Their Mothers' Eyes: Women Photographers Photographing their Children, Edition Stemmler, 2001
- Different by Stuart Hall and Mark Sealy, Phaidon Press, 2001.
- "Picturing the Black Female Body," Savoy Magazine, February, 2001.
- "Deborah Willis: Storyteller, Spectator, and Artist," Document, Vol.2 No. 1, 2001.
- "Deborah Willis: Fabricated Histories" by Alison Ferris, Fabric Arts, March/April, 1999.
- "Domestic Borders, Cultural Boundaries: Black Feminists Re-View the Family," by Elizabeth Abel, in ed. Marianne Hirsch. The Familial Gaze, Hanover: University Press on New England and Dartmouth College, 1999.
- Re/Righting History: Counternarratives by Contemporary African-American Artists, Katonah Museum of Art, 1999.
- Carolyn Mazloomi, Spirits of the Cloth: Contemporary African American Quilts, New York: Clarkson Potter Publishers, 1998.
- Memorable Histories and Historic Memories, by Alison Ferris, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, 1998.

*Exhibitions (participant)*

- "Deb Willis: Faming Beauty," International Visions Gallery, Washington D.C. March 2013
- "I am Going to Eatonville," Zora Neale Hurston Museum, Eatonville, Florida Jan – June 2012
- "CPT: Time, History and Memory" Gallatin Galleries, New York, NY, Jan- March 2012
- "Celebrating Our Legacy" at the Morris Museum, January 13 through March 18, 2012
- "Afrique: See you, see me," Florence, Lisbon, Ping Yao, in May 2011 – May 2012.
- Objectives objectivity, Rome from January 27 to February 24, 2012  
French institutions and organizations: Ministère de la culture et de la communication : Médiathèque de l'architecture et du patrimoine, Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche : Centre national de la recherche scientifique. Institut Pasteur
- The institutions in Rome :
- The British Academy, Embassy of the Netherlands, Real Dutch Institute, Circle Scandinavian, Swiss Institute.
- What Matters Now, Aperture Gallery, New York, NY September – November 2011
- Progeny: Deborah Willis +Hank Willis Thomas Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC Oct-Dec, 2010, George Mason University, Jan- March 2012



- In My Father's House: An Installation Deb Willis and Lonnie Graham, August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh, Pa, August 2010– August 2011
- Photographs by Charles Martin, Deborah Willis, Salah Hassan and video by Lydie Diakhaté. Algiers PANAF: 1969 – 2009, Institute for African American Affairs, New York University April – June 2010
- Art in the Atrium, Morristown, New Jersey, Jan- March 2010
- High Water Marks: Art and Renewal After Katrina, Amistad Collection, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT, April –September 2010
- Bodies in Question, New York FotoFest/New York University, New York
- Progeny, Miriam & Ira D Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY April-May 2009
- Progeny, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, FL June – August 2008
- Double Exposure, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT, Jan-June 2006
- A Sense of Place: Contemporary African American Art, University of Pittsburgh, Oct 2005
- The Places in Which we Pray are Made Sacred by our Presence, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, FL, January- February, 2005
- African Queen, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, January – April 2005
- Family Matters: Mother to Son, Light Factory, Charlotte, NC, May- June 2005
- Through the Gates: Brown v. Board of Education, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, February – July, 2004
- Screenings/Public & Private, The Noyes Museum of Art, Oceanville, NJ, January-March 2004
- HairStories, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, AZ, traveling 2003-4
- Embracing Eatonville: A Photographic Survey, Light Work, Syracuse, NY 2003-4
- Mother to Son: Deborah Willis + Hank Thomas, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX, Feb- April 2003.
- Deborah Willis: Appearances, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Feb-April 2003
- Through our Lenses: Personal and Political Views of 18 Photographers, Nathan Cummings Foundation, New York, NY, Feb-April 2003
- Off the Record, The Skylight Gallery, Brooklyn, NY March – May 2003
- Beggars and Choosers, Birmingham Museum of Art -2002-2004
- Over the Sofa, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, FL., 2001-2003
- Response to 9.11: Faculty and Staff Exhibition, TSOA, New York University, Fall 2001
- Deborah Willis: Regarding Beauty, (solo) Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, FL. -2001
- Three Contemporary Artists in the Classroom, Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC - 2001
- Reading Between the Lines: Image, Text and the African American Experience, Salt Lake Art Center, Salt Lake City, UT, 2000-2001.
- Tied to Memory, University of Alabama, Sarah Moody Art Gallery, Birmingham, AL, 2000. (solo)
- Tied to Memory, Kemper Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, 2000.
- Picturing the Modern Amazon, New Museum, New York, NY, 2000.
- Collections Show, William Benton Museum of Art, Storrs, CT, 2000.

