

SARAH ELIZABETH LEWIS

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EDUCATION

Yale University, Doctorate in History of Art, 2015, Edward Bouchet Honor Society

Courtauld Institute of Art, M.A., History of Art, 2004, *Distinction*, British Marshall Scholar

Oxford University, M.Phil. Economic and Social History, 2003, *Distinction*, British Marshall Scholar

Harvard College, Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and History of Art and Architecture, 2001
Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

WORK EXPERIENCE

2019-Present Harvard University, Department of History of Art and Architecture, Department of African and African American Studies, Currently the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities and Associate Professor of African and African American Studies

2015-2019 Harvard University, Department of History of Art and Architecture, Department of African and African American Studies, Assistant Professor

2015-Present Founder, Vision & Justice, an award-winning initiative that generates original research, curricula, and public programs that reveal the foundational role of visual culture in America's representational democracy.

- Led a team of 40 scholars, researchers, communications specialists, and producers to create landmark convenings and publications; created new staff positions for an international set of researchers, project managers, and administrators.
- Fundraised over \$1.9 million for programs, administered grants to subcontractors for related initiatives, and cultivated new funding sources.
- Navigated a complex funding terrain impacted by the federal government by working to establish Vision & Justice as a nonprofit to safeguard grants; currently underway, while fundraising via a fiscal sponsorship. Developed new funding relationships with leadership at the Terra Foundation for American Art and The Lewis Foundation.
- Edited and produced award-winning, impact-driven publications such as "Vision & Justice" (2016).
 - Within seven weeks, sold over 20,000 copies, now in its fourth printing, unprecedented for Aperture Foundation.
 - Won the 2017 Infinity Award from the International Center of Photography in the Critical Writing and Research Category.
 - Made required reading for all incoming freshman at New York University Tisch School of the Arts in the 2016-17 academic year.
 - "Vision & Justice," the Vision & Justice Civic Curriculum, and *The Unseen Truth* are featured as part of the Terra Foundation for American Art-funded reinstallation of the American Art collection at the Brooklyn Museum (2024).
- Partnered with and consulted colleagues at Google on an initiative that has worked to

eliminate algorithmic bias in smartphone technology. After participating in the Vision & Justice class and Convening, Florian Koenigsberger, Google marketing executive and photographer, went on to launch “Project Douglass” at Google and later the Google Image Equity initiative that launched Real Tone technology.

- Founded the Vision & Justice Book Series, a publishing imprint that examines the underexplored intersection between art, race, and politics.
 - Recruited and engaged Deborah Willis and Leigh Raiford as co-editors.
 - Secured \$1 million in funding, independently of Aperture, for the first books of the publication series.
 - Established and currently leading and managing an Advisory Board comprised of art historians, cultural historians, critics, and artists including: Courtney R. Baker, Dawoud Bey, LeRonn Brooks, Jelani Cobb, Teju Cole, Huey Copeland, Vinson Cunningham, Awol Erizku, Cheryl Finley, Nicole Fleetwood, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Michael B. Gillespie, Rujeko Hockley, Tyler Mitchell, Valerie Cassel Oliver, Richard Powell, Antwaun Sargent, Ming Smith, Salamishah Tillet, and Carrie Mae Weems.
- Producer and Organizer, Vision & Justice Convening, Harvard University, 2019, a gathering that brought together prominent thought leaders to examine the role of art for justice.
 - Secured additional major funding from the Ford Foundation and co-sponsorship from the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, the Harvard Art Museums, and the American Repertory Theater.
 - Led a team of 20 professionals across separate constituencies, including principals in the Office of the Provost, the FAS Dean, and Departments of History of Art and Architecture and African and African American Studies to successfully retain independent intellectual freedom while mitigating controversy. For example, in the lead up to the Vision & Justice Convening, there was a lawsuit at the Zealy daguerreotypes at Harvard along with campus-wide protests; successfully created contingency plans for any potential protests as the Convening had been, at the University’s request, a part of the philanthropic alumni weekend, hosted by the Committee on University Resources, the event for the highest level donors at the institution.
 - Developed and distributed the free publication, *Vision & Justice: A Civic Curriculum* distributed at the 2019 Vision & Justice Convening at Harvard.
- Producer and Co-Organizer with Sherrilyn Ifill, Founder, 14th Amendment Center for Law and Democracy, *Vision & Justice Now: The Challenge and Promises of American Democracy*, 2025, hosted by Darren Walker, president of the Ford Foundation, New York City.
 - Led and organized a team of 35, including communications specialists, production, media crew, research assistants, and administrative assistants, supported by the Office of the President at the Ford Foundation, Darren Walker, Carly Machado, and Juliet Mureriwa (2024-2025).
 - Provided leadership, strategy, and program development through daily and weekly correspondence across teams to ensure clear communication, cohesive messaging, and successful project implementation.
 - Raised \$500,000 from the Ford Foundation to host the event and \$200,000 from the Terra Foundation for American Art.
- Co-Curator of Visions of Justice with Nicola Benedetti, Edinburgh International Festival (EIF), Ideas Stage, 2026.

