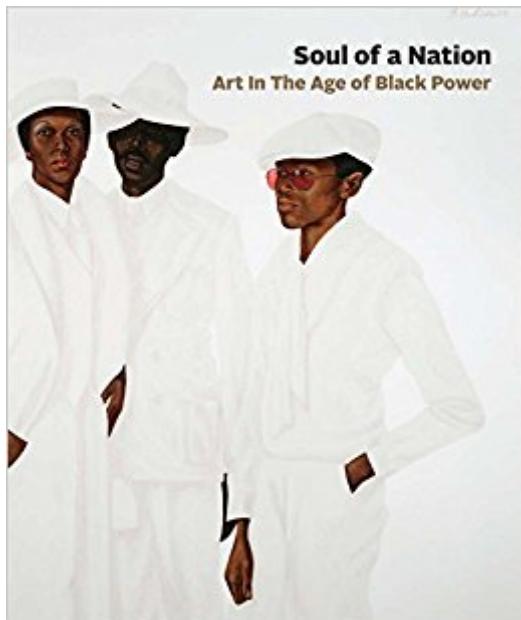


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Soul Of A Nation: Art In The Age Of Black Power



Synopsis

African American art in the era of Malcolm X and the Black PanthersIn the period of radical change that was 1963–83, young black artists at the beginning of their careers confronted difficult questions about art, politics and racial identity. How to make art that would stand as innovative, original, formally and materially complex, while also making work that reflected their concerns and experience as black Americans? Soul of a Nation surveys this crucial period in American art history, bringing to light previously neglected histories of 20th-century black artists, including Sam Gilliam, Melvin Edwards, Jack Whitten, William T. Williams, Howardena Pindell, Romare Bearden, David Hammons, Barkley L. Hendricks, Senga Nengudi, Noah Purifoy, Faith Ringgold, Betye Saar, Charles White and Frank Bowling. The book features substantial essays from Mark Godfrey and Zoe Whitley, writing on abstraction and figuration, respectively. It also explores the art-historical and social contexts with subjects ranging from black feminism, AfriCOBRA and other artist-run groups to the role of museums in the debates of the period and visual art's relation to the Black Arts Movement. Over 170 artworks by these and many other artists of the era are illustrated in full color. 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the first use of the term "black power" by student activist Stokely Carmichael; it will also be 50 years since the US Supreme Court overturned the prohibition of interracial marriage. At this turning point in the reassessment of African American art history, Soul of a Nation is a vital contribution to this timely subject.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: D.A.P./Tate (September 26, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1942884176

ISBN-13: 978-1942884170

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #178,371 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #172 in Books > Arts & Photography > Collections, Catalogs & Exhibitions #652 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Criticism #1236 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > African-American Studies

Customer Reviews

At London's flagship modern art gallery, Tate Modern, one of this summer's most

lauded exhibitions features work by African-American artists made in the age of Martin Luther King Jr. Yet, while “Soul of a Nation” is nominally a historical display, gallery goers spilling out of the show this week found an obvious contemporary resonance to the art they had just seen. (Patrick Kingsley New York Times) Soul of a Nation is a significant and transformative contribution to art history and American history. Richly informative and deeply engaging, this volume documents the powerful role black artists had in shaping contemporary art and our society at a pivotal moment in history. It is sure to be a profoundly valuable resource for decades to come. (Thelma Golden The Studio Museum) Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power is a tour-de-force, showcasing more than 150 works by over 60 artists between 1963 and 1983...[and] features substantial essays that provide much-needed insights into this vastly underserved and broadly neglected period of art history. (Miss Rosen Crave Online) A masterful catalogue published by the Tate/D.A.P., which features substantial essays that provide much-needed insights into this vastly underserved and broadly neglected period of art history. (Miss Rosen Crave) Successfully layering a broader socio-historical narrative onto a period of radical non-conformity, this is an important show, now. (Osei Bonsu Frieze.com) The new survey of work made in two tumultuous decades of black activism reveals a prodigious range of artistic expression. (The Financial Times) The Black Power movement was more than just a protest group; it was a watershed moment in American history and a coming-together of enormous importance and influence -- not just socially and politically, but culturally and artistically as well. (CNN) This is a rich, absorbing and thought-provoking exhibition with enough themes and ideas to power three shows its size! this is an epic response to an epic subject and without doubt one of the shows of the year. (Mark Hudson The Telegraph) Civil rights meet aesthetics in this riveting survey of 20 crucial years of black American art and struggle ... uncovers an entire lost history of American art. (Jonathan Jones The Guardian)

Mark Godfrey is Senior Curator, International Art (Europe and Americas) at Tate Modern Zoe Whitley is Adjunct Research Curator, Tate Modern -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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