



CHRONOLOGY

	POLITICAL BACKGROUND	KEY POLITICAL EVENTS AND PEOPLE	ATLANTIC THOUGHT	ART AND LITERARY EVENTS	ART MOVEMENTS
c. 1500		Portuguese bring African captives to Europe as slaves			
c. 1518		First African captives shipped directly from Africa to America			
1640s		Start of large-scale slavetrading by British slavers and sugar cultivation in British Caribbean			
1665–1740		Jamaica's First Maroon War			
c. 1745		Olaudah Equiano born in what is now Nigeria (West Africa)			
1757		Ottobah Cugoano born near Ajumako, modern Ghana			
1775–83	American War of Independence				
1787		Freed black settlers from England, Nova Scotia and Jamaica arrive in Sierra Leone	Ottobah Cugoano publishes <i>Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species</i>		
1789–99	French Revolution				
1791–1804		Haitian Revolution			
1789			Olaudah Equiano publishes <i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa the African</i>		

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1804

1 January,
Haiti declared a
free republic

1806–25

Wars for
independence
in South America

1807

25 March, Act for the
Abolition of the Slave
Trade declares the
slave trade illegal in
the British Empire

1808

Sierra Leone
becomes a British
colony, in which
Christian missionaries
settle and educate
slaves rescued from
slave ships

1811

Chile gains
independence

1817 or 1818

14 February,
Frederick Douglass
born (as slave)

1820–99

About 8000
Afro-Brazilian former
slaves return to West
Africa to settle

1821–22

Liberia founded as a
colony by the African
Colonization Society
as a settlement for
freed American
slaves

1822

Brazil, Bolivia and
Ecuador gain
independence

1833

Slavery Abolition Act
abolishes slavery
throughout most of
the British Empire

1835

Major uprising of
Muslim slaves in
Bahia, Brazil

1838

Frederick Douglass
successfully escapes
from his owner
Mr Freeman

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1840s

Rise of Yoruba orisha
worship in Trinidad
and Guyana

1845

Frederick Douglass
publishes his
autobiography,
*Narrative of the Life
of Frederick Douglass,
an American Slave.*

1848

Abolition of slavery
in France and all its
colonies

1859

Martiano Eliseu do
Bonfim born in Bahia,
Brazil

1861

British annexation
of Lagos

1861–65

American Civil War

1863

Emancipation
Proclamation issued
by Abraham Lincoln

1865

13th Amendment to
the US Constitution
prohibits slavery
throughout the USA

1868

William Edward
Burghardt Du Bois
born

1880–1914

'Scramble for Africa'
(European colonial
conquest)

1875

Martiniano Eliseu do
Bonfim travels to
Lagos, Nigeria for
education, and is
initiated as a
babalawo (Ifa diviner)

1877

Wallace D. Fard
Muhammad born

1885

W.E.B. Du Bois
attends Fisk
University, Nashville,
Tennessee

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1870s

1884-85

Berlin Conference
establishes rules
for European
colonisation of Africa

1887

17 August, Marcus
Garvey born in
St Anne's Bay,
Jamaica

Edward Wilmot
Blyden publishes
*Christianity, Islam
and the Negro Race*

1888

Martiniano Eliseu do
Bonfim returns to
Brazil and promotes
Yoruba culture there.
Abolition of slavery
in Brazil

1889-91

Frederick Douglass
minister-resident and
consul-general to the
Republic of Haiti

1890

Oswald de Andrade
born. One in seven
Lagosians has lived in
Cuba or Brazil

1895

20 February,
Frederick Douglass
dies

1897

British 'punitive
expedition' against
Benin, during which
artworks (the Benin
bronzes) are stolen

Elijah Muhammad
born. W.E.B. Du Bois
helps found the
American Negro
Academy

1899

26 May,
Aaron Douglas, born

1900

Henry Sylvester
Williams organises
first Pan-African
Conference in London.
Ronald Moody born
in Jamaica

1902

Norman Lewis born.
Wifredo Lam born

1903

W.E.B. Du Bois
publishes *The Souls
of Black Folk*.