- Fabricated Memories, (solo) Project Row Houses, Houston, TX, 2000.
- Eye of the Beholder, DC Public Library, Washington, D.C., 2000.
- The Comforts of Home, Hand Workshop Art Center, Richmond, VA, 1999.
- Black Women in the Academy, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1999.
- Re/Righting History: Counternarratives by Contemporary African-American Artists, Katonah Museum of Art, 1999.
- Memorable Histories and Historic Memories, by Alison Ferris, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, 1998.
- Alternatives '98, Ohio State University, Athens, February, 1998.
- Patchwork, Islip Museum, NY December, 1997-January 1998.
- Eye of the Beholder: Photographers from the Avon Collection, International Center of Photography, 1997.
- Family Stories, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY, 1997.
- Labor of Love, Chastain Gallery, Atlanta, GA, 1996.
- Artists at Work, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 1996.
- Visual Griots, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 1996.
- Aspects of African American Art, Walsh Gallery, Seton Hall University, New Jersey, 1996.
- Deborah Willis: Photo/Quilt Stories, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX 1996.
- Deborah Willis: Family Matter, Steinbaum – Krauss Gallery, New York, NY, Nov/Dec. 1995.
- Cultural Baggage, Rice University, Houston, Texas, 1995.
- Searching for Memories: Black Women and the 1895 Exposition, Atlanta Arts Festival, Atlanta, GA, 1995.
- Photo Stories, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, 1995.
- Photo Stories, Black Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, 1995.
- Hand Me Down: Innovation Within A Tradition, The Afro-American Cultural Center, Charlotte, NC, touring 1995.
- Conceptual Textiles, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI, 1995-96.
- Encounters 6: Deborah Willis, Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, AZ, 1994.
- Thru the Eyes of Sisters, CRT Craftery Gallery, Hartford, CT, 1994.
- Personal Narrative: Women Photographers of Color, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, 1993-95. (tour USIA).
- The African American Women Quilt Show, 1993-94.
- A Common Thread: Innovations & Improvisations in Contemporary Textiles, Bomani Gallery, San Francisco, CA, 1993.
- Prisoners of War: In My Native Land and On Foreign Soil, The New School Gallery, New York, NY, 1992.
- Words and Pictures, The Light Factory, Charlotte, NC, 1992.
- Deborah Willis/Christian Walker, Jane Jackson Gallery, Atlanta, GA, 1992.
- Four African American Artists, Young Hughley Gallery, Atlanta, GA, 1992.
- Faculty Show, New York University, Photo Center Gallery, New York, NY, 1991.
- Occupation and Resistance, Alternative Museum, New York, NY. 1990.

- Coast to Coast: Women of Color Book Project, New York, NY, 1988-91.
- Group Show, Borough President's Gallery, New York, NY, 1989.
- Visual Diaries, John Jay College Wall Gallery, New York NY, 1989.
- Women Photographers, Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA, 1988.
- Faculty Show, New York University, Photo Center Gallery, New York, NY, 1988.
- Reflections of Self: Women Photographers, Fordham University, New York, NY, 1986.
- Autobiography: Herstory, Castillo Gallery, New York, NY, 1986.
- Women on the Scene, Brockman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. 1981.
- Six Photographers, Western Electric, New York, NY, 1981.
- FESTAC, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, PA, 1977.
- MFA Thesis Exhibition, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, 1979.
- Alumni Show, Philadelphia College of Art, PA. 1979.

