

## C. DANIEL DAWSON

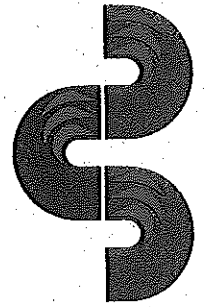
### BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Dawson studied filmmaking at the School of Visual Arts (NYC), the WNET-TV Black Journal training program (NYC), and the New York University Graduate Institute of Film and Television. Upon finishing NYU he taught filmmaking at the Studio Museum in Harlem where he initiated their first photographic exhibitions and film festivals. Mr. Dawson left the SMH to study Philosophy and Eastern Religion at Columbia University. He also studied African and African-American Art and Culture with Amiri Baraka (New School for Social Research, Columbia University) and Dr. Robert Farris Thompson (Yale University, New York University).

Returning to the Studio Museum, he became the first James Van Der Zee Curator of Photography, Film and Video, and produced numerous international film festivals as well as mounting many photographic exhibitions. These included **Harlem Heyday: The Photographs of James Van Der Zee** and **The Sound I Saw: The Jazz Photographs of Roy DeCarava**. The latter toured Asia and the Far East for the United States Information Service. In total, he has curated more than 60 exhibitions with a variety of historical and artistic themes and is currently a curator with the Jazz at Lincoln Center's curatorial team.

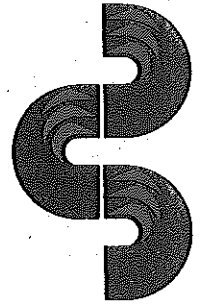
Mr. Dawson continued his work in film and video, producing both documentaries and feature films. He, along with award winning editor Frank G. Host, also ran a production house, Cinehaven. Mr. Dawson's film production experience is all encompassing. He has worked as a producer, director of photography and sound recordist, among others. He has been associated with many prize winning film projects including **Head and Heart** by James Mannas and **Capoeiras of Brazil** by Warrington Hudlin.

He was also the Director of Special Projects at the Franklin H. Williams Caribbean Cultural Center-African Diaspora Institute, where for over seven years he developed all of their exhibitions - from conception to the opening ceremony - and documented by video the Center's activities. He has directed the shooting and compilation of hundreds of hours of broadcast quality video on a wide range of activities, including concerts, conferences, carnivals and exhibitions, contributing to the Center's position as one of the leading international institutions in the documentation of African Culture. He has also served as Director of Education for the Museum for African Art (NYC) where he developed their educational programs, which included lecture series, film festivals and school programs. In addition, he is a curatorial consultant for La Casita, a division of Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors specializing in presenting international oral traditions.



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Mr. Dawson is currently working as an art and media consultant, and frequently lectures on African and African-Diasporic Cultures. He has lectured at the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the House of World Cultures (Berlin), the Kit Tropenmuseum (Amsterdam), the University of California-Berkeley, University of Texas-Austin, University of Wisconsin-Madison, the New School for Social Research, Stanford University, Columbia University, Princeton University and the Federal Universities of Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, Brazil. In addition, Mr. Dawson has taught seminars on **African Spirituality in the Americas** and **Quilombos, Palenques and Maroon Societies in the Americas** at Columbia University, the University of Iowa, New York University and Yale University. He has also served as consultant for the Cooper Hewitt Museum, the Museum for African Art, the International Center for Photography, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University, Ralph Appelbaum Associates and three different divisions of the Smithsonian Institution. Professor Dawson currently serves as Scholar-In-Residence for the Black Filmmakers Foundation/DV Republic.



## C. DANIEL DAWSON

### ABBREVIATED BIOGRAPHY

A multi-talented artist, Prof. Dawson has worked as a photographer, filmmaker, curator, arts administrator, consultant and scholar. He has served as Curator of Photography, Film and Video at the Studio Museum in Harlem (NYC), Director of Special Projects at the Caribbean Cultural Center (NYC) and Curatorial Consultant and Director of Education at the Museum for African Art (NYC). As a photographer, he has shown in over 35 exhibitions. In addition he has curated more than 60 exhibitions including **Harlem Heyday: The Photographs of James Van Der Zee** and **The Sound I Saw: The Jazz Photographs of Roy DeCarava** and is currently a curator with the Jazz at Lincoln Center's curatorial team. Prof. Dawson has also been associated with many prize-winning films including **Head and Heart** by James Mannas and **Capoeiras of Brazil** by Warrington Hudlin. He has worked as a consultant for the Cooper Hewitt Museum, International Center for Photography, Lincoln Center, Ralph Appelbaum Associates and three different divisions of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. As a scholar, he has lectured at the House of World Cultures-Berlin, the Kit Tropenmuseum-Amsterdam, the University of California-Berkeley, University of Texas-Austin, University of Wisconsin-Madison, New School for Social Research, Stanford University, Columbia University, Princeton University and the Federal University of Bahia and Rio de Janeiro-Brazil. Prof. Dawson has also taught seminars on **African Spirituality in the Americas** at Columbia University, University of Iowa, New York University and Yale University. He is currently a curatorial consultant for La Casita, a division of Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors specializing in presenting international oral traditions.