- Developed theme and concept for programming to mark the 250th anniversary of American Independence and the 250th anniversary of *The Wealth of Nations* with an “ideas opera” engaging the world’s most compelling thinkers, artists, and innovators—including Ken Burns and Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Sherrilyn Ifill, Wynton Marsalis, and Bryan Stevenson.
- Cultivated financial support from Panmure House, Adam Smith’s estate to launch this inaugural event, working collaboratively with the EIF production team and Vision & Justice Research Fellow, Jessica Stark.

Teaching:

- A hallmark of my teaching is a focus on one main principle: art and material culture are not merely illustrative of world events but have been fundamental to the construction of knowledge of the world in America’s representational democracy.
- Developed, taught, and managed a teaching staff for 13 new courses: including the flagship *Vision & Justice: The Art of Citizenship*, which is organized around a guiding question: How has visual representation both limited and liberated our definition of American citizenship and belonging? The course was invited into the Gen Ed core curriculum program after one year. In the fall of 2024, it was the “joint most competitive” course to enter that semester with the highest demand and ranking by students. The course is in its 10th year given the demand, outcomes in student development, and the urgent need to take the facts of the history of justice and culture seriously today.
- Innovated four graduate level classes and six upper-level courses for undergraduates and graduates across Harvard University, including Harvard Law School, Kennedy School, Medical School, School of Education, and Graduate School of Design, and from MIT (on exhibiting Black art, on photography, race, and American history, and on lesser-known figures in Black art).
- Dedicate time, care, sensitivity, and rigor to develop the methods the teaching fellows follow each year to ensure they can teach difficult topics.
- Teach collaboratively with Harvard colleagues; offer guest lectures and seminars at colleges, universities, museums and public libraries around the nation and internationally.
- Serve as primary advisor for doctoral candidates and Harvard award-winning undergraduate thesis candidates, as well as a mentor to countless graduate and undergraduate students.
- Co-curated exhibitions with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. on Frederick Douglass, Isaac Julien, and nineteenth-century photography, and worked with Suzanne Preston Blier on the exhibition, *Art of the Black World*, a show that comprised an integral part of pedagogy in our discipline of art history.
- Established the “Race and Aesthetics” framework that structures the Harvard History of Art and Architecture junior tutorial, based on my first undergraduate seminar, which is now taught each year in HAA.
- Facilitated and fundraised for seminar and lecture class artist visits, including Ava DuVernay, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Tyler Mitchell, Hank Willis Thomas, and Deborah Willis, and worked collaboratively with museum colleagues to facilitate campus-wide talks for each.

Service and University-wide Fundraising:

- Recruited to deliver keynotes for Harvard University-wide fundraising events across

the country, beginning in 2016, during my first semester at Harvard.