*Exhibitions – Curator*

- “Out [o] Fashion Photography: Embracing Beauty,” Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2013
- “Visualizing Emancipation,” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY 2012 – 2013
- “Gordon Parks: 100 Moments,” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY 2012
- “Posing Beauty,” Tisch School of the Arts (currently touring the country), opened 2009
- “1968: Then and Now,” New York University and Nathan Cummings Foundation, New York, NY, 2008
- “Obama, the Historic Campaign in Photographs,” Leica Gallery, New York, NY, 2008
- “Saturday Night / Sunday Morning,” Philadelphia African American Museum, 2005.
- “Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers” touring exhibit, 2000-2004.
- "In Search of Balance: The Artist/Scholar," Center for African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 1997.
- "Half-Past Autumn: Gordon Parks," co-curator with Philip Brookman, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 1997-2004.
- "Life on the Road: The Photographs of Milt Hinton," Center for African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, 1997.
- "Techno-Seduction" co-curator with Robert Rindler, Cooper Union and College Art Association, 1996-97.
- "Visual Journal: Photography in Harlem in the 30's and 40's", Smithsonian Institution, 1996.
- "Reflections on Rights", Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 1995-96.
- "Imagining Families: "Images and Voices", Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. 1994-95.
- "VanDerZee", Smithsonian Institution, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC 1993.
- Contemplative Moments: Photographic Works by Clarissa Sligh Philadelphia Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, 1993.

- "Photobiographers", Atlanta Gallery of Photography, GA, 1992.
- "Convergence: 8 Photographers", Photographic Resource Center, Boston, MA and Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, NY, 1990-94.
- "New Works by Black Women Photographers" Le Mois de la Photo, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 1989.
- "Constructed Images: New Photography", Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, 1989-1992 (traveling show) Houston FotoFest, High Museum of Art, Baltimore Art Museum, Berkeley Art Museum, Ca. (1989-91).
- "Black Photographers Bear Witness: 100 Years of Social Protest" Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA, 1989-1992 (traveling show) Corcoran Gallery of Art, Philadelphia Afro-American Museum, Center for Creative Photography St Louis Art Museum (1989-91).
- "Meg Andrews, Emerging Artist", CRT's Craftery Gallery, Hartford, CT, 1989.
- "Curator's Choice: The Photographer's Mind", CEPA Gallery, Buffalo, NY, 1988.
- "Herstory: Black Women Photographers", Houston Fotofest, Firehouse Gallery, Houston, Texas, 1988.
- "Photographs and Dairies", New York University, Photo Center Gallery, New York, NY February - March 1989.
- "Gordon Parks: A Retrospective", The New York Public Library, New York, 1987.
- "HerStory/HerSpace/HerMoments: 7 Women Photographers", The Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, 1987.
- "Seven Photographers: 1920-1980", Cooper Union, New York, NY, 1987.
- "Moneta Sleet, Jr.: Pulitzer Prize Photojournalist", The New York Public Library, New York, NY, 1987.
- "Autobiography/HerStory", The Castillo Gallery, New York, NY, 1987.
- "The Art of Photojournalism: 5 Photographers", Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, 1986.
- "O, Write My Name: American Portraits: Harlem Heroes", Carl Van Vechten Photographs, New York Public Library, NY, NY, 1986.
- "America: Another Perspective", 13 Photographers, New York University, Photo Center Gallery, New York, NY, 1986.
- "Black Photographers: 1840-1940", Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. and CRT's Craftery Gallery, Hartford, CT, 1986.
- "New World Africans: 19th Century Images of Blacks in South America and the Caribbean", Schomburg Center, NY, NY, 1985.
- "Art Against Apartheid: A Photographic Exhibition", Schomburg Center, New York, NY, 1984.
- "Black Images in Film: A Photographic Exhibition", Schomburg Center, New York, NY, 1984.
- "14 Photographers: Contemporary Photographers in the Schomburg Collection", New York, NY, 1983.
- "Scenes from the 20th Century Stage: Black Theatre in Photographs", Schomburg Center, NY, 1983.

