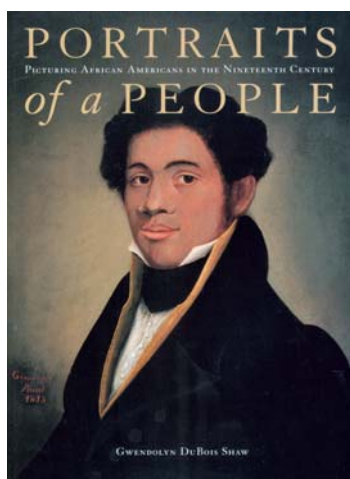


**Portraits of a People: Picturing African Americans in the Nineteenth Century** / Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw.--(Jacob Lawrence series on American artists).--Andover, MA: Addison Gallery of American Art, in association with University of Washington Press, April 2006.--184 p.: ill.--ISBN 0-295-98571-2 (pa., alk. paper): \$40.00 (pa).



This publication accompanies an exhibit that was curated by Dr. Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw, associate professor of the history of art at the University of Pennsylvania. The exhibit opened in January, 2006, at Phillips Academy's Addison Gallery of American Art, its chief sponsor and organizer. It later traveled to the Delaware Art Museum and the Long Beach Museum of Art.

The introductory essays appropriately introduce the reader to the subject content and explore the emergence of African-American portraiture, that is, the depiction of African Americans as the individual or main subject of images in non-degrading and non-stereotypical ways.

More than sixty pages of the catalog are devoted to more than one hundred portraits, ranging from engravings, paintings, silhouettes and various types of photography. Brief profiles of the subjects and artists accompany the images. Portraits were loaned galleries, muse-

ums, historical societies, and libraries in the United States and Europe.

The sitters are a diverse group, some free and freeborn and clearly middle class and others enslaved. Some of the individuals will no doubt be familiar: Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, sculptor Edmonia Lewis and artist Henry O. Tanner to name a few.

*Portraits of a People* can be compared to two earlier exhibitions: *The Portrayal of the Negro in American Painting* (Brunswick, Me.: Bowdoin College, 1964) and *Facing History: The Black Image in American Art, 1710-1940* (San Francisco, CA: Bedford Arts; Washington, D.C.: Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1990). While there are similarities and each share some of the same images, *Portraits of a People* is the first work to focus exclusively on nineteenth-century African-American portraiture.

This is an important source and enriches our understanding of the development of African-American art and artists, as well as nineteenth-century African-American culture. This is a recommended purchase for most library collections.

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