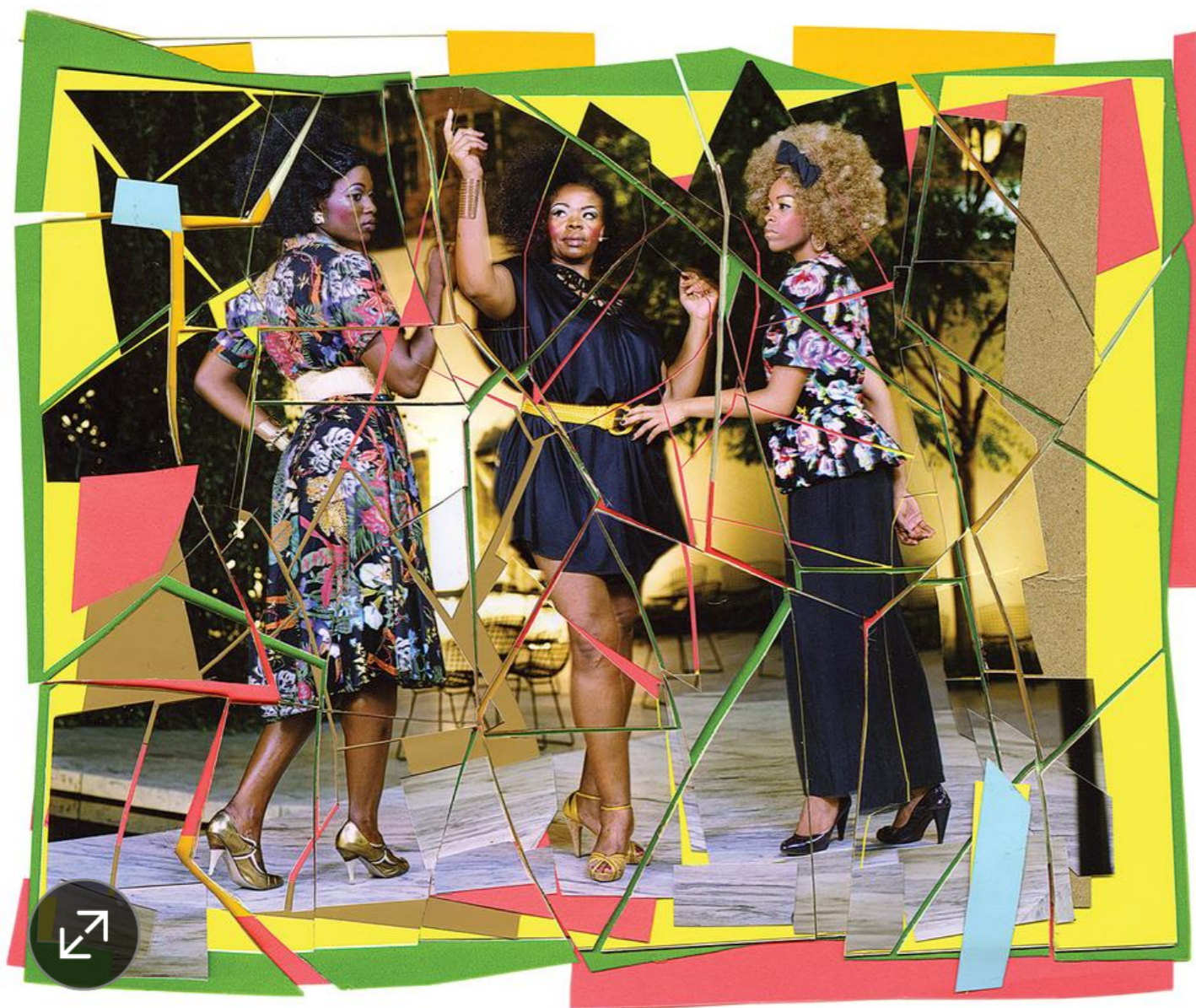


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Mickalene Thomas Publishes Monograph of Muses

The artist's new book features various photographs and photo collages, including 'Three Graces: Les Trois Femmes Noires'



'Three Graces: Les Trois Femmes Noires' PHOTO: COPYRIGHT AND COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MICKALENE THOMAS STUDIO, INC. 2015

By CAROL KINO

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June 25, 2015 12:18 p.m. ET

Mickalene Thomas is known for her huge, rhinestone-encrusted oil portraits of black women vamping like '70s blaxploitation heroines and lounging nude like Ingres odalisques. Her first monograph, *Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs*, out from Aperture in August, surveys her photographs and photo collages (including *Three Graces: Les Trois Femmes Noires*), many of which helped to inspire her paintings. (A similarly themed show opens September 17 at London's Rivington Place and travels to Aperture's New York gallery next year.) Says Thomas, "It's basically a book about my muses." Many faces recur throughout, but Thomas's mother—a statuesque former fashion model who died in 2012—looms largest. There are also pictures of Thomas herself, with inch-long nails and flower-bedecked hair, from earlier in her career, when the artist sat for her own portraits. "Photography brought me into my creative process," she says. "I love how that lens allows me to see the world."

