

JACKSON FINE ART
ATLANTA

Jackson Fine Art
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2024

Christian Walker
Paris Photo 2024
November 7-10
Booth C10

Returning to the Grand Palais for Paris Photo's 27th edition, Jackson Fine Art is pleased to announce our solo exhibition with Christian Walker from November 7-10, Booth C10.

Christian Walker (American, b. 1953 Springfield, MA – d. 2003 Seattle, WA) was a groundbreaking Black gay photographer active in Boston and Atlanta from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s. His artwork, art criticism, and curatorial projects addressed essential topics of his generation: the devastating HIV/AIDS crisis, gay communities, censorship, drug use, and the impact of segregation policies on race relations. Walker's photography was influenced by activism within his own community, first via documentary photography and portraiture which later evolved into archival appropriation, alternative processes, and application of mixed media onto his prints. Jackson Fine Art represented Walker in the 1990s, placed his work in prominent local collections, and featured his *Mule Tales* series in a solo exhibition in 1992.

Christian Walker, *The Theater Project*, 1983-1984



Though Walker received significant critical and curatorial attention during his lifetime, his work has largely gone unrecognized since his death. *Christian Walker: The Profane and the Poignant*, an exhibition that originated at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art in New York in 2023 and traveled to Tufts University Art Galleries in Boston earlier this year, revived interest in his work and biography. Unfortunately, little is known about Walker's later years and no negatives of his work have been found. The works in this presentation come from a private collection in Atlanta acquired directly from the artist. Although we are dismayed the artist is not alive to see the brilliant renewal of interest in his work, Jackson Fine Art is delighted to organize Walker's Paris Photo premiere some thirty years after his first exhibition with our gallery.

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Press contact:

Alexandra Sachs

alexandra@jacksonfineart.com

About Christian Walker



Photo Credit: V. Elizabeth Turk

Christian Walker (American, b. 1953 Springfield, MA – d. 2003 Seattle, WA) was a groundbreaking Black gay photographer active in Boston and Atlanta from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s. His photographs, critical writings, and curatorial projects are vital contributions to the histories of art and photography of the 20th century. In 1974, Walker moved to Boston where he spent the next ten years residing primarily in the South End. After graduating from the School of Fine Arts, Boston, MA in 1983, he participated in several Boston-area solo and group exhibitions and wrote

art criticism for gay publications *Fag Rag*, *Amethyst*, and *SF Camerawork Quarterly*. His early photography was influenced by activism within his own community, first via documentary photography and portraiture which eventually led to his acclaimed series *The Theater Project* which was first exhibited at C.A.G.E. Gallery, Boston in 1983.

In 1985, Walker relocated to Atlanta after being offered a residency at Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA to publish an artist book of *The Theater Project* images. His work transitioned to include creative photographic techniques such as multiple exposures, archival appropriation, and integration of paint and nontraditional materials. During his Atlanta years, the artist was included in numerous important group exhibitions, including *Black Photographers Bear Witness: One Hundred Years of Social Protest* curated by Deborah Willis (1989); *The Subject is AIDS* (1989) one of the first exhibitions to focus on AIDS crisis and art; a two-person exhibition with Carrie Mae Weems on occasion of the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta (1992), and *Black Male: Representations of Masculinity in Contemporary American Art* curated by Thelma Golden at the Whitney Museum (1994), among many others. Jackson Fine Art represented Walker's photographer during this time and his series *Mule Tales* was featured in a solo exhibition in 1992. Walker received several grants for his projects in the mid-1980s and early 1990s, including a Visual Arts Fellowship for Photography from the NEA (National Endowment of the Arts) in 1990. He was also a prolific writer with his criticism and photography published in *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *Art*, including interviews with Andres Serrano (1991) and Mary Ellen Mark (1992).

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In the mid-1990s Walker relocated to Seattle and little is known about his work and life during that period until his untimely death in 2003. Despite receiving substantial critical and curatorial acclaim during his lifetime, Walker's work had largely remained unrecognized until curators Noam Parness and Jackson Davidow created a comprehensive exploration of Walker's oeuvre in *Christian Walker: The Profane and the Poignant*. The exhibition debuted at the Leslie-Lohman Museum, New York, NY (2023) and traveled to Walker's alma mater, Tufts University Gallery at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA (2024) and is slated to travel to Atlanta Contemporary Art Center in early 2025.

Walker's work is included in the collections of The Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, AZ; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; Hammonds House Museum, Atlanta, GA; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Georgia, Atlanta, GA; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY; and The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.

About Jackson Fine Art



Photo Credit: Courtney Ray

Jackson Fine Art is a world-renowned gallery with a 34-year history of supporting artists and collectors. The gallery cultivates and guides both emerging and established collectors to the best fine art photography of the 20th and 21st century, across both traditional and innovative photo-based mediums. Working closely with collectors, curators, consultants, and designers, JFA provides expertise in a warm, welcoming space in the Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta, GA. The gallery is led by Co-Owner & Creative Director, Anna Walker Skillman, and Co-Owner Andy Heyman, Founder, ASH IP& ASH Atlanta. The duo celebrated twenty years of partnership in 2023.

In the spring of 2023, Jackson Fine Art expanded into a custom-built, 4000 square-foot gallery located directly across the street at 3122 East Shadowlawn Avenue. The new gallery retains the comfortable, home-like ambiance of the much-loved former gallery but now with expanded exhibition, office, inventory, library and meeting spaces to keep pace with the growing clientele and opportunity to exhibit large-scale works. The new space responds to the evolution of contemporary art. In addition to 9-12 exhibitions annually, Jackson Fine Art participates in international art fairs including: Paris Photo; The Photography Show (AIPAD) in New York; Art Miami; and Intersect Aspen. The gallery is a member of the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD), and Ms. Skillman is a former member of the board of directors.

Jackson Fine Art has placed work in numerous important private and public collections such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art; High Museum of Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art;

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The Art Institute of Chicago; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Des Moines Art Center; Telfairs Museums; Harn Museum of Art; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA), San Diego; Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair; Black Gold Museum, Riyadh; and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; among others. Additionally, the gallery works with many corporate collections including Coca Cola Company; Delta Airlines; Microsoft; Target; Saks Fifth Avenue; Chanel; Banana Republic; Oppenheimer & Company; Capital One Corporate Collection; Citibank; Morgan Stanley Corporate Collection; Arnall, Golden & Gregory; Loews Hotels; and Norwegian Cruise Lines.

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