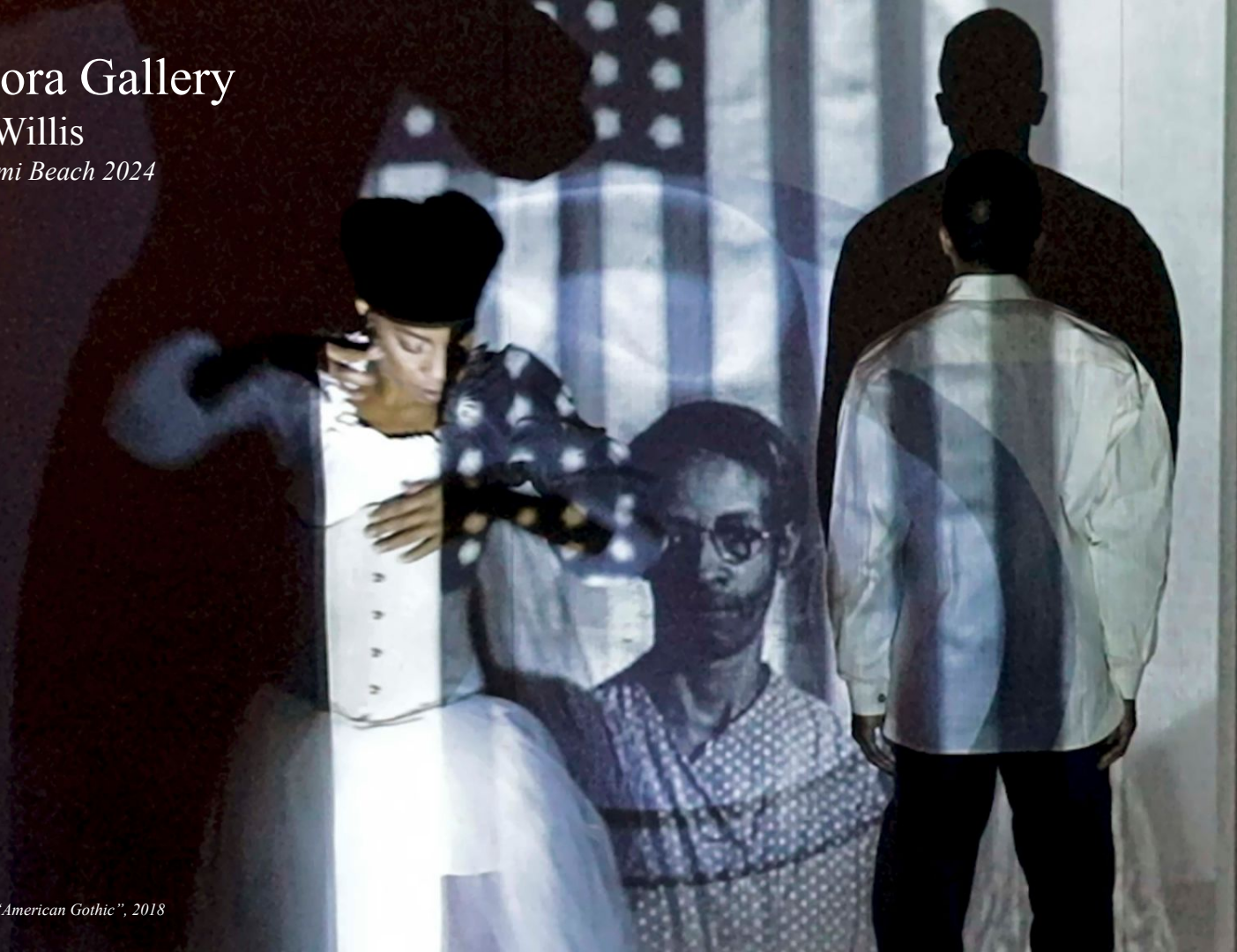


Welancora Gallery

Deborah Willis

Art Basel Miami Beach 2024



Reflections Gordon Parks' "American Gothic", 2018

Press inquiries:
pr@welancoragallery.com
www.welancoragallery.com
646-818-0162



About the Artist

Deborah Willis, Ph.D. (b. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) is an accomplished art historian, photographer and author. She lectures, teaches, curates exhibitions, and convenes the Black Portraiture conferences. Willis's work has been instrumental in advancing the study of Black aesthetics in photography. She is currently the University Professor and Chair of the Department of Photography & Imaging at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. In November 2024, she was appointed Chair of the Andy Warhol Foundation.