1906

Josephine Baker born

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1907

1910-12

1911

1912

1914

1914-18

1915-34

1916

1917

1919-35

1919

African National Congress founded in South Africa

World War I

United States' occupation of Haiti

Marcus Garvey travels in South and Central America, and London; returns to Jamaica

Romare Bearden born

Marcus Garvey founds Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)

Marcus Garvey moves to Harlem, New York City

Jacob Lawrence born

W.E.B. Du Bois organises the First Pan-African Congress in Paris with delegates from America, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa. Marcus Garvey founds the Black Star Line to aid transportation and the return from America to African homeland

Picasso paints *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. Version O)*

Harlem Renaissance

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1920

August, First International Convention of the Negro Peoples of the World, organised by UNIA and Marcus Garvey, Harlem

W.E.B. Du Bois publishes a collection of essays and fiction, *Darkwater: Voices from within the Veil*, and a monthly magazine for black children, *The Brownies' Book*

1921

Second Pan-African Congress in London, Brussels and Paris

Exhibition by Negro artists, 135th Street Branch of the New York Public Library

1922

Marcus Garvey arrested for fraud in connection with the failed Black Star Line; is sent to prison and later deported to Jamaica

Exhibition of visual arts and literature by Negroes, Boston Public Library. August Savage makes a bust of Marcus Garvey

1923

Third Pan-African Congress, Lisbon

1924

James Van Der Zee starts photographic series of Marcus Garvey and UNIA activities

1925

Malcolm X born. Frantz Fanon born. Josephine Baker first arrives in Paris and opens at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées

Special issue of US publication *Survey Graphic* entitled *Harlem: Mecca of the New Negro*. Alain Locke publishes *The New Negro: An Interpretation*, collection of essays, short stories, and photographs, including an essay by W.E.B. Du Bois; partly illustrated and designed by Aaron Douglas

1926

W.E.B. Du Bois travels to the Soviet Union

Aaron Douglas, Wallace Thurman, Zora Neale Hurston, John P. Davis, Richard Bruce Nugent, Gwendolyn Bennett and Langston Hughes produce *FIRE!!* A Quarterly Journal Devoted to the Younger Negro Artists; Douglas designs cover

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1927

1928

1929

1930

1931

1933

1934

1935-44

Wall Street Crash in New York, start of Great Depression

Coup d'état in Brazil. Beginning of the so-called Second Republic; Getúlio Vargas in power

The Commonwealth founded

Italian occupation of Ethiopia

Martin Luther King, Jr, born

Nation of Islam founded by Wallace D. Fard Muhammad, Detroit, Michigan

Jacob Lawrence moves to Harlem, New York. September, Aaron Douglas sails to Paris; studies at L'Académie Scandinave. May (to February 1933), Dakar-Djibouti expedition, led by Marcel Griaule

11 May, Minister Louis Farrakhan born

Wallace D. Fard Muhammad dies

Paul Colin creates *Le Tumulte Noir*, portfolio about Josephine Baker and jazz movement in Paris. Jacob Epstein arrives in New York for three months; meets Carl Van Vechten, Albert Barnes, Frank Crowninshield and Paul Robeson (who sits for portrait bust). Josephine Baker's performance at Folies Bergère is filmed

'*Manifesto Antropófago*' (Cannibal Manifesto), by Oswald de Andrade, published in the first issue of the *Revista de Antropofagia* (São Paulo)

Aaron Douglas starts working on murals at Fisk University as an artist-in-residence

Exposition Coloniale Internationale, Paris. Museum of African and Oceanic Arts opens at the same time

Dakar-Djibouti exhibition, Trocadéro, Paris

Zou Zou, starring Josephine Baker (directed by Marc Allegret), released in France. Publication of *Negro: An Anthology*, collected and edited by Nancy Cunard

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1935

Riot in Harlem following protest against employer discrimination by white-owned stores. Marcus Garvey moves to London

1936

W.E.B. Du Bois travels through Poland, the Soviet Union, Manchuria, China and Japan

1937

Josephine Baker returns to Paris and becomes French citizen. Lois Mailou Jones travels to Paris and studies for a year at L'Académie Julian

Négritude movement founded by Senegalese President Léopold Sédar Senghor, Martinican poet Aimé Césaire, and the Guianan Léon Damas

Cedric Dover publishes *Half-Caste*, 'a study tracing the cultural contributions of mixed race peoples (including African-Americans)'

1938

Aaron Douglas returns to Fisk to take up position of Professor of Art Education; travels to Haiti and the Virgin Islands to paint. Fela Kuti born in Abeokuta, Nigeria

C.L.R. James publishes *The Black Jacobins*

Ronald Moody exhibits his sculptures at the Van Lier Gallery, Amsterdam, then at the Salon des Tuileries and L'Equipe in Paris. Jacob Lawrence has first solo exhibition, Harlem YMCA. Completes Toussaint L'Ouverture series

1939

Aimé Césaire publishes poem *Cahier d'un Retour au Pays Natal (Notebook of a Return to the Native Land)*

