

DAS MINSK KUNSTHAUS PRESENTS LARGEST INSTITUTIONAL RESTROSPECTIVE TO DATE OF AMERICAN PAINTER NOAH DAVIS

On View: September 7, 2024 – January 5, 2025

May 14, 2024 (Potsdam, Germany) – **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 titled *'Noah Davis'* offers a comprehensive overview of the artist's 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.

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.



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NOTES TO EDITORS:

DAS MINSK, Potsdam, Germany | September 7, 2024 – January 5, 2025. Curated by Paola Malavassi
Barbican, London, UK | February 6 – May 11, 2025. Curated by Eleanor Nairne and Wells Fray-Smith
The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA | June 8 – August 31, 2025. Curated by Aram Moshayedi

The exhibition is organized by the Barbican, London and initiated with DAS MINSK, Potsdam. The presentation at the Hammer is organized by Aram Moshayedi, interim chief curator.

Address:

DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam
Max-Planck-Straße 17
14473, Potsdam
Germany

Opening Hours:

Wednesday – Monday: 10 am - 7 pm
Closed on Tuesdays

About 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.

Image Credit:

1. Noah Davis, *Isis*, 2009. Mellon Foundation Art Collection © The Estate of Noah Davis. Courtesy The Estate of Noah Davis und David Zwirner
2. Noah Davis, *Untitled*, 2015. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis in honor of Jerry Speyer's 80th birthday, 2020. © The Estate of Noah Davis. Courtesy The Estate of Noah Davis and David Zwirner.