



Victoria L. Valentine, "The Month in African American Art: Here's What Happened in February 2018," *Culture Type*, February 28, 2018.



### The Month in African American Art: Here's What Happened in February 2018

BLACK HISTORY MONTH was rife with notable moments in art history, chief among them, the unveiling of the Obama portraits at the National Portrait Gallery on Feb 12. Washington collector Peggy Cooper Cafritz, co-founder of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and a passionate supporter of young artists, died Feb. 18, just as "[Fired Up! Ready to Go!](#)," a beautifully illustrated book documenting her life and art collections, was published. And in the final days of February, the [1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair](#) staged its first edition on the continent of Africa (Feb. 24-25), and the fourth edition of Prospect New Orleans came to a close. Among the highlights of "[Prospect.4: The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp](#)" was the long-awaited debut of Kara Walker's "The Katastwóf Karavan" (being unveiled above). The public artwork was on view along the banks of the Mississippi River at Algiers Point from Feb. 23-25.

The following review of February 2018 presents a snapshot of the latest news in art by and about people of African descent:



The New Yorker [commissions](#) artist **Awol Erizku** to make photographic portraits of Donald Glover, to accompany the magazine's profile of the "Atlanta" creator. The second season of the FX series premieres March 1. Glover plays Earnest (Earn) Marks, the television show's central character. Here is an excerpt from the article by Tad Friend:

[Zazie] Beetz (who plays Van, Earn's ex-girlfriend and mother of his child) told me that she adored [Donald] Glover without beginning to understand him. "After the première of the show," she said, "I asked Donald how he felt, and he said, 'I'm a very complex person,' almost apologetically, and walked away." Glover explained, "The sound was all fucked up and the guy at the controls wouldn't let me touch it, so it



didn't quite hit. Everyone else was super happy, but I couldn't be, and I felt really mad at myself, because I was ruining it for everyone else." He laughed. "To be honest, I was probably just high. I am complicated, though. People expect me to be one thing—'You're a musician!' 'You're a comedian!' 'You're a coon!'—and I was just feeling high and pinned down." He feels constantly watched but rarely seen.