1939-45

World War II

1940

10 June, Marcus Garvey dies

1943

David Hammons born

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1944

Angela Davis
born

Historian Eric Williams
publishes *Capitalism
and Slavery*

1945

15–21 October, Fifth
Pan-African Congress,
Manchester, England.
W.E.B. Du Bois attends.
United call for an
independent Africa

1946

Caribbean Voices
broadcast weekly by
the BBC, focusing on
literary works from
the Caribbean region

Léopold Sédar Senghor
publishes *Chants
d'Ombre* in Paris

1947

In Paris, Alioune Diop
establishes *Présence
Africaine*, a publishing
house and journal
promoting African
culture. W.E.B. Du Bois
travels through
Grenada, Jamaica,
Trinidad, and Cuba

Historian
John Hope Franklin
publishes *From
Slavery to Freedom*

1948

22 June, arrival of the
Empire Windrush in
Tilbury, UK, from the
Caribbean

Léopold Sédar Senghor
edits first anthology of
Negritude poetry,
*Anthologie de la
nouvelle poésie nègre
et malgache*, with
introduction by Jean-
Paul Sartre. Founding
of the Museu de Arte
Moderna (MAM) in
São Paulo, Brazil

1950

Aimé Césaire
publishes *Discourse on
Colonialism*

1951

First Bienal
Internacional de Artes
Plásticas in São Paulo,
Brazil

1952

24 August,
Linton Kwesi Johnson
born in Jamaica

Frantz Fanon publishes
*Peau noire, masques
blancs* (trans. *Black
Skin, White Masks*)

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1953

W.E.B. Du Bois awarded International Peace Prize by the World Peace Council

1954

Algerian War of Independence begins, led by the Front Libération Nationale (FLN)

Oswald de Andrade dies

1956

W.E.B. Du Bois refused passport to attend the First International Congress of Black Writers and Artists sponsored by *Présence Africaine*, Paris. Aaron Douglas spends part of summer in Europe and West Africa (including London, Lisbon, Madrid, Barcelona, Florence, Rome, and African ports of Dakar, Accra, and Lagos)

Congrès des écrivains et artistes noirs (First International Congress of Black Writers and Artists), organised by Alioune Diop and Aimé Césaire, held in Sorbonne, Paris (attended by Frantz Fanon, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ben Enwonwu, and Cheik Anta Diop)

1957

6 March, Ghana gains independence (first African colony to do so)

Launch of *Black Orpheus*, review of literature and arts, Ibadan, Nigeria

1958

20 August, Michael Jackson born

Zaria Arts Society inaugurated at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, under directorship of Uche Okeke, also called the 'Zaria Rebels'. Their society develops theory of 'Natural Synthesis'.

1959

Second Congrès des écrivains et artistes noirs (International Congress of Black Writers and Artists), held in Rome

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1960

Seventeen African countries gain independence, including Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Belgian Congo, French Congo, and Ivory Coast. Insurrection in Algeria by French population against de Gaulle's government

Jean-Michel Basquiat born.
Glenn Ligon born.
Lorna Simpson born.
Isaac Julien born.
Coco Fusco born.
W.E.B. Du Bois travels to Ghana and Nigeria

1961

Establishment of the parliamentary system in Brazil

6 December, Frantz Fanon dies in Washington, DC

Frantz Fanon publishes *The Wretched of the Earth*. School of Fine Arts established at University of Nigeria, Nsukka

1962

W.E.B. Du Bois renounces his American citizenship, joins the Communist Party, and becomes citizen of Ghana at age of 95

Opening of Mbari Mbayo Club in Oshogbo, Nigeria; workshops conducted by many artists including Jacob Lawrence and Georgina Beier

1963

Restoration of the presidential system in Brazil

27 August, W.E.B. Du Bois dies in Accra

Brazilian art movement Tropicália initiated, influenced by Antropofagia

1964

Malcolm X visits London but is refused entry to France. On 21 February, he is assassinated in New York

First Notting Hill Carnival procession, London. *The Battle of Algiers*, film, directed by Gillo Pontecorvo

Members of Zaria Arts Society form the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA). Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Birmingham (UK) is established by Richard Hoggart

1965

1966

15 January and 29 July, military coups d'état in Nigeria; Eastern Nigerians living in Northern Nigeria massacred

Eastern Nigerian artists leave Lagos and join war effort

World Festival of Black Arts, Dakar, Senegal

Caribbean Artists' Movement (CAM) is founded by writers Edward Kamau Brathwaite, John La Rose and Andrew Salkey

1967-70

Nigerian Civil War (Biafra War)