Willis earned her B.F.A. degree in photography from the Philadelphia College of Art in 1975. She received an M.F.A. in photography from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 1980 and a PhD from George Mason University in 2002. After graduating from Pratt Institute, Willis became the curator of photography and prints and the exhibitions coordinator at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, curating collections that included scenes from black history, and portraits of famous African Americans. In 1985, she published her first book, *Black Photographers, 1840-1940: An Illustrated Bio-bibliography*, featuring the works of more than three hundred photographers, followed by *An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography of Black Photographers, 1940-1988*.

Willis has received numerous awards including the International Center of Photography Award in Writing (1995); the MacArthur Fellowship (2000); the Guggenheim Fellowship (2005); CAA Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing on Art (2021); the Robert Mapplethorpe Photographer In Residency at the American Academy in Rome and the Don Tyson Prize for the Advancement of American Art (2022). Her work has been featured in various exhibitions across the country at institutions including the Smithsonian, the Woodmere Art Museum, the African American Museum in Philadelphia, the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery and Anderson Ranch in Aspen.

During the run of Art Basel Miami Beach, the Norton Museum of Art will present *Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing*, encompassing more than 100 artworks from the 1870s through present-day. Including Willis' works, the exhibition will feature the work of more than 50 artists who have explored the combat sport through paintings, sculptures, works on paper, photography and videos. This dynamic presentation will be the largest comprehensive survey of artwork depicting this global sport and its cultural impact. This show is on view from October 26, 2024 to March 9, 2025.

Meditations | Deborah Willis

“In my view, the notion of representing and embodying memories of the experiences of black Civil War soldiers is framed in the act of a waltz, historical and contemporary photographs and storytelling through gesture. Civil War as a metaphor has varying meanings and entry points to imagine and reimagine the American Civil War, a conflict in a relationship between man and woman; bonded and free, is found in the portraits of black soldiers made in photographic studios and tents that connect the ideals of democracy and patriotism to 19th century photographic albums of black women domestic workers. In using my own photographs and projected images from the archive of the 19th century and the works of artists like Gordon Parks and Hank Willis Thomas, I foreground memory, clothing, and objects through the pace of a waltz. It is both sensual and hypnotic through the movements of the choreographer and dancers Djassi Johnson and Kevin Boseman. Through the spellbinding gesture I imagine we are witnessing the past and the present; tension and resolution; while simultaneously transfixed by capturing movement.”



