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# TRANSCENDENCE: A CENTURY OF BLACK QUEER ECSTASY, 1924–2024



Rotimi Fani-Kayode, *Every Moment Counts (Ecstatic Antibodies)*, 1989. C-Type archival print, 20 x 24 in.  
Courtesy of Autograph, London © Rotimi Fani-Kayode

**Christian–Green Gallery and Idea Lab, January 24–May  
9, 2025**

**Visual Arts Center, January 24–March 8, 2025**

The word *ecstasy* can be understood as a form of  
transcendence, often through an indiscriminate  
combination of extremes. Art’s truest depictions of

## Artists & Publications

Igshaan Adams  
Aaliyah Arrington  
Alvin Baltrop  
Richmond Barthé  
Belasco  
JEB (Joan E. Biren)  
Michael Andrew Booker  
Vivian Browne  
Beverly Buchanan  
Damien Davis  
Vaginal Davis  
Kendrick Daye  
Beauford Delaney  
Rotimi Fani-Kayode  
*FIRE!!*  
Lola Flash  
vanessa german  
Naima Green  
Jeremy Grier  
Lyle Ashton Harris  
Nadia Huggins  
Juliana Huxtable  
Nella Larsen

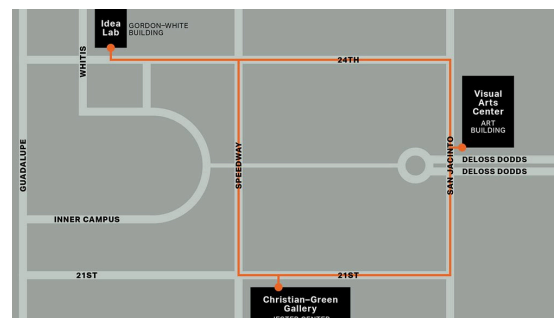
ecstasy exist in the muddled territory between exaltation and despair. *Transcendence: A Century of Black Queer Ecstasy*, through a variety of media, highlights visual representations of Black queer ecstasy from the last 100 years that surpass its absence from the historical record. Centering Blackness and queerness allows this exhibition to consider the potential of queer perspectives around the paradoxes of pleasure and pain, excess and lack, and autonomy and dependence. As such, the exhibition is organized around seven themes: Portraiture, Beyond Figuration, Dance and Movement, Spirituality, Sex and Sensuality, Black Queer Futures, and Altered States. Together these themes represent the foundations of queer, and especially Black queer, experiences and offer viewers a space to engage with artwork and ephemera that highlight an ecstatically abundant past and advocate for a more inclusive and equitable future.

Many works in the exhibition are by artists who identify as queer; some are by artists who lived in times when such identification was not available or possible; and some are by artists who are not queer but whose works resonate with queer histories. By uniting these and other artists from across generations, *Transcendence: A Century of Black Queer Ecstasy* positions ecstasy and transcendence as central themes within the ongoing evolution of Black and queer artistic expression. Ultimately, this exhibition honors the resilience and beauty found within the Black queer community, testifying to the transformative nature of art.

Phillip A. Townsend, PhD, Curator of Art

Richard Lewis  
Alain Locke  
Julie Mehretu  
Troy Montes Michie  
Zanele Muholi  
Devin N. Morris  
Richard-Jonathan Nelson  
Rashaad Newsome  
Bruce Nugent  
Wura-Natasha Ogunji  
Lovie Olivia  
Christopher Paul  
Dana Robinson  
Paul Mpagi Sepuya  
Shikeith  
Devan Shimoyama  
Prentiss Taylor  
Texas Isaiah  
*THING*  
Tourmaline  
Darryl DeAngelo Terrell  
Mickalene Thomas  
Bre'Ann White  
Didier William  
Carla Williams  
D'Angelo Lovell Williams  
Ajamu X

## VENUES



**Christian–Green Gallery at AGBS**

201 East 21st St, Austin, TX 78712  
Jester Center, 2nd Floor, A232

**Idea Lab at AGBS**

210 West 24th St, Austin, TX 78712  
Gordon–White Building, 2.204

**Visual Arts Center**

2301 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, TX 78712  
Art Building, 1st Floor

*We recommend beginning at Christian–Green Gallery, then navigating to Idea Lab or Visual Arts Center using this map and these walking directions. All three spaces are open to the public Wednesday–Friday.*

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS



**Toward “Transcendence:” A Symposium  
on Black Queer Ecstatic Art**

Feb 20, 2025 – Feb 21, 2025

This exhibition is made possible through support from the Terra Foundation for American Art and a grant from The Mellon Foundation's Affirming Multivocal Humanities initiative, with additional support from the following units at The University of Texas at Austin: College of Liberal Arts, Visual Arts Center, Latino Studies, Barron Ulmer Kidd Centennial Lectureship (Humanities Institute), Department of Sociology, Long Chair Funds (Department of Art and Art History), Department of Anthropology, Department of History, and American Studies.



Christian-Green Gallery • idea

**RASHAUN RUCKER: PATRON  
SAINTS OF A BLACK BOY**



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201 East 21st St. Austin, TX 78712  
2nd Floor of Jester Center A232

### IDEA LAB

210 West 24th St. Austin, TX 78712  
Gordon-White Building 2.204

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