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1968

Leaders of the Tropicália movement, Caetano Veloso and Gilberto Gil, are arrested because seen as political threat (ending the movement).
4 April, Martin Luther King, Jr assassinated.
16 October, Mexico City: African-American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos are pictured controversially raising their fists in a salute of Black Power as they collect their Olympic medals.
Chris Ofili born

1969

Kara Walker born.
Fela Kuti visits North America and is introduced to Black Panther ideology by Sandra Smith

1971

Nathan Huggins publishes *Harlem Renaissance. Caribbean Artists in England* exhibition organised by CAM, Commonwealth Art Gallery

1975

Josephine Baker dies.
Elijah Muhammad dies

1976

Ladislav Bugner et al. edit and publish *The Image of the Black in Western Art*, 4 volumes

1977

Festac 77 – The Second Festival of Black and African Arts and Culture, held in Nigeria. Fela Kuti and the Afrika 70 release *Zombie*

1978

Riots break out when Fela Kuti performs 'Zombie' in Accra, Ghana; he is banned from returning to Ghana

Rasheed Araeen, 'Preliminary Notes for a Black Manifesto', published in the first issue of *Black Phoenix*

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1979

Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first female Prime Minister. Start of Thatcherite Conservatism

Aaron Douglas dies.
Norman Lewis dies

1980

End of white minority rule in Zimbabwe

Bob Marley performs at the independence ceremony for Zimbabwe

1981

Bob Marley dies

David Hammons is arrested for performing *Pissed Off*, urinating in public on a Richard Serra sculpture, New York City

Black Cultural Archives (BCA) established, 378 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton

1982-88

Black Audio Film Collective, founded by John Akomfrah, Reece Auguiste, Edward George, Lina Gopaul, Avril Johnson, David Lawson and Trevor Mathison, in Hackney, London

1982

Wifredo Lam dies.
Ronald Moody dies

Eddie Chambers and Keith Piper form the Pan-Afrikan Connection

1983-92

Sankofa Film and Video Collective, founded by Matina Attille, Maureen Blackwood, Isaac Julien, Robert Cruz and Nadine Marsh Edwards in London

1984

Primitivism in Twentieth Century Art: Affinity of the Tribal and the Modern, exhibition, Museum of Modern Art, New York. Rasheed Araeen publishes *Making Myself Visible (MMV)*: Rasheed Araeen, with an introduction by Guy Brett

1985

Live Aid charity pop concert raises £40 million for famine relief in East Africa

An archive for black British artists is established in St Martins School of Art library, now part of the Chelsea School of Art (Liz Ward, librarian). 'Black Art/White Institutions' conference, Riverside Studios, London

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1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

Eddie Chambers
founds and becomes
director of African and
Asian Visual Artists
Archive (AAVAA)
(Bristol). Handsworth
Songs by Black Audio
Film Collective
(61 mins), directed by
John Akomfrah

Paul Gilroy publishes
*There Ain't No Black in
the Union Jack: The
Cultural Politics of Race
and Nation. Harlem
Renaissance: Art of
Black America*
exhibition, Studio
Museum in Harlem.
Publication of
first issue of *Third Text:
Critical Perspectives on
Contemporary Art and
Culture*

Autograph: Association
of Black Photographers
(ABP) established by
Mark Sealy. *Black Art:
Plotting the Course*
exhibition, Oldham
Art Gallery (travels to
Bluecoat Gallery,
Liverpool, 1989),
curated by Eddie
Chambers

Looking For Langston
by Isaac Julien,
16mm black and white
film with sound.
Magiciens de la Terre
exhibition, Centre
Georges Pompidou,
Paris. *The Other Story:
Afro-Asian Artists in
Post-War Britain*,
Hayward Gallery,
London, curated by
Rasheed Araeen

*Contemporary African
Artists: Changing
Tradition*, Studio
Museum in Harlem,
New York. African
artists also shown at
the Venice Biennale

Nelson Mandela is
released after 27
years in prison,
returns as head of
the African National
Congress.