- Traveled with President Drew Faust and Archon Fung (Harvard Kennedy School) to St. Paul, Minnesota to speak at an event about the Vision & Justice research initiative and course.
- Presented at Harvard's First-Year and Junior Family Weekend events to the Women's Philanthropy Summit for Harvard Alumni Affairs.
- Other examples include Vision & Justice keynote at The Harvard Campaign Celebration, Sanders Theater, Harvard University; Neiman Foundation, 80th Anniversary celebration; Harvard Art Museums, faculty panel for donors, cultivation of new members from Alumni contacts; Harvard Black Alumni Global Changemakers Conference; and Harvard IT Summit.
- Selected to be on search committees for external hires and internal leadership positions at Harvard (2016-2025): the Richard L. Menschel Curator of Photography at the Harvard Art Museums; Art, Film, and Visual Studies for a tenure-track professor in video, film, installation, and performance; the Dean of Undergraduate Education; and the African and African American Studies departmental search committee for an appointment in African Literary and Cultural Studies.
- Strategic advisor on arts and scholarly initiatives at Harvard, including Faculty Endorsement Committee, Marshall Scholarship nominations (2025), Standing Committee on American Studies (2017-2025), Standing Committee on Women (2020-2023), Faculty Council on the Arts, Office for the Arts (2017-2021), Harvard Arts Medal Committee (2016-2020), and FAS Standing Committee on Public Service (2016-2019).
- Established the Gordon Parks Essay Prize at Harvard University in 2019.
 - Developed relationships with Gordon Parks Foundation leadership, the Office of the Secretary, and faculty in four departments to establish the first prize at Harvard focused on the intersection of art, race, and justice.
 - Served on the Gordon Parks Essay Prize Jury as Jury Chair.
 - Received and distributed \$15,000 as three prizes of \$5,000 for graduate and undergraduate student essays that explore the relationship between visual art and justice as it pertains to racial equity. This was changed in later years to \$7,000 to one student. Prizes are selected by a jury of Harvard faculty.
- Provided collaborative leadership on the Yale Corporation Committee on Honorary Degrees, as an Appointed Member (2016-2022), as Captain of the Fine Arts Committee and member of the Humanities committee. The recipients of a Doctor of Fine Arts Honorary Degree from Yale University, under my leadership, include Ava DuVernay (2021), Ming Cho Lee (2020), Carmen de Lavallade (2019), Sheila Hicks (2019), and Angela Evelyn Bassett (2018). The work for this committee included, but was not limited to, quarterly meetings with travel to Yale, solicitation of suggestions from Yale deans and faculty and beyond, conversations about delicate matters regarding the long list of candidates with the committee.

2015 The Metropolitan Museum, Associate Curator [Declined]

2015 The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Deputy Director [Declined]

2010 National Endowment for the Arts, Deputy Director [Declined]

2009-2015 Yale University, Critic, School of Art, Painting Department, Photography Department

- 2004-2007 The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Department of Painting and Sculpture,
Department of Photography
- 2003-2004 Tate Modern, London, Curatorial Assistant, Donna DeSalvo

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 “*If Emmett Till Lived: Freedom on American Ground*,” Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago, Aug. 2026 – Dec. 2026, Associate Curator, Jessica Stark. Grant proposal writing with the Museum of Contemporary Photography to secure funding from the Wyeth Foundation and Terra Foundation of American Art, a first grant for the museum; identified and secured funding for a publisher for the exhibition catalogue.
- “*When They See Us*,” in honor of Ava DuVernay and Koyo Kouoh, Guest Room, Der Greif, Organization for Contemporary Photography. Co-curator with Jessica Stark.
- 2024-25 “*Art of the Black World*,” Harvard Art Museums, Aug. 2024 – Jan. 2025. Co-curator with Suzanne Preston Blier.
- 2023 “*I Am Seen... Therefore, I Am: Isaac Julien and Frederick Douglass*,” Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, May 2023 – Sept. 2023. Co-curator with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- “*Vision & Justice: The Art of Citizenship*,” Harvard Art Museums, Aug. 2016 – Jan. 2017.
- 2016 “*Race, Love, and Labor*,” Center for Photography, Woodstock, 2014, Traveled to seven venues including the Photographic Resource Center at Boston University, November 18, 2016 – January 28, 2017 and toured through 2023.
- 2010 SITE Santa Fe Biennial, “*The Dissolve*,” 2010. Co-Curator with Daniel Belasco. Organized and fundraised for the Biennial; collaborated with staff at the SITE Santa Fe Museum and installation team.