Reflections on Civil War (Soldier with Family), 2018

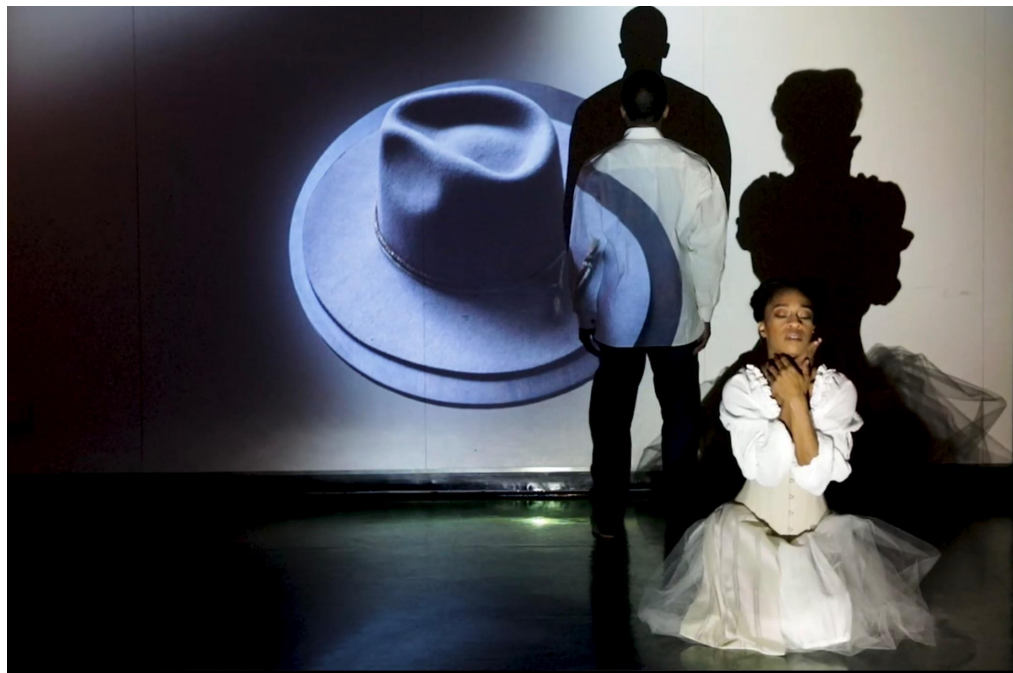


Deborah Willis
Civil War Soldier and Tent, 2018
Projection reflection, archival pigment print on Hahnemuhle Photo
Rag® Metallic
25 x 30 inches (unframed)
25 ½ x 30 ½ x 1 ⅝ inches (framed)
\$19,500
Edition 1 of 3





Deborah Willis
Harlem Street Baptism, 2018
Projection reflection, archival pigment print on Hahnemuhle
Photo Rag® Metallic
47 x 47 inches (unframed)
48 x 48 x 2 inches (framed)
\$24,500
Edition 1 of 3



Deborah Willis
Civil War Hat, 2018
Projection reflection, archival pigment print on
Hahnemuhle Photo Rag® Metallic
20 x 30 inches (unframed)
20 1/2 x 30 1/2 x 1 5/8 inches (framed)
\$19,500
Edition 1 of 3

