

**Museum of African American History  
Boston • Nantucket**

*Picturing Frederick Douglass:  
The Most Photographed American in Nineteenth Century America.*  
On view, July 2016 through December 31, 2017.

**Frederick Douglass Contemporary Murals**

**On View in the Museum Gallery:**

***Frederick Douglass Murals, 2012–2016.***

**Hannah Jeffery, Ph.D. University of Nottingham,  
United Kingdom and Zoe Trodd, Ph.D., University of Nottingham, United Kingdom**

Murals form an important part of Douglass's visual legacy. Some murals focus singularly on Douglass while others show him alongside American historical and contemporary figures. He often appears in these murals as a symbol of radical heritage and educational inspiration as well as a contemporary activist. From the 1930s and 1940s, Douglass is visible with Abraham Lincoln, Harriett Tubman, John Brown, Nat Turner, Sojourner Truth, and other 19<sup>th</sup> century historical figures. And from the 1960s forward, the Douglass image emerges with Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, his image is present in a 2008 mural with then President of the United States, Barack Obama. Five years later in 2013, Douglass is memorialized in a Rochester, New York mural with the young Trayvon Martin, whose death, in part, catalyzed the "Black Lives Matter" contemporary activist movement.

**Mural reproductions on view:**

Unknown artist, *The Arc of History is Long*, 2002. Cambridge, MA.

Jameel Parker, *Gang Peace*, 1992. Roxbury, MA.

Jonathan Matus, *Tubman and Douglass*, 2010, Ithaca, NY.

Joshua Sarantitis, *Lincoln Legacy*, 2006. Philadelphia, PA.

Parris Stancell, *Freedom School*, 2002. Philadelphia, PA.

Arnold Hurley, *Frederick Douglass*, 1976. (*destroyed*) Boston, MA.

Aniekan Udofia, *Bread for the City*, 2011. Washington, DC.

Ashanti Johnson, Nathan Hoskins, Vera Parks, *Wall of Respect*, 1975. Atlanta, GA.

Shawn Dunwoody, *Historic Rochester Mural*, 2014. Rochester, NY.

Lunar New Year (LNY, Newark), *I am Yo Soy*, 2013. Rochester, NY.

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**Exhibition online:**

***The Frederick Douglass Mural Map, 2016***  
**Hannah Jeffery, Ph.D. University of Nottingham,  
United Kingdom**

The *Frederick Douglass Mural Map* is a digital engagement for Frederick Douglass murals from the 1930s to the present day. For the first time, a digital map brings together more than 120 of the Douglass murals in photographs with the respective locations.

The murals are inventive, cherished, and ephemeral, and at times, they show neglect or only remnants of their destruction in photographs that document their existence. Douglass images appear on the walls of: neighborhoods (50 murals), schools or universities (17), libraries or historical societies (7), community centers (7), public housing projects (5), government buildings (5), churches (5), shops (3), playgrounds and parks (3), prisons (2), underpasses (2), a fire station, a newspaper building, a publishing house, and a subway. In addition to topics of slavery, emancipation, and civil rights, the murals focus on contemporary issues of: the African American press (5), education (4), interracial collaboration (3), labor rights (2), law and justice (2), free speech (1), gang violence (1) and peace (1). From these mural walls in America, he emerges as a cultural icon.

**To access the exhibition:**

Use the QR scan code below or the website, <https://tinyurl.com/jnxch97>