SELECTED HONORS and AWARDS

- 2026 Named to the *TIME*, List, The Closers, honoring “18 Extraordinary Black Leaders Working Toward Greater Equality”
Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters; Delivering the Commencement Address
- 2025 Honored by Aperture Foundation alongside *Vision & Justice* at the Aperture Gala, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York City
Winner, American Book Award, *The Unseen Truth* (Harvard University Press, 2024)
Winner, Harvard University, Walter Channing Cabot Fellowship for *The Unseen Truth*
Finalist, Anisfield-Wolf Book Prize, *The Unseen Truth*
- 2024 Pratt Institute, Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters and Commencement Speaker, Radio City Music Hall
- 2022 Winner, Andrew Carnegie Fellowship
Winner, 2022 Arthur Danto/American Society for Aesthetics Prize, American

Philosophical Association awarded for “the best paper in the field of aesthetics, broadly understood.”

- 2021 Winner, Photography Network Book Prize Award for *Carrie Mae Weems* (MIT Press, 2021);
Winner, Frieze New York Honoree for Vision & Justice
- 2019 Winner, Freedom Scholar Award, Association for the Study of African American Life and
History (ASALH), awarded in recognition of work that has a “direct positive impact on
the life of African Americans.”
- 2017 Winner, Infinity Award, International Center of Photography, Critical Writing and
Research for the “Vision & Justice” issue of *Aperture*, Winner, Faculty Leadership Award,
Black Men’s Forum, Harvard College
- 2014 Winner, Gold Rush Award, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation
- 2008, 2012 President Obama’s Arts Policy Committee, Appointed Member

FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

- 2025-2026 The Lewis Foundation [\$250,000], Vision & Justice
Terra Foundation for American Art Grant [\$200,000], Vision & Justice
Ford Foundation Grant [\$750,000], Vision & Justice
- 2022-2024 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship [\$200,000]
- 2019-2020 Whiting Public Engagement Seed Grant [\$10,000], Vision & Justice
- 2018-2019 Anonymous Gift for the creation of the Vision & Justice Fund [\$250,000]
Ford Foundation Grant [\$50,000], Vision & Justice
Lambent Foundation Grant [\$25,000], Vision & Justice
- 2017-2018 Ford Foundation Grant [\$250,000], Vision & Justice
- 2015-2016 The Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars, New York Public Library

SELECTED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Sought after public speaker for colloquies, universities, museums and organizations nationwide offering high impact keynotes on the power of art and narrative for justice in the United States.

- 2026 University of South Carolina, 2026 Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, MONUMENTS exhibition, Keynote
Making Their Mark Forum, Sarah Lewis in conversation with Dr. Chelsea Clinton
Princeton University Art Museum, Learning Through Photography symposium, Keynote

