

DAS MINSK

KUNSTHAUS IN POTSDAM

PRESS RELEASE

Potsdam, May 14, 2024

NOAH DAVIS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 – JANUARY 5, 2025

DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam presents the largest institutional survey to date of the late artist Noah Davis (1983-2015), on view from September 7, 2024, to January 5, 2025. Bringing together over 50 works spanning the artist's complete oeuvre, this major touring exhibition offers a comprehensive overview of Davis' extraordinary practice. It will be the artist's inaugural institutional retrospective, which will subsequently travel to the Barbican, London and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.

Curated chronologically, the retrospective presents Davis' relentless creativity and curiosity commencing with his first exhibition in 2007, spanning eight years until his untimely death in 2015. Featuring previously unseen paintings, works on paper and sculpture, the exhibition pays special attention to the art historical and conceptual approaches in his practice, revealing that art history, imagery, humor, and above all, people were the epicenter of his work.

Committed to showing modern and contemporary art with a focus on art from the former GDR, DAS MINSK continues its conversation with the past from a contemporary perspective. The show at DAS MINSK highlights the artist's unique perspective and extensive knowledge of the history of figurative painting, including German art, ranging from *Neue Sachlichkeit* and *Magischer Realismus* to the *Leipziger Schule*, while it simultaneously reveals, how his motifs riff on the so-called canon and question it by including his surroundings and community.

Based primarily in Los Angeles, Davis created a body of figurative paintings that explore a range of Black life. Believing he had a "responsibility to represent the people" around him, Davis drew on anonymous photography found in flea markets, personal archives, film and television, music, literature, art history and his imagination to create a ravishing body of work. Figures dive into swimming pools, sleep, dance, play music, read and look at public art in settings that can be both realistic and dreamlike, joyful, and melancholic. Often enigmatic, sometimes uncanny, Davis' paintings reveal a deep feeling for people, humanity and the existential and universal layers of everyday life.

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Motivated by the desire to "change the way people view art, the way they buy art, the way they make art", Noah Davis and his wife Karon Davis co-founded The Underground Museum in 2012, an internationally renowned institution in the historically Black and Latinx neighborhood of Arlington Heights, Los Angeles.

The exhibition *Noah Davis* is initiated by Barbican, London and DAS MINSK, Potsdam. This project is organized in close collaboration with the Estate of Noah Davis and David Zwirner Gallery.

DAS MINSK, Potsdam 7 September 2024 – 5 January 2025. Exhibition curated by Paola Malavassi

Barbican, London 6 February – 11 May 2025. Exhibition curated by Eleanor Nairne and Wells Fray-Smith

Hammer Museum, Los Angeles: 8 June – 31 August 2025. The exhibition is organized by the Barbican, London and initiated with DAS MINSK, Potsdam. The exhibition is curated by Eleanor Nairne and Wells Fray-Smith. The presentation at the Hammer is organized by Aram Moshayedi, interim chief curator.

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PRESS CONTACT *NOAH DAVIS*

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We would be happy to assist you if you need further information or images.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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14473 Potsdam
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www.dasmink.de
Instagram: @dasmink

OPENING HOURS
Daily except Tuesdays
Wednesday to Monday 10 am – 7 pm

ADMISSION
10 Euros, 8 Euros concession

Combined ticket 20 Euros, 12 Euros concession
The combined ticket is valid for the Museum Barberini and DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam.

DAS MINSK team is always happy to receive contact from contemporary witnesses of the former terrace restaurant "Minsk" by mail or e-mail: zeiten@dasmink.de.

DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam is a project of the Hasso Plattner Foundation. The goal of the Hasso Plattner Foundation is to promote the digitalization of scholarship and education, to improve access to art and culture, and to support the preservation of the environment.

www.plattnerfoundation.org

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APPENDIX

BIOGRAPHY NOAH DAVIS

Born in 1983 in Seattle, Washington, Noah Davis set up a studio for himself as a teenager and studied briefly at Cooper Union in New York before pursuing his own artistic education. In 2004, he relocated to Los Angeles and began working at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) bookshop, allowing him to indulge his insatiable appetite for cultural history, particularly in the realm of painting. Drawing on the legacy of painters ranging from Mark Rothko to Marlene Dumas and Kerry James Marshall, he experimented with different painterly styles. Davis co-founded The Underground Museum in Arlington Heights in 2012 where he curated a series of group exhibitions and devised a collaboration with the MOCA, Los Angeles.

EXHIBITION CATALOG

Noah Davis is accompanied by a 270-page, fully-illustrated catalogue. Co-produced and co-edited with the Barbican and DAS MINSK and published by Prestel, the publication offers a comprehensive and scholarly examination of Davis's career, process, and impulses in his paintings. It features newly commissioned texts by exhibition curators Wells Fray-Smith, Paola Malavassi, and Eleanor Nairne, alongside the scholars Tina M. Campt and Claudia Rankine. Further texts include personal and poetic responses to individual artworks by Dawoud Bey, T. J. Clark, Francesco Clemente, Karon Davis, Marlene Dumas, Helen Molesworth, and Jason Moran. The catalogue includes previously unseen archival material, as well as an illustrated chronology.