



Rashid Johnson
(American, b. 1977)

The New Negro Escapist Social and Athletic Club
(Marcus), 2010
Archival pigment print

Past, present, reality, and fiction collide in this blurred photograph of a person in motion. This doubled portrait, created through multiple camera exposures, visualizes Rashid Johnson's interest in the concept of "double consciousness," described by the Black intellectual, prolific author, and activist W. E. B. Du Bois (American, 1868–1963). In *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), Du Bois introduced the "sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others. . . . [O]ne ever feels his two-ness,—an American, a Negro." The title also suggests a form of resistance; it references a fictional meeting space, conceived of by the artist, where Black men could congregate socially in a space of self-determination and autonomy.