One Way Ticket: Jacob Lawrence’s Migration Series and Other Visions of the Great Movement North
Join us for new commissions, talks, performances, films, and more exploring the legacy of the Great Migration and its continuing impact on American culture.

About the Exhibition

Through September 7

One-Way Ticket: Jacob Lawrence’s Migration Series and Other Visions of the Great Movement North marks the centennial of the beginning of the Great Migration, the multi-decade mass movement of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North. The exhibition provides a rare opportunity to see Lawrence’s landmark Migration Series in its entirety, bringing it together with other artistic representations of the Great Migration in art, music, film, literature, and poetry.

MoMA.org/onewayticket
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Performances & Programs

Jacob Lawrence’s Migration Series and the Legacy of Jim Crow: The Long History of the Artist’s Concerns
Wed, Apr 15, 6:30 p.m.
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1

A conversation about the continuing legacy of Jim Crow and its impact on issues of race, justice, and public policy in America led by Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, with Sherrilyn Ifill, President, Legal Defense and Education Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Cornell Brooks, President, NAACP

Migration Rhapsody: An Aleatoric Exploration of the Journey North through Music, Poetry, and Personal Narrative
Thu, Apr 23, 7:00 p.m.
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1

An evening of music and performance with more than 20 artists, including James Davis, Bill T. Jones, Karen Chilton, Alicia Hall Moran, Kevin Maynor, Jason Moran, Ricky Gordon, Bob Stewart, Damien Sneed, and Bill Sims Jr., and curated by WQXR radio host and musicologist Terrance McKnight.

Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts: YOU BETTA WERK
Sun, Apr 26, 3:30 p.m.
MoMA PS1
ps1.org/visit

Join us for an afternoon of screenings, discussions, and performances with artists, theorists, and community organizers niv Acosta, Davarian Baldwin, Alicia Garza, and Uri McMillan, inspired by and celebrating two seminal liberation movements that emerged out of Harlem: The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the House and Ballroom Scene.

Debut Reading of the Migration Series Poetry Suite
Fri, May 1, 6:30 p.m.
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1

Join us for the debut reading of newly commissioned works responding to the Migration Series, selected and moderated by poet Elizabeth Alexander, with the extraordinary line-up of participating poets Rita Dove, Nikky Finney, Terrance Hayes, Tyehimba Jess, Yusef Komunyakaa, Patricia Spears Jones, Natasha Trethewey, Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon, Crystal Williams, and Kevin Young.

Steffani Jemison: Promise Machine
Thu, Jun 25, 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. 
Sat, Jun 27, 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.
MoMA galleries, begins on Floor 5

In a newly commissioned work, artist Steffani Jemison presents performances inspired by the Utopia Neighborhood Club, a Harlem-based women’s social service organization that directly supported Jacob Lawrence.

MoMA Nights Series
Thursdays in July; sets begin at 6:30 p.m.
The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden

Enjoy live music and refreshments Thursday evenings in July. Each musician in this year’s series represents a generation of rising stars with his or her own personal tale of migration. Organized in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center and Harlem Stage.

Jul 2  Elena Ayodele Pinderhughes
Jul 9  Samora Pinderhughes
Jul 16  Tamar-kali
Jul 23  Jon Batiste
Jul 30  Shenel Johns

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A Road Three Hundred Years Long: Cinema and the Great Migration
Mon, Jun 1–Fri, Jun 12
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

An exhibition featuring fiction films by African American writer-directors; newsreels, home movies, and New Deal social documentaries; and the premiere of a new moving-image work commissioned by MoMA, Thom Andersen’s Juke: Passages from the Films of Spencer Williams. Guest presenters include Andersen, Hilton Als, and Jacqueline Najuma Stewart.

Harlem Walking Tour
MoMA.org/harlemwalkingtour
Launching mid-April

Jacob Lawrence’s Harlem, a self-guided audio tour, visits key Harlem landmarks and institutions from the 1930s and 1940s, the period during which Lawrence began his career as an artist. Narrated by Terrance McKnight, with commentaries by Leah Dickerman, curator of One-Way Ticket; Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator, The Studio Museum in Harlem; Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts, author; Arva Rice, President, New York Urban League; Elinor Tatum, Editor-in-Chief, New York Amsterdam News, and others.

MoMA.org/migrationseries

Visit MoMA’s Migration Series website, a rich multimedia exploration of Jacob Lawrence’s landmark work, including films, music, and oral history recordings; new poems commissioned by MoMA; filmed interviews with historians and writers, and much more.

Publications

Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series
Edited by Leah Dickerman and Elsa Smithgall

This richly illustrated catalogue highlights the cultural and political debates that shaped Jacob Lawrence’s work. It includes 10 newly commissioned poems selected by celebrated poet Elizabeth Alexander.

Jake Makes a World: Jacob Lawrence, a Young Artist in Harlem
By Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts
Illustrations by Christopher Myers

This vibrant children’s book follows young Jake as he takes in the colors, sounds, and characters of his community in Harlem.