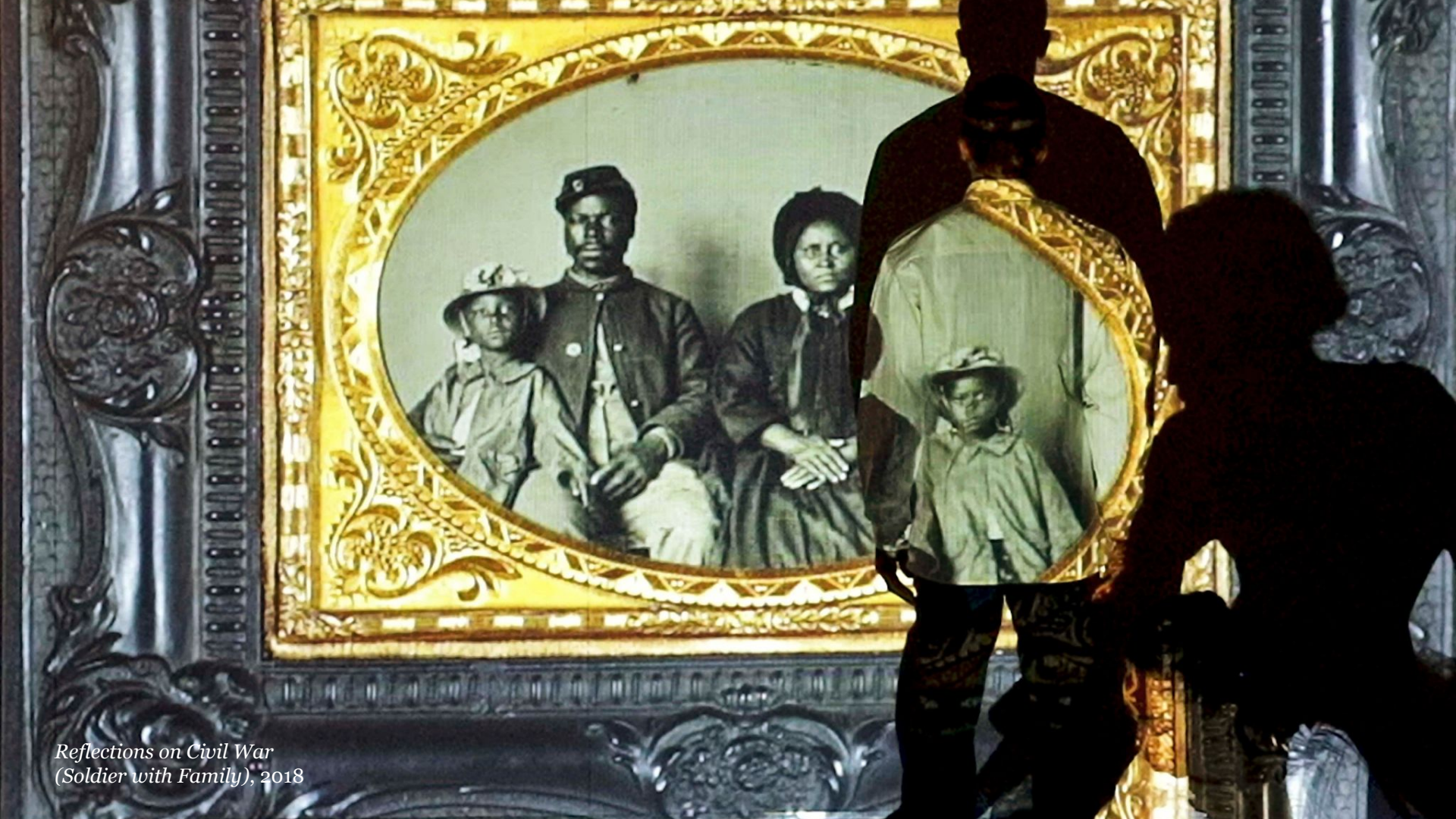


Civil War Hat, 2018

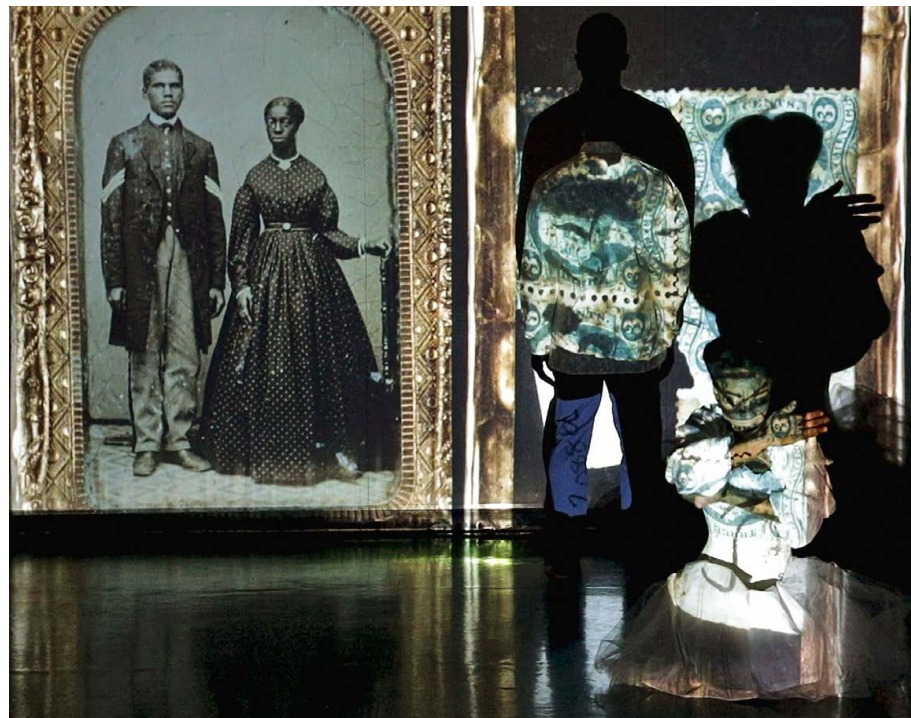


Deborah Willis
Reflections on Civil War (Soldier with Family), 2018
Projection reflection, archival pigment print on Hahnemuhle Photo
Rag® Metallic
26 x 30 inches (unframed)
26 1/2 x 30 1/2 x 1 5/8 inches (framed)
\$19,500
Edition 1 of 3





