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Common Wealth: Art by African Americans in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

By Dennis Carr, Janet Comey, Elliot Bostwick Davis, Aiden Faust, Nonie Gadsden, Edmund Gaither, Karen Haas, Erica Hirshler, Kelly L'Ecuyer, Taylor Poulin, Karen Quinn



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The story of African Americans in the visual arts has closely paralleled their social, political and economic aspirations over the last 400 years. From enslaved craftspersons to contemporary painters, printmakers and sculptors, African American artists have created a wealth of artistic expression that addresses common experiences, such as exclusion from dominant cultural institutions, and confronts questions of identity and community. This generously illustrated volume gathers more than 100 works of art in a variety of media by leading figures from the nineteenth century to the present?among them, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Lois Mailou Jones, Gordon Parks, Wifredo Lam, Kara Walker, Glenn Ligon and Kerry James Marshall?alongside many others who deserve to be better known, including artists from the African diaspora in South America and the Caribbean. Arranged thematically and featuring authoritative texts that provide historical and interpretive context, *Common Wealth* invites readers to share in a rich outpouring of art that meets shared challenges with individual creative responses.



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