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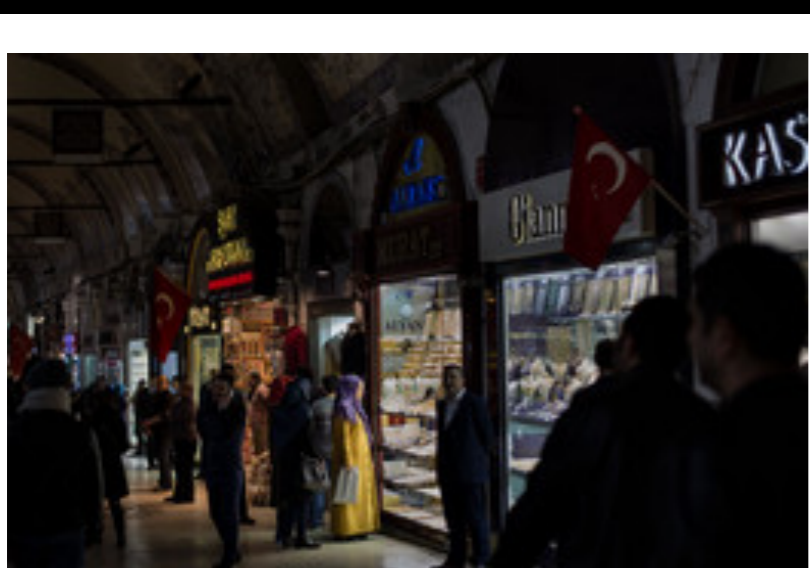
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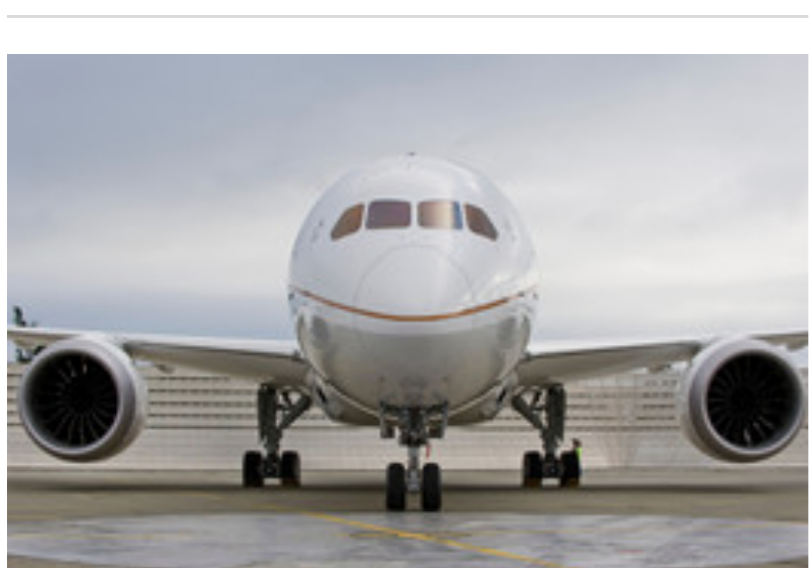
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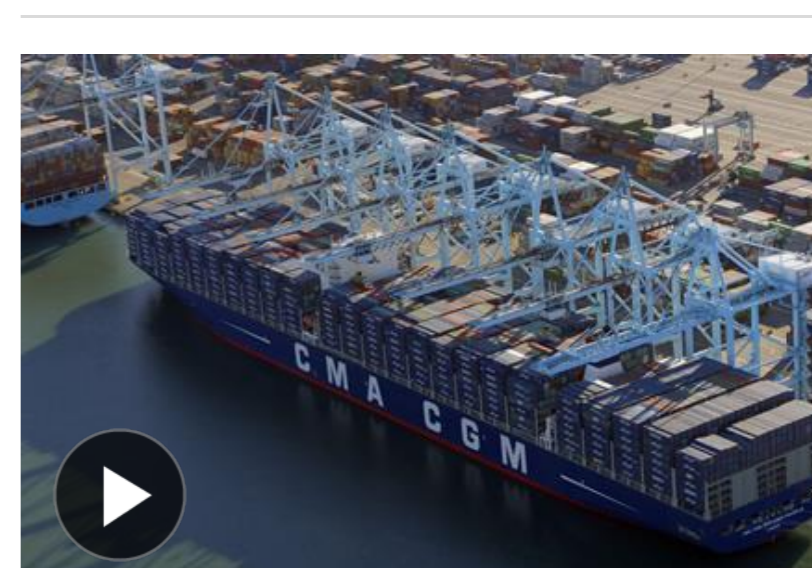
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