*Reflections on Civil War
(Soldier with Family), 2018*

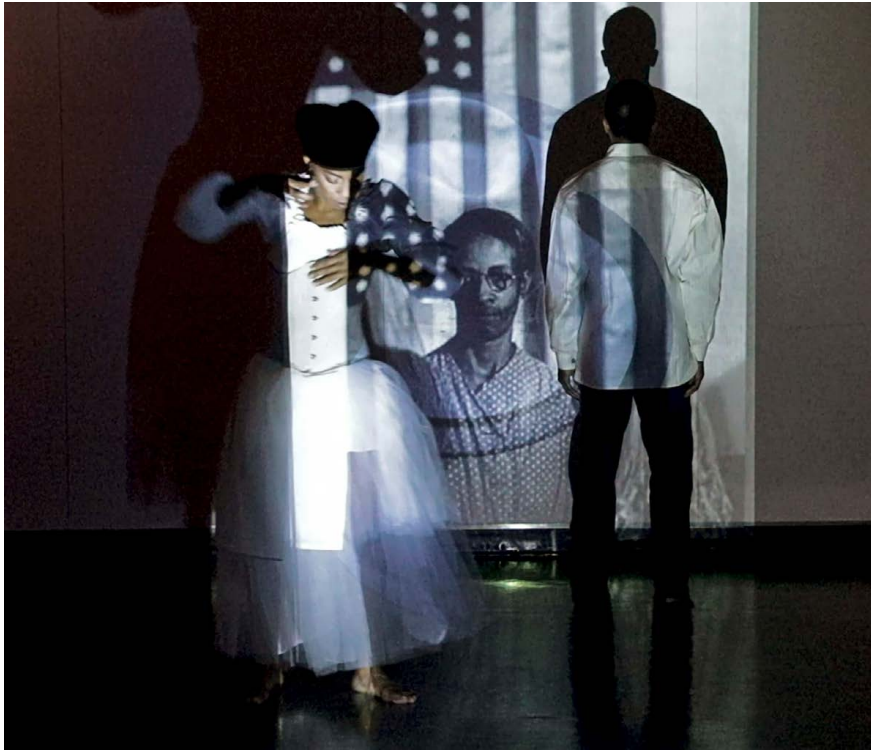


Deborah Willis
Reflections Civil War Shadow of a Wedding (Civil War Soldier and Wife), 2018
Projection reflection, archival pigment print on
Hahnemuhle Photo Rag® Metallic
24 x 30 inches (unframed)
24 1/2 x 30 1/2 x 1 5/8 inches (framed)
\$19,500
Edition 1 of 3