British Prime Minister
Margaret Thatcher is
forced out of office

Jean-Michel
Basquiat dies.
Romare Bearden dies

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1991

Official end of
Apartheid in South
Africa

Isaac Julien is a
founding member of
Normal Films,
London

Michael Jackson's
single 'Black or White'
released from his
album *Dangerous*.
Africa Hoy, curated
by André Magnin,
opens at Centro
Atlantico de
Arte Moderno,
Las Palmas de Gran
Canaria; travels to
the Saatchi Gallery,
London under the title
Out of Africa

1992

Kwame Anthony
Appiah publishes
*In my Father's House:
Africa in the
Philosophy of Culture*

DAK'ART, The Dakar
Biennial for
Contemporary
International Art,
is founded

1993

Stephen Lawrence is
murdered in London in
a racial attack by white
youths; all four men
sentenced to jail for
murder

Paul Gilroy publishes
*The Black Atlantic:
Modernity and Double
Consciousness*

London's Electric
Cinema, Portobello
Road (1910) is the
first cinema in London
to screen films
relating exclusively
to black culture.
Second International
Symposium on
Nigerian Art, Lagos.
Haile Gerima's
Sankofa is released

1994

First multi-racial
elections in 350 years,
South Africa; Nelson
Mandela inaugurated
as President

Kobena Mercer
publishes *Welcome
to the Jungle: New
Positions in Black
Cultural Studies*

*Black Male:
Representations of
Masculinity in
Contemporary
American Art*,
Whitney Museum of
American Art,
New York, curated by
Thelma Golden.
Institute of
International Visual
Arts (InIVA) is
established (merging
Third Text and OVA),
London.
*Nka: Journal of
Contemporary African
Art* founded by Okwui
Enwezor, New York

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1995

Africa '95 festival of art, England. Related shows include *Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; *Self Evident*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; *Africa: The Art of a Continent*, Royal Academy of Arts, London; *Mirage: Enigma of Race, Difference and Desire*, ICA, London. The Black Women Artists study group is established, London

1996

Picturing Blackness in British Art 1700s–1900s, Tate Gallery, London, curated by Paul Gilroy. *In/Sight: African Photography, 1940 to the Present*, exhibition at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. Isaac Julien, *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask* broadcast on BBC television

1997

Chris Ofili included in the Young British Artists' exhibition *Sensation*, Royal Academy of Arts, London

Rhapsodies in Black exhibition, Hayward Gallery, London

1998

Okwui Enwezor is artistic director of *Documenta XI*. Chris Ofili wins the prestigious Turner Prize, and is chosen to represent Britain at the Venice Biennale

1999

Peace treaty signed in Lome, Togo, ending the civil war in Sierra Leone

2000

Jacob Lawrence dies

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2001

Isaac Julien is nominated for the Turner Prize for his film *The Long Road to Mazatlán* (1999)

Okwui Enwezor, Stuart Hall and others publish *Democracy Unrealized: Documenta 11 – Platform 1*

Freestyle exhibition, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

2002

Black Romantic: The Figurative Impulse in Contemporary African-American Art, Studio Museum in Harlem.
The Upper Room by Chris Ofili exhibited as part of *Freedom One Day* at the Victoria Miro Gallery, London

2003

Coco Fusco and Brian Wallis edit and publish *Only Skin Deep: Changing Visions of the American Self*, with an essay by Nicholas Mirzoeff

2005

Hurricane Katrina destroys huge areas of New Orleans, United States, in August. The city's reconstruction programme is criticised for racial discrimination against black residents, who make up the majority of the population

Chris Ofili launches the music project *Freeness*, in which he finds contemporary alternatives to, and tries to subvert the meaning of, 'urban music'

Africa '05 Festival, London. *Africa Remix: Contemporary Art of a Continent*, Hayward Gallery.
David A. Bailey, Ian Baucom and Sonia Boyce edit and publish *Shades of Black: Assembling Black Arts in 1980s' Britain*. Exhibition *Back to Black: Art, Cinema and the Racial Imaginary*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, curated by Richard J. Powell, David A. Bailey and Petrine Archer-Straw

2006

Frequency, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York.
David Hammons: The Unauthorised Retrospective, controversial exhibition at Triple Candie, Harlem, curated by Shelly Bancroft and Peter Nesbett, features photocopies and printouts in place of the artist's actual works in protest against five years of unsuccessful campaigning for a Hammons exhibition

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2007

Bicentenary of the Abolition Act, 1807. Museum in Docklands opens the first permanent display in London relating to the transatlantic slave trade, *London, Sugar, Slavery*. International Slavery Museum opens in Liverpool, England

Opening of Rivington Place (Autograph ABP). First purpose-built cultural centre since Hayward Gallery in 1968, London. Lorna Simpson, 20-year survey of the artist's work, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

2008

Kara Walker: My Complement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. *Flow*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

2009

Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th, and first African-American, President of the United States

2010

Archive for Culturally Diverse Photography opens at Autograph ABP, Rivington Place

2011

Black Cultural Archives will move to Raleigh Hall, Brixton

2012

Ryerson Photography Gallery and Research Centre, Gould St, Toronto, Canada to open. It will house the Black Star Historical Black & White Photography Collection