- 2025 UN General Assembly, Invited Keynote by the Secretary General, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Vision & Justice, Keynote address
 Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center, Sam Gilliam Lecture Series
 The Juilliard School, 12th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture
 Westminster Town Hall Forum, *Threads of Our Fabric: Tending Our Moral Collective*, Keynote
 LIVE from New York Public Library, Sarah Lewis with Nell Irvin Painter
 The City Club of Cleveland, *The Unseen Truth*, Keynote
Los Angeles Times Festival of Books
 New Orleans Book Festival, Tulane University
 Aspen Ideas Festival, *Creating Justice*, Plenary session with Sarah Lewis, Imani Perry, and Neal Katyal; Plenary session with Tyler Mitchell
- 2024 Pratt Institute, Commencement Address Speaker, Radio City Music Hall (and Honorary Degree Recipient)
 Boston Book Festival
 Carnegie Corporation of New York, Black History Month, Keynote
 SXSW, Design as a Medium Within Visual Art
 Equal Justice Initiative's Dedication of Freedom Monument Sculpture Park and the Legacy Sites, The Arts & Justice Pane, Hank Willis Thomas, Alison Saar, Sarah Lewis, and Kwame Akoto-Bamfo
 Aspen Ideas Festival, Plenary session with Hank Willis Thomas, *What Images Teach About Racial Justice*
 Ford Foundation, Book launch for *The Unseen Truth: When Race Changed Sight in America* with Darren Walker and Sherrilyn Ifill
- 2023 Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Opening Artist Conversation with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Sarah Lewis, and Isaac Julien
 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Arcadia Library Lecture, Keynote
 Facing History & Ourselves, *The Power of Memorials and Public Art: Complex Histories and Legacies Today*, Panel Discussion
 The Gibbes Museum of Art, Distinguished Lecture Series
 Spelman College Museum of Art, Atlanta University Center Art History + Curatorial Studies Distinguished Lecture
- 2022 Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, *Ascendant: The Power of Descendant Communities to Shape Our Stories, Places and Future*, Panel Discussion Sarah Lewis, Wynton Marsalis, Ava DuVernay, moderated by Melody Barnes
 U.S. Attorneys Conference, Vision & Justice, Keynote
 32nd Annual James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora, Howard University, Opening Keynote
 University of North Carolina - Charlotte, Convocation of Arts and Architecture, Keynote
 Columbia University, Bettman Lecture Series, Keynote
 Capital Community College, Pennington Lecture, Keynote
- 2021 Black Trustee Alliance for Art Museums, Inaugural Convening, Opening Keynote
 Ralph Lauren, Company-wide event, Vision & Justice, Keynote
 Frieze New York 2021: An Online Discussion with Ava DuVernay, Carrie Mae Weems, Franklin Leonard, Theaster Gates, Wynton Marsalis, and Sarah Lewis
 ASALH and PBS Books, *To Make Their Own Way in the World*, A Conversation with Deborah Willis, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, and Sarah Lewis, and Ilisa Barbash

- Hirshhorn Museum, *Black Art*, A Conversation with Richard J. Powell and Sarah Lewis
Yale School of Architecture, 2021 George Morris Woodruff, Class of 1857,
Memorial Lecture, Keynote
- 2020 McEvoy Foundation for the Arts and Museum of African Diaspora, Sarah Lewis, Isaac Julien, and Angela Y. Davis
Vera List Center for Art and Politics, A Tribute to Maurice Berger
- 2019 Yale School of Art, Commencement Address Speaker
Opening address, Ava DuVernay's studio, the Amanda Theater, Array, Los Angeles
- 2018 Conversation with Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, at the Annenberg Space for Photography, Los Angeles
Tanner Lecture in Human Values, "Images, Place, and Cultural Memory," Southern Utah University
Aspen Ideas Festival, Conversation with Carrie Mae Weems
United States Artists, Annual Conference, Chicago, Keynote
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Vision & Justice, Keynote
- 2017 Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture, Harvard College convocation, selected by Harvard student nomination
Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, Norma Lytton Lecture
Brooklyn Public Library, Vision & Justice (Keynote, three-part lecture in March and April, civic version of the *Vision & Justice* class at Harvard University)
Phi Beta Kappa address, Harvard University chapter, Induction ceremony
- 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities, 50th Anniversary Conference, Keynote
University of Virginia, Keynote
Conversation with president of the Ford Foundation, Darren Walker, Art and Inequality, Rothko Chapel
- 2015 American Library Association, San Francisco, CA, President's Keynote
The Getty, Los Angeles, CA, "The Art of Justice," Keynote
Aspen Institute Arts Summit at the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.
- 2014 Sundance Film Festival, Panel with Robert Redford, Dave Eggers, Chris Stone, and Jill Soloway, (Moderator), book launch event for *The Rise*
- 2013 National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., "Photography in the Federal Art in Embassies Program"