Reflections Civil War Shadow of a Wedding (Civil War Soldier and Wife), 2018





Deborah Willis

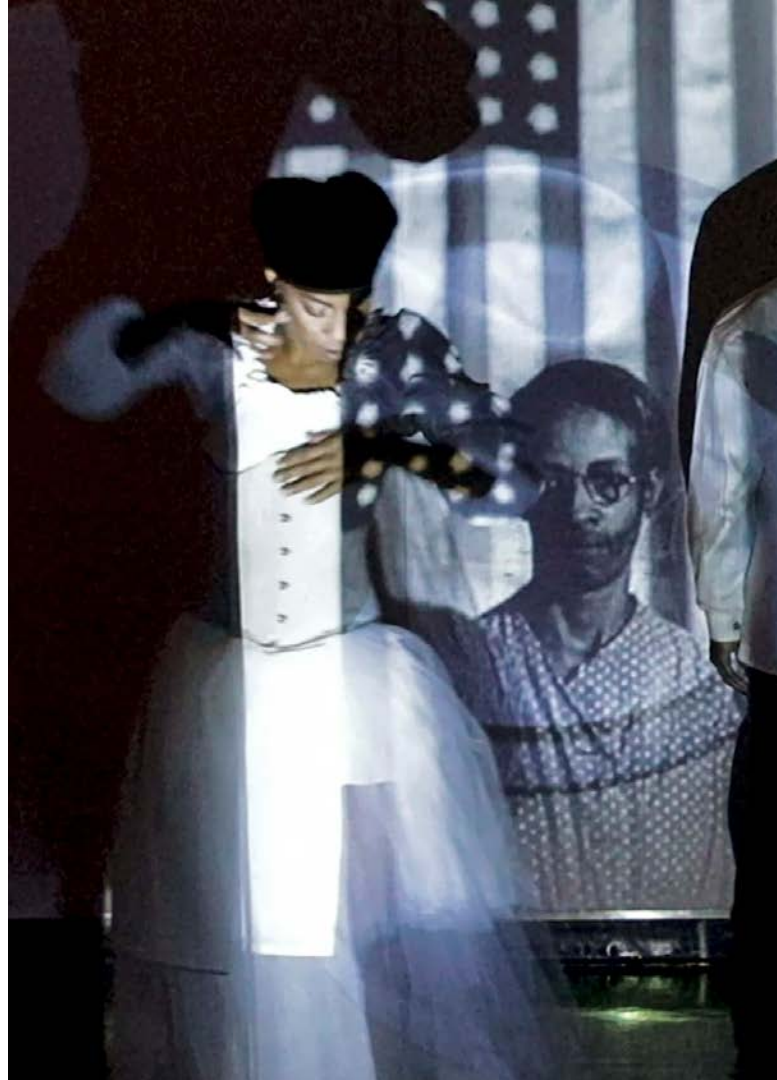
Reflections Gordon Parks' "American Gothic", 2018

