



# SHAQ LOVES PEOPLE

## Curated by Shaquille O'Neal

**Booth 110**

**EXPO CHICAGO, Navy Pier  
600 E. Grand Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**September 18 – 21, 2014**



Image from *SIZE DOES MATTER*, 2010.  
Photography Genevieve Hanson

**The FLAG Art Foundation is pleased to present *SHAQ LOVES PEOPLE*, an exhibition organized in collaboration with 15-time NBA All Star Shaquille O'Neal, on view at EXPO CHICAGO, Booth 110, from September 18 – 21, 2014.**

*SHAQ LOVES PEOPLE* is an exhibition of portraits of people of various races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds, curated by basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal. This diverse selection of works, by both emerging and established international artists, is a celebration of the human spirit and emblematic of the relationship between O'Neal and his fans. Through a variety of media - photography, video, drawing, sculpture, and even currency - these artworks challenge stereotypical notions of family and community, female beauty, power, and masculinity. From a family portrait composed entirely of strangers to an Iranian woman photographed through the fabric of her hijab, from a compelling reimagining of the myth of Venus to classic Hollywood actresses rendered in pen and ink, *SHAQ LOVES PEOPLE* relates personal narratives in unexpected and often humorous ways.

#### **Featured Artists:**

Kamrooz Aram	Ellen Gallagher	Carlos Rolón/Dzine
Tau Battice	Ewan Gibbs	Ferdinando Scianna
Dawoud Bey	Bruce Gilden	Martin Schoeller
Mark Bradford	Nir Hod	David Seymour
Marc Dennis	Cary Kwok	Cindy Sherman
Jamie Diamond	Wayne Lawrence	Malick Sidibé
Ben Durham	Mary Ellen Mark	Jim Torok
Awol Erizku	Ron Mueck	Mark Wagner
Hossein Fatemi	Jeff Muhs	Corban Walker
Genevieve Gaignard	J.D. 'Okhai Ojeikere	Kehinde Wiley

The FLAG Art Foundation

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*SHAQ LOVES PEOPLE* marks the second collaboration between FLAG and O’Neal as curator since *SIZE DOES MATTER* in 2010. This presentation is FLAG’s second exhibition outside of its New York City gallery space and the first time the non-profit art foundation is presenting a project for an art fair.

**Shaquille Rashaun O’Neal** was born March 6, 1972, in Newark, NJ. First gaining attention as High School Player of the Year in San Antonio, he then played at Louisiana State University. During his rookie season with the Orlando Magic, O’Neal finished in the top ten in scoring, rebounding, blocks, and shooting percentage. In 1996, he signed the biggest contract in NBA history with the LA Lakers; he then returned to Florida in 2005 to play for the Miami Heat, followed by the Phoenix Suns. From 2009-2010, O’Neal played for Cleveland Cavaliers, and from 2010-2011, he played for the Boston Celtics. After 19 years of playing professional basketball, O’Neal retired from the game in 2011.

Along with his NBA accomplishments, Shaq has written an autobiography, starred in his own television show, released a certified platinum album, received his B.S. from Louisiana State University, an M.B.A. from University of Phoenix, and has graduated with a doctoral degree from Barry University in Miami, Florida. Shaq has also maintained an interest in the workings of the police department and has become personally involved in law enforcement in different capacities with many agencies. Shaq has appeared in several films including *Blue Chips* with Nick Nolte and the star vehicles *Kazaam!* and *Steel*, for both of which he also recorded the soundtrack albums. His recent reality television show *Shaq Vs.* features him competing against some of the greatest athletes at their own sports demonstrating yet again that traditional limits cannot contain him. He is that rare individual who is constantly looking to challenge himself and move outside his comfort zone. Now his creative thinking – which previously spurred him to success in a wide variety of fields – will be deployed at his second art exhibition, with him playing the role of curator and muse.

Founded by art patron **Glenn Fuhrman**, **The FLAG Art Foundation** is a non-profit contemporary arts institution that opened to the public in 2008. Its state-of-the-art exhibition space was designed by noted architect **Richard Gluckman**. FLAG organizes 4 to 6 exhibitions a year, each with a different curator. Past curators have included **Chuck Close**, **Lisa Dennison**, **Prabal Gurung**, **Jim Hodges**, **Shaquille O’Neal**, **Linda Yablonsky**, among others. To date, FLAG has hosted over **30** curated exhibitions, providing a platform for **378** established and emerging artists representing over **25** countries.

Our objective is to encourage the appreciation of contemporary art among a diverse audience. FLAG provides a unique educational environment in which visitors can view, contemplate, and engage in active dialogue with the artworks. Curators select and borrow from a variety of sources to include a wide range of work in each exhibition. FLAG is also a resource that facilitates loans of contemporary artworks to museums around the world. An extensive database of available works is maintained and made available to curators.