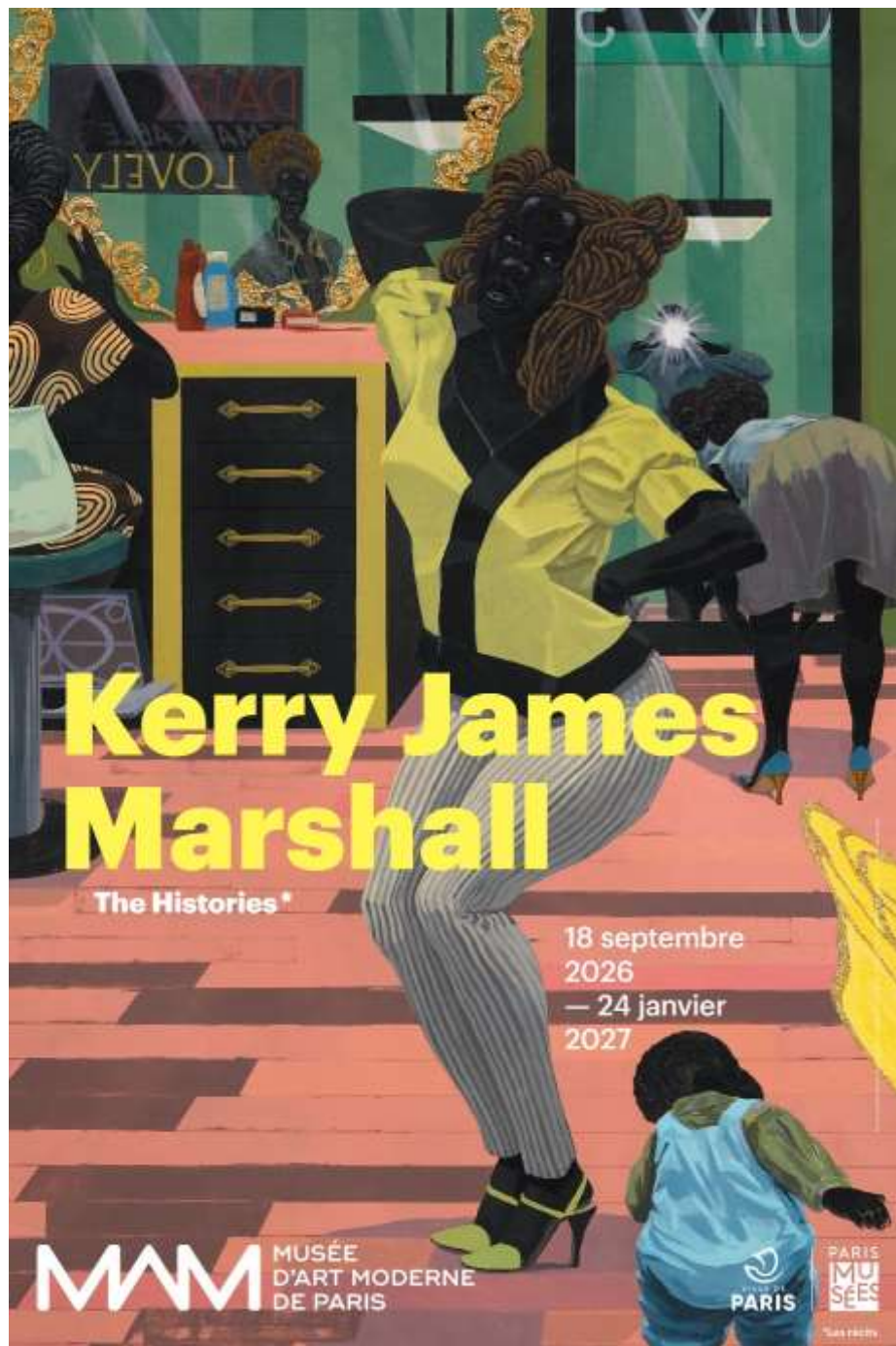


LARGE PRINT GUIDE



On-site consultation

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Kerry James Marshall
« The Histories »
September 18, 2026 — January 24, 2027

“I am trying to establish a phenomenal presence that is unequivocally black and beautiful.” – Kerry James Marshall.

The exhibition “The Histories” at the Musée d’Art Moderne de Paris presents the work of Kerry James Marshall, a contemporary American artist who lives and works in Chicago. Internationally renowned, he is acclaimed for his monumental paintings devoted to Black subjects while reinterpreting the major conventions of art history.

From an early age, Marshall aspired to paint in the tradition of the Old Masters. Beginning in the 1980s, after reading *Invisible Man* (1952) by Ralph Ellison, he

placed Black figures at the centre of his work. His artistic practice draws on egg tempera – a painting technique used during the Italian Renaissance – as well as a wide range of pigments, including ivory black, mars black and carbon black. His artistic practice encompasses comics and sculptures as well.

