

# Fabiola Jean-Louis

Follow the Drinking Gourd, from the series "Rewriting History"



They'll Say We Enjoyed It, from the series "Rewriting History"



Follow the Drinking Gourd, from the series  
“Rewriting History,” 2017

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## Paper Power

**Fabiola Jean-Louis (b. 1978)** paints, embellishes, and sculpts paper into intricate gowns, a process that takes months. She then designs elaborate sets, styles models, and photographs these complex scenes that reveal and revise the past

## Take a closer look

After taking in the flawless faces of Jean-Louis’s figures, follow their gazes and gestures. They draw our attention to the hideous scars of history, specifically the subjection, assault, and murder of Black men and women.

## Something to talk about

Jean-Louis, a visual activist, creates images that bring historical injustices to light. Her work delivers a stark reminder of the past and a warning for the future. How might your pictures be a vehicle for social change?

## In her own words

“I work with paper because I’m truly in love with and obsessed with paper. I love its strength. I love its fragility.”

Fabiola Jean-Louis, *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, from the series “Rewriting History,” 2017; Archival pigment print, 33 x 26 inches; Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Myrtis; © Fabiola Jean-Louis

Fabiola Jean-Louis, *They’ll Say We Enjoyed It*, from the series “Rewriting History,” 2017; Archival pigment print, 33 x 26 inches; Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Myrtis; © Fabiola Jean-Louis