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Award-winning author of over sixty publications with writing on the following major artists, and more: Richard Avedon, Mark Bradford, Lyle Ashton Harris, Whitfield Lovell, Tyler Mitchell, Wangechi Mutu, Gordon Parks, Nancy Elizabeth Prophet, Deborah Roberts, Henry Taylor, Hank Willis Thomas, Mickalene Thomas, Kehinde Wiley, and the first exhibition for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, *Let Your Motto Be Resistance African American Portraiture from 1865 to the Present*, curated by Deborah Willis.

Vision & Justice. New York: One World/Random House, forthcoming 2027.

If Emmett Till Lived: A Creative Monument, New York: D.A.P./DelMonico Books, forthcoming 2026.

Essayists include: Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch, Vinson Cunningham, Paul Farber, Sherrilyn Ifill, Sarah Lewis, Siddhartha Mitter, and Patrick Weems.

The Unseen Truth: When Race Changed Sight in America. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2024.

American Book Award, Winner, Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards, Finalist, placed among many “best books” lists including “10 Best Books of 2024,” *Chicago Tribune* (Nov. 2024), and profiled in outlets from *The Nation*, *Art in America*, to *the Boston Globe*.

The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014.

Translated into seven languages for markets in Brazil, China, the Netherlands, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Widely reviewed in *The New York Times* (April 2014), *The Wall Street Journal* (April 2014), and *The International Review of African American Art*. Selected as the Provost Reading Selection for the University of Houston, 2015-2016 and Hofstra University, 2017-2018.

Coreen Simpson: A Monograph, Sarah Lewis, Deborah Willis, and Leigh Raiford, eds., New York: Aperture, 2025.

Reviews include *Forbes* (Nov. 2025), *The Guardian* (Oct. 2025), *Vanity Fair* (Oct. 2025), and *Monopol Magazine* (Sept. 2025).

Race Stories: Essays on the Power of Images, Sarah Lewis, Deborah Willis, and Leigh Raiford, eds., New York: Aperture and *The New York Times*, 2024.

Carrie Mae Weems. Editor, with Christine Garnier. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press, 2021.

Winner of the 2021 Photography Network Book Prize, Starred review, *Publishers Weekly*, Reviewed by *The Boston Globe* (June 2021), “The Must-Read Books of Summer 2021,” *Town & Country* (June 2021).

“Vision & Justice” Special Issue, *Aperture* 223 (2016).

Winner of the 2017 Infinity Award, International Center of Photography, Critical Writing and Research, Selected as one of the best books of 2016, *ARTNews*, Made required reading at NYU Tisch School of the Arts for all incoming freshman in 2016, Reviewed by *TIME* (May 2016), *The New York Times* (June 2016), *The New York Times Lens Blog* (May 2016), *The Wall Street Journal* (May 2016), *The Los Angeles Times* (May 2016), and *VICE Magazine* (May 2016).

“American Ground,” in P. Brookman and D. Willis, eds., *Photography and the Black Arts Movement: 1955–1985*, Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 2025.

“Why Civil Rights Icon Bryan Stevenson Never Loses Hope,” *Town & Country Magazine*, October 29, 2024.

“How we learn to see history: A case study at the National Cathedral,” *The Washington Post*, January 14, 2024.

“For Black Suffragists, the Lens Was a Mighty Sword,” *The New York Times*, Special Issue, August 12, 2020.

“The Racial Bias Built into Photography,” *The New York Times*, April 25, 2019.

“Introduction: Young Gordon Parks,” in Philip Brookman, ed., *Gordon Parks: The New Tide, Early Work, 1940-1950*. Göttingen: Steidl Verlag, 2018.

Best Photo Books of 2018, *The New York Times*.