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## **C. DANIEL DAWSON** **PHOTOGRAPHIC BIOGRAPHY**

C. Daniel Dawson first learned photography at the age of 14 from his father who was an avid amateur photographer. While in high school, he continued his studies by sitting in on classes at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts. In college he studied with Ralph Hattersley (Columbia University), Lizette Model (New School for Social Research), and Paul Caponegro (New York University/ Graduate Institute of Film and Television). In between studies Dawson also worked as a medical photographer at the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry where he developed his craft under Marshall Taub, the Chief Medical Photographer. At NYU, Dawson also studied the history of photography under John Szarkowski and Peter Bunnell, who were at the time the curators of photography at the Museum of Modern Art (NYC). While in film school he met Louis Draper, one of the founding members of Kamoinge, a pioneering group of African American photographers founded in 1963. Dawson was later asked to join the group in 1970. In 1971 he was awarded a CAP Grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, in 1978 a CETA Grant from the Cultural Council Foundation (NYC), and in 1984 an independent grant to photograph in Brazil. As a photographer, he has been published in numerous books and magazines and has shown in over 35 exhibitions.

Dawson began curating while still in high school at Arts High in Newark, New Jersey. He went on to become the first James Van Der Zee Curator of Photography, Film and Video at the Studio Museum in Harlem. In addition he has curated more than 60 exhibitions including Harlem Heyday: The Photographs of James Van Der Zee and The Sound I Saw: The Jazz Photographs of Roy DeCarava. His essay for the Sound I Saw... exhibition catalog was selected as one of the finest examples of African American writings about art. The catalog also received a Citation of Merit from the Art Libraries Society of New York in 1984. On numerous occasions Dawson has also served as a judge for the New York State Council on the Arts and the American Photographic Institute. He has also been associated with many prize-winning films including Head and Heart by James Mannas and Capoeiras of Brazil by Warrington Hudlin. He has worked as a consultant for the American Museum of Natural History, Caribbean Cultural Center, Cooper Hewitt Museum, International Center for Photography, Lincoln Center, Museum for African Art, Ralph Appelbaum Associates and three different divisions of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. He is currently a curator with the Jazz at Lincoln Center's curatorial team.

As a scholar, C. Daniel Dawson has lectured at the House of World Cultures-Berlin, the Kit Tropenmuseum-Amsterdam, the University of California-Berkeley, University of Texas-Austin, University of Wisconsin-Madison, New School for Social Research, Columbia University, Princeton University and the Federal Universities of Bahia and Rio de Janeiro-Brazil. Dawson has also taught seminars on African Spirituality in the Americas at Columbia University, University of Iowa, New York University and Yale University. He is currently a professor at both New York University (Gallatin School of Individualized Study) and Columbia University (Institute for Research in African American Studies).

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**PROFESSOR**, From 1996 to present.

Taught courses, both undergraduate and graduate, at Columbia University (since 2006), the University of Iowa (Fall 1996), New York University-Gallatin School of Individualized Study and Africana Studies (since 1997) and Yale University (Fall 1997). Courses taught include: *Honey is My Knife: African Spirituality in the Americas*, *Culture of Freedom: Quilombos, Palenques and Maroon Societies in the Americas and Beyond*, and *Narratives of African Civilizations*.

**LECTURER/CONSULTANT**, 1972 to present.

Lectures and consults on art, media, Africa, and African-Diasporic cultures. Has lectured at the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the House of World Cultures (Berlin), the Kit Tropenmuseum (Amsterdam), the University of California-Berkeley, University of Texas-Austin, University of Wisconsin-Madison, the New School for Social Research, Stanford University, Columbia University, Princeton University, Yale University and the Federal Universities of Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, Brazil. He has also served as consultant for the Cooper Hewitt Museum, the Museum for African Art, the International Center for Photography, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University, Ralph Appelbaum Associates and three different divisions of the Smithsonian Institution.

**AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**, New York. October 1997 to October 1998.

Exhibition Consultant. Designed and implemented lectures, music and dance programs, student and teacher training workshops and other educational programs associated with the exhibit *Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou*.

Education Consultant. Created and oversaw educational programs and public activities for the museum's Kwanzaa (1997) and African History Month (1998) celebrations.

**MUSEUM FOR AFRICAN ART**, New York. March 1993 to December 1995.

Director of Education. Responsible for overseeing education department including development of educational materials, coordination of all programs, design of lecture and concert series, and development of grant ideas.

Curatorial Consultant. June 1993 to December 1993. Served as in-house curator for the exhibition *Face of the Gods: Art and Altars of Africa and the African Americas*. In addition to curatorial responsibilities, designed lecture series and educational programs.

**CARIBBEAN CULTURAL CENTER**, New York. January 1985 to February 1992.

Director of Special Projects. Developed all of their exhibitions, from conception to opening ceremony, and documented by video the Center's activities including concerts, conferences, carnivals and exhibitions. Edited their journal *Caribe* and oversaw the CCC resource center/library. Produced numerous international conferences including "Dancing Between Two Worlds: Kongo-Angola Culture and the Americas" and "Sacred Spaces."

**STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM**, New York, 1981 to 1984.

James Van Der Zee Curator of Photography, Film and Video. Curated photography exhibitions and produced numerous international film festivals. Exhibitions included *Harlem Heyday: The Photographs of James Van Der Zee*, *The Sound I Saw: The Jazz Photographs of Roy DeCarava* and *Introspection: The Photographs of Anthony Barboza*.

**CURATOR/PHOTOGRAPHER**. 1960 to present.

Curated more than 60 exhibitions on a variety of arts, artists and cultures over the last 40 years. As a photographer, has been exhibited in over 35 exhibitions and published in numerous magazines and books including *The Black Photographers Annual* (1973), *Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers 1840 to the Present* and *Nueva Luz Photographic Journal*, Volume 7, No. 1.