Deborah Willis

- "Introspect: Photographs by Anthony Barboza", Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, 1983.
- "8 Contemporary Photographers in the Schomburg Collection", New York, NY 1982.
- "Black Dance in Photographs: Images from the 19th Century to the Present", Schomburg Center, NY, 1982.
- "Harlem HeyDay: Photographs by James VanDerZee", Studio Museum in Harlem, NY, NY, 1982.
- "Doris Ullman: Photographs of the Gullah People", Schomburg Center, New York, NY, 1981

*Professional Consulting/Advisory Activities*

*Institutional Consultant*

- University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- Cincinnati Museum of Art, Ohio
- International Center of Photography, New York, NY
- Rutgers University, Art Department, New Brunswick, NJ
- California College of Arts and Craft, Oakland, CA
- Weeksville Society, Brooklyn, NY
- MacArthur Foundation, Chicago, IL
- Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY
- Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- Rutgers University, Paul Robeson Center
- KCAT-TV, Minneapolis Public Television, on Photography
- African American Cultural Museum/Oakland Public Library
- Time-Life Books, Inc., Alexandria, VA
- Pew Charitable Trust/Kennedy Center Re-grant Program
- Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University,
- International Center of Photography, New York, NY
- Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
- Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- Harlem Urban Development Corporation, New York, NY
- Kenkeleba Gallery, New York, NY
- Essence Magazine, New York, NY, 15th Anniversary
- Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, MA
- University of Maryland, Catonsville, MD
- Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, AL

*Film/Television/Publications*

- “Through A Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People,” Documentary Film, 2005 to present.
- “American Photography”, PBS Documentary, 1999
- "Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey," William Greaves Production, 1992
- "The Liberators" ,Miles Film Production, 1991-2
- "A Question of Color", Filmmaker, Kathe Sandler, 1988
- Viewfinders: Black Women Photographers, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, 1984-85
- “Conversations with Roy DeCarava”, Filmmaker, Carroll Blue, 1983-84
- "A Different Drummer: Blacks In The Military", Filmmaker, William Miles, 1983-84
- "I Remember Harlem", Filmmaker, William Miles, 1980-81

*Panelist/Reviewer*

- University of California, Santa Cruz – Art Department External Art Reviewer
- Art Journal, College Art Association
- Alpert Award in the Arts, Cal Arts
- Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, Inc The Scholastic portfolio review
- American Studies Association, Peer Review Article 2003-05
- Duke University Press, 2004
- Pew Fellowships in the Arts, 2001
- Maryland Arts Council, 1999
- National Endowment for the Humanities, 1996-97
- National Endowment for the Arts, 1995
- Illinois Arts Council, 1995
- Cleveland Public Art Program, Ohio 1994
- The Jewish Museum, New York, NY, 1994
- McKnight Fellowship in Photography, 1994
- National Endowment for the Arts, 1994
- National Endowment for the Arts: Miami-Dade, 1993
- Opolis Foundation, New York, NY, 1992
- W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund, 1991
- National Endowment for the Arts, WESTAF, 1991
- National Endowment for the Arts/Mid America Arts Alliance, 1991
- Ohio Arts Council, 1990
- Fleishacker Foundation, Eureka Photography Fellowship, 1990
- New York State Council on the Arts, Museum Aid Panel, 1986-89
- New York Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY, 1988
- Department of Cultural Affairs, New York, NY, 1988
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC 1988
- MTA, Art In Transit, New York, NY, 1988
- Artists Foundation, Boston, MA, 1988
- Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, MA, 1988
- Borough of Manhattan Award for Excellence in the Arts, NY, 1987

Deborah Willis

- New York Council for the Humanities, 1986
- Kentucky State Council for the Arts, 1986

*Selected Lectures and Presentations*

“Posing Beauty,” Inaugural University Professorship Lecture, New York University, 2009

“The Black Female Body in Photography,” 2006

Middlebury College, Vermont

University California Santa Cruz- Community Studies-Social Documentation Dept

Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University

“Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers”

Griffin Museum of Photography/Boston Arts Academy

Union College

Kent State University

“Romare Bearden/Conjuring Women: A Colloquium” Duke University

“The Photographic Market” Art Miami

“Visual Gossip” - CAA Annual Conference – co chair, Panel

“Beauty Matters,” Brown University, Providence, R.I., 2004

“The Black Female Body in Photography” Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., 2004

“A Small Nation of People,” Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 2004

“Imaging Black Culture,” Millsap College, Jackson, Mississippi, 2004

“Reflections in Black,” Art Institute of Chicago, Ill. 2004

“A Small Nation of People,” Duke University, John Hope Franklin Center, Durham, NC, 2004

"Contemporary Photography," Stedman Gallery of Art, Rutgers University, 2001.