“The Cut: The Conceptual Work of Hank Willis Thomas,” in *Hank Willis Thomas: All Things Being Equal*. New York: Aperture, 2018.

“Truth and Reconciliation: Bryan Stevenson and Sarah Lewis in Conversation,” in “Prison Nation,” Special Issue, *Aperture* 230 (2018): 21-29.

“The Art of Negotiation,” in Dawoud Bey, ed., *Dawoud Bey: Seeing Deeply: Photographs, 1975-2016*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2018.

TIME Magazine’s Best Photo Books, 2018.

“Michelle Obama: Representational Justice,” in *The Meaning of Michelle*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2017.

Reviewed in *The New York Times* and NPR’s “Here and Now.”

“American Idols,” in Deborah Willis ed., *Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraiture from 1865 to the Present*, Exh. Cat. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2007.

SELECTED CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Convenor of high impact events for the general public as well as the arts and academic community.

2026 Producer, Visions of Justice, Edinburgh International Festival, Ideas Stage with Nicola Benedetti.

Inspired by two landmark anniversaries, the 250th anniversary of American Independence and the 250th anniversary of The Wealth of Nations, Edinburgh International Festival and Panmure House are launching an ‘ideas opera,’ an immersive encounter where the world’s most compelling thinkers, artists, and innovators—including Ken Burns and Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Sherrilyn Ifill, Wynton Marsalis, and Bryan Stevenson—confront the defining questions of our time with insight and imagination, curated by Nicola Benedetti and Sarah Lewis. With financial support from Panmure House.

2025 *Vision & Justice Now: The Challenge and Promises of American Democracy* [Co-hosted with the 14th Amendment Center for Law & Democracy; co-organized by Sarah Lewis, Sherrilyn Ifill, and Darren Walker. Supported by Ford Foundation and Terra Foundation for

American Art grants], attended by over 1,500.

- 2024 Co-Organizer, MoMA Forum on Contemporary Photography, Democracy, Race, and the Power of Images with Dawoud Bey, Vinson Cunningham, Aruna D’Souza, Ava DuVernay, Awol Erizku, Marvin Heiferman, Sherrilyn Ifill, Sarah Lewis, Siddhartha Mitter, Leigh Raiford, Deborah Willis, and other special guests. In person and 2,000 online attendees.
- 2021 Co-Organizer, MoMA Forum on Contemporary Photography: A Tribute to Carrie Mae Weems, over 2,500 online attendees. The participants reflected the range of fields that cohere around the work of Weems’s interventions—the history of photography, contemporary art, and Black art—with colleagues including Carrie Lambert-Beatty, Robin Kelsey, Huey Copeland, Thelma Golden, Wynton Marsalis, Richard J. Powell, Carrie Mae Weems, and Deborah Willis.
- 2019 Harvard University, Vision & Justice: A Convening (Organizer).
- 2018 Black Portraitures conference, Harvard University, organizing team with Deborah Willis.

PRESS APPEARANCES

2014-2026 Guest on NPR: TED Radio Hour, MSNBC, The Cycle, TED2014, *Late Night with Seth Myers*, *The Brian Lehrer Show*, WBGH, WNYC, segment about *The Rise*, Segment for the “Big Think,” Christiane Amanpour show, Interviewed by Walter Isaacson; Dare to Lead with Brené Brown (*Part I*): Brené with Dr. Sarah Lewis on *The Rise*, the Creative Process, and the Difference Between Mastery and Success. Profiled in outlets from *The New York Times* to the *Boston Globe*.

BOARD SERVICE

Board service at cultural organizations for twenty years, including:

Thames & Hudson Inc. (Nov 2020-Present); *Civil War History* journal, Editorial Board (2020-Present); Vision & Justice Advisory Board, President (2022-Present); Guggenheim Museum (under discussion); Yale Corporation Committee on Honorary Degrees (2016-2022); The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts (2010-2018); The Brearley School (2008-2015); Harvard Alumni Association (2008-2014).