This first solo exhibition by the artist in France brings together more than seventy works produced from the 1980s through 2025, offering a view of the richness and complexity of his work. It is particularly significant in that Marshall's work enters in dialogue with French painting, from Ingres to Seurat, including Fragonard, David, Géricault and Manet. The exhibition also addresses themes linked to History of France, notably the Middle Passage and the Negritude.

“My work is not an argument against anything; it is an argument for ... something else ... I’m not trying to dismantle the canon, the museum, or any of that ... on some level, the goal is to match the brilliance and ... the complexity of things that are already there [and that] caused you to want to be an artist in the first place ... I am trying to build something from the ground up that serves a utilitarian need for me and some people I know.” – Kerry James Marshall.



Kerry James Marshall – *Haul*, 2025

Acrylic on PVC panel

Courtesy of Glenstone Museum and David
Zwirner, London.

© Kerry James Marshall

Photo : Kerry McFate

BIOGRAPHY

1955 Kerry James Marshall was born in Birmingham, Alabama (United States).

1963 Marshall moved with his family to the Watts district of Los Angeles, California, where he witnessed the Watts riot of 1965: a six-day uprising fueled by rising racial tensions. His family later moved to South Central Los Angeles, a few blocks away from the headquarters of the Black Panther Party.

1978 Graduated from Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles where he studied painting and drawing under artists Sam Clayberger, Arnold Mesches and Charles White.

1980 Painted A Portrait of the Artist as a Shadow of His Former Self, inspired by Ralph Ellison's novel Invisible Man (1952). This artwork marks his departure and signals his commitment to figurative painting.

1985 Started a year-long artist-in residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem in New York.

1987 Moved to Chicago where he still lives today and where he served as Professor of Arts at the University of Illinois, Chicago for over a decade.

1989 Worked as production designer on Julie Dash's film Daughters of the Dust (1991). Arthur Jafa was the cinematographer.

1991-1992 Made a cycle of paintings related to the Middle Passage.

1993 The Los Angeles County Museum of Art purchased *De Style*, the first painting by Marshall to enter a museum.

1997 Received a MacArthur 'Genius' Grant. His Garden Project series was featured in both the Whitney Biennial in New York and Documenta X in Kassel, Germany.

1998 Major solo exhibition, 'Mementos', at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago which paid tribute to the Civil Rights Movement.

1999 Started his superhero comic series titled *Rythm Mastr* on the occasion of the

53rd Carnegie International at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh.

2003 Major presentation in Europe during the 50th Venice Biennale where he juxtaposed the painting Gulf Stream with the sculpture Wake, which comprised a black ship with a single medallion on the hull that stood for its cargo of enslaved Africans.

2007-2009 Produced his influential series of imaginary Black painters.

2012 Major European exhibition 'Who's Afraid of Red, Black and Green' at the Secession in Vienna.

2013-2014 The traveling survey, 'Kerry James Marshall: Painting and Other Stuff' was on view at the Museum van

Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen in Antwerp, at the Kunsthall Charlottenborg in Copenhagen, at the Fundació Antoni Tàpies in Barcelona and at the Museo Reina Sofía in Madrid.

2015 Marshall participated in the 56th Venice Biennale curated by Okwui Enwezor. He also unveiled the mural Above the Line, an extension of his ongoing comic series Rythm Mastr, specifically for the High Line in New York.

2016-2017 US major retrospective spanning 35 years of Marshall's career, 'Mastry', presented at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. His work was also featured in Paris in the group exhibition 'The Color