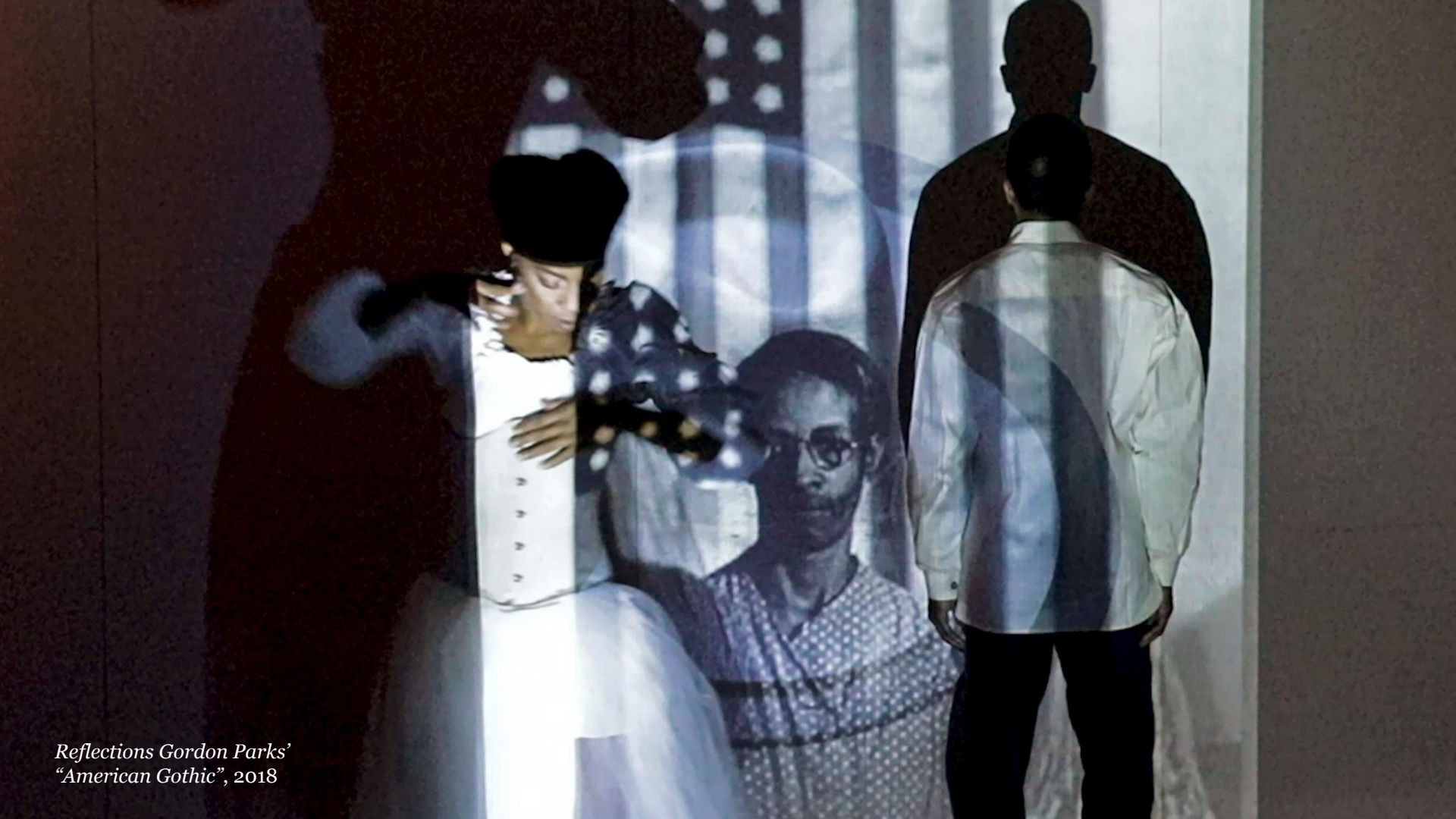
Projection reflection, printed on Canson Platine Fibre Rag
18 x 21 inches (unframed)

18 1/2 x 21 1/2 x 1 5/8 inches (framed)

\$19,500

Edition 1 of 3





Reflections Gordon Parks'
"American Gothic", 2018



Deborah Willis
Reflections Civil War Generations, 2018
Projection reflection, archival pigment print on
Hahnemuhle Photo Rag® Metallic
22 x 30 inches (unframed)
22 1/2 x 30 1/2 x 1 5/8 inches (framed)
\$19,500
Edition 1 of 3



Reflections Civil War Generations, 2018



Deborah Willis
Reflections on Planting and Harvesting, 2018
Projection reflection, archival pigment print on Hahnemuhle
Photo Rag® Metallic
47 x 47 inches (unframed)
48 x 48 x 2 inches (framed)
\$24,500
Edition 1 of 3





Deborah Willis
Praise, in Response to HWT's Rise Up, 2018
Projection reflection, printed on Canson Platine Fibre Rag
17 7/16 x 24 1/2 inches (unframed)
17 15/16 x 25 x 1 5/8 inches (framed)
\$19,500
Edition 1 of 3





*Praise, in Response to HWT's
Rise Up, 2018*



Deborah Willis
Clothesline 5, 2020
Photograph printed on Canson Platine Fibre Rag
18 x 27 inches (unframed)
18 1/2 x 27 1/2 x 1 5/8 inches (framed)
\$19,500
Edition 1 of 3





Deborah Willis
Washerwomen Rejoice, 2018
Projection reflection, printed on Canson Platine Fibre Rag
18 x 25 1/8 inches (unframed)
18 1/2 x 25 5/8 x 1 5/8 inches (framed)
\$19,500
Edition 1 of 3





Washerwomen Rejoice, 2018