“The New Negro in Photography,” Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1999.

Gordon Parks: Unveiling and Unmasking, Southeast Museum of Photography, 1999.

Scurlock Studios, The National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, 1999

The Black Female Body in Photography, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 1998.

Constructing the New Negro Image in Photography, Los Angeles County Museum, 1998.

"Family Photographs," Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, 1997.

"VanDerZee," Syracuse University, 1997.

"Family Photographs and Art", Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, 1994.

"African American Photography and its Continuum", Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, Fl, 1994.

"Autobiography in Photography", Mills College, Oakland, CA., 1994.

"Frames of Reference: Cultural Diversity and the Arts," Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, Va., 1993

"African American Identity in 20th Century Art", University of Delaware, 1993.

"Photobiographers", Women in Photography Conference, Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, Arizona, 1992

"African-American Museums & Photography in the Sixties", International Museum of Photography, Rochester, NY, 1990

"Contemporary Photographers in the United States" International Conference on Photography", New Castle, England, 1989

"James VanDerZee and Richard S. Roberts", Cheekwood Fine Arts Center, Nashville, TN, 1989

"Photography and the Harlem Renaissance", High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA. 1988

"Black Women Photographers", Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, 1988 (FotoFest Programming)

"Richard S. Roberts, Studio Photographer", 25th Annual Meeting, Society for Photographic Education, Houston, Texas, 1988

"Contemporary Black Photographers", 25th Annual Meeting, Society for Photographic Education, Houston, Texas, 1988

"Contemporary Black Photographers", National History Museum, New York, NY, 1988

"Richard S. Roberts and Photography of the South", Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, 1988

"Women in Photography", Syracuse University, New York, 1986

"History of Photojournalism", Studio Museum in Harlem, NY, 1986

"Photography: 1900-1939", Columbia Museum, Columbia, SC, 1986

"Civil Rights Photography Reviewed", Society for Photographic Education, Minneapolis, MN, 1985

"Harlem Photographers Look At Harlem 1920-1960", Countee Cullen Library, New York, NY, 1985 (moderator)

"Photography in America" (1981 – 2006: selected sites)

- Rutgers University, Newark, NJ
- Middlebury College, Vermont
- University of Central Florida, Orlando
- Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
- The Winterthur, Delaware
- Cameraworks San Francisco, CA.
- Ohio State University, Columbus
- Bowdoin College, Maine
- Mercer County College, New Jersey
- University of Vermont, Burlington
- Newark Museum, New Jersey
- Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
- Albright-Knox Art Museum, Buffalo, NY
- Temple University, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- State University of New York, Albany, NY
- State University of Buffalo, New York
- Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- DeWitt Historical Society, Ithaca, NY
- Empire State College, New York, NY



Deborah Willis

- "Photography of Midwifery", An Illustrated Talk, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA 1984
- "Collecting African Americana", African American Museums Association Workshop, Charleston, SC, 1983.

*Professional Affiliations*

- Board Member, College Art Association (1994-1997)
- Executive Committee, College Art Association (1994-1996)
- Board Member, Society for Photographic Education (1986-1996)
- Chair, Board of Society for Photographic Education (1994-96)
- Women Caucus for the Arts
- American Association of Museums
- ORACLE
- College Art Association
- American Studies Association
- Society for Photographic Education

Deborah Willis

*Collections*

Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs  
Avon Collection, New York  
University of Alabama, Birmingham  
Center for Creative Photography, Arizona  
Light Works, Syracuse, New York  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California  
Center for Creative Photography, Duke University, North Carolina  
Private Collections

*Areas of Interest*

- Visual Culture
- Photography - Fine Art and Reportage
- Museum and curatorial work
- Aesthetics and Popular Culture
- African American material culture
- African American Art