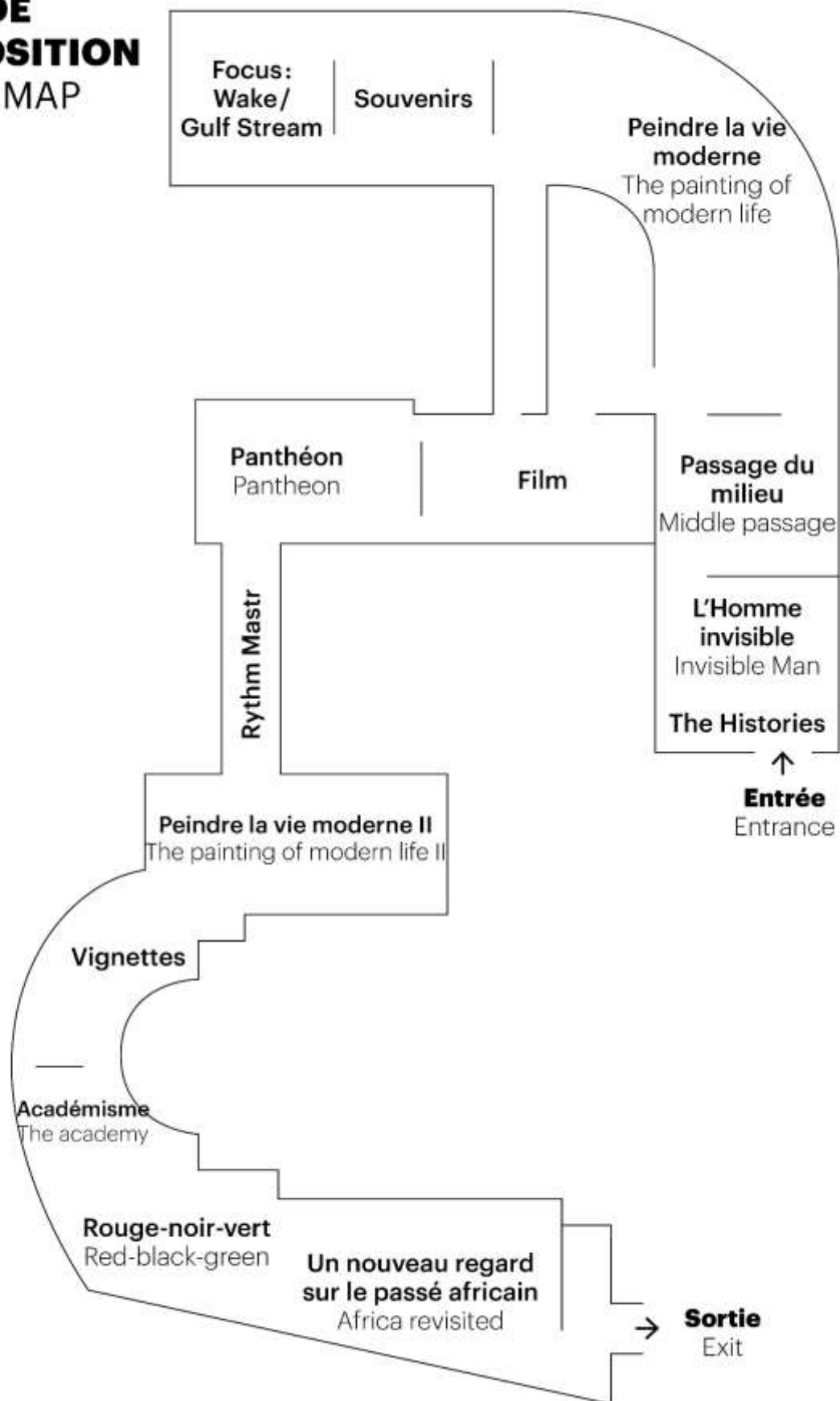
Line, African-American Artists and Segregation' at the Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac.

2023-2025 Created a new series of paintings depicting imaginary historical scenes from Africa.



Kerry James Marshall *Untitled*, 2008
Acrylic on PVC panel
Harvard Art Museums/Fogg Museum,
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
© Kerry James Marshall

PLAN DE L'EXPOSITION FLOOR MAP



Kerry James Marshall

September 18, 2026 — January 24, 2027

Director : Fabrice Hergott

Curator : Mark Godfrey

Scientific advisor : Kelly-Christina Grant

Exhibition assistant : Emma Nordberg

PUBLICATION

Catalog, published by Paris Musées : 45€

PRICES

Regular rate 17€

Reduced rate 15€

Combined ticket 20€/18€

Free for visitors under 18

With the Paris Musées card, unlimited access to all exhibitions of the museums of the City of Paris (except for the Crypte archéologique and Catacombes).

Reserving a timed entry is recommended:
www.billetterie.parismusees.paris.fr

Free entry for the permanent collections.

TOURNING APPLICATION

Scan this QR code to access the museum's app and the curators' guided audio tour of the exhibition.



PLAYLIST

Discover the exhibition playlist.
Scan the QR code to access it.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Information and reservations

www.mam.paris.fr/fr/agenda

www.billetterie-parismusees.paris.fr

T : 01 53 67 40 80 / 40 83

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Guided tour (online ticketing)

Tuesday 2 :30 p.m.

Thursday 7p.m.

Saturday 4 p.m.

Conference series : Transatlantic dialogue

Friday, September 18 – 16h

Special Conversation with Kerry James

Marshall with: Fabrice Hergott, Mark

Godfrey

Thursday, November 5 – 19h

Representations of Black Figures

Thursday, December 3 – 7 p.m.

On History Painting

Thursday, January 14 – 7 p.m.

Art, Memory, and Colonial Legacies

Matisse room,

Free admission, registration required,
subject to availability.

Sunday, September 20 – 3-4:30 p.m.

Performance – Parlons Masculin,

Chapitre 1 : Dans ma chambre

Mise en scène et chorégraphie :

Pascal Beugré Tellier

Matisse room,

Free admission, registration required,
subject to availability.

Saturday, October 3 - 10h to 17h

Performance – Miles Greenberg

Twelve Academic Studies

Matisse room,

Free admission, registration required,
subject to availability.

GETTING THERE

Métro Line 9 : Alma-Marceau or Iéna

Bus : 32 / 42 / 63 / 72 / 80 / 92

RER C : Pont de l'Alma

The exhibition is accessible to persons
with disabilities

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm

Late-night opening Thursday until 9:30 pm
(exhibitions only)

Closed on Mondays and some public
holidays