

MEDIA RELEASE

The Studio Museum in Harlem
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**STUDIO
MUSEUM
HARLEM**

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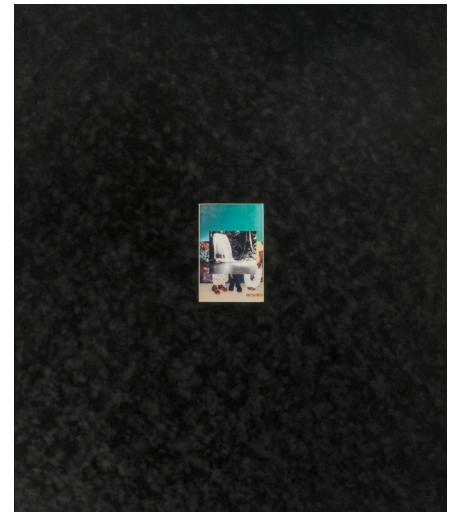
THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM ANNOUNCES ALLISON JANAЕ HAMILTON, TSCHABALALA SELF, AND SABLE ELYSE SMITH AS ITS 2018 ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE



Tschabalala Self, *Bodega Run*, 2015. Oil, pigment and flashe on canvas, 44 × 30 in. Courtesy the artist



Allison Janae Hamilton, *Foresta* (installation view, detail), 2017. Mixed media installation, dimensions variable. Photo: Adam Reich



Sable Elyse Smith, *7666 Nights—Falling*, 2017. Digital print on Fujiflex, suede, artist frame, 40 × 48 in. Courtesy the artist. Photo: Adam Reich

NEW YORK, NY, November 9, 2017—As The Studio Museum in Harlem approaches its 50th anniversary and the start of construction on its new home, it is proud to announce that **Allison Janae Hamilton**, **Tschabalala Self**, and **Sable Elyse Smith** will be its 2018 artists in residence. At this historic turning point for the institution, these three become the most recent participants in the signature program that put the “Studio” in the Museum’s name, and take their place in a stellar legacy that includes David Hammons, Kerry James Marshall, Julie Mehretu, Mickalene Thomas, and Kehinde Wiley.

Works by Hamilton and Smith can currently be seen at the Studio Museum in *Fictions*, a major exhibition that explores the use of narrative by emerging artists of African descent. Self’s work was recently shown at the Studio Museum in *A Constellation* (2015–16), an exhibition that traced connections among an intergenerational group of twenty-six artists of African descent.

Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator of the Studio Museum, said, “Our *Artist-in-Residence* program has been at the heart of this institution’s mission since our founding in 1968. It is the embodiment of our commitment to supporting emerging artists of African descent, and is at the center of our work to bring artists together with the Harlem community. I am thrilled that Allison, Tschabalala, and Sable—three outstanding artists, each of whom has already developed her own distinctive practice—will be with us during our anniversary year, at the beginning of an exciting transition.”

Connections between the artists in residence and the community will be more vital than ever during 2018, when the Studio Museum will close its existing building to begin constructing its new home, designed by Adjaye Associates in collaboration with Cooper Robertson. The Studio Museum will maintain its presence through its *inHarlem* initiatives, which have already begun to present a variety of exhibitions and programs with partner institutions. During the *inHarlem* period, the artist-in-residence studios will be located in a street-level space at 429 West 127th Street, which will also serve as the temporary home for the Museum’s curatorial offices. The 2018 residency will begin in early April 2018.

To give the public a better opportunity to enjoy its current exhibition season—the last that will be presented in its existing home—the Studio Museum has extended the closing date to January 15, 2018. Exhibitions on view through January 15 include:

- *Fictions*
- *We Go as They*, featuring works created at the Studio Museum by 2016–17 artists in residence Autumn Knight, Julia Phillips, and Andy Robert
- *Their Own Harlems*, organized in honor of the centennial of the birth of Jacob Lawrence (1917–2000), with works by some twenty artists who have reflected on Harlem as both actual site and symbolic place

The three-day closing weekend, including Martin Luther King Jr. Day, will include special Monday hours, celebratory activities, and performances.

About the 2018 Artists in Residence

Allison Janae Hamilton (b. 1984, Lexington, Kentucky) is an interdisciplinary artist working in sculpture, installation, photography, video, and taxidermy. Using plant matter, layered imagery, sounds, and animal remains, Hamilton creates immersive spaces that consider the role of the American landscape in concepts of “Americana” and social constructions of space, particularly within the rural South. Hamilton’s work has been shown at institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, The Jewish Museum, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Fundación Botín, Santander, and the Istanbul Design Biennial. Hamilton was a 2013–14 fellow in the Whitney Independent Study Program and has been awarded residencies at Recess, New York; Fundación Botín, Cantabria, Spain; and the Rush Arts Foundation, New York. She received her Ph.D. in American Studies from New York University and her MFA in Visual Arts from Columbia University. She lives and works in New York.

Tschabalala Self (b. 1990, Harlem) makes syncretic use of painting, printmaking, and assemblage to explore ideas surrounding the black female body. Constructed with a combination of sewn, printed, and painted materials, Self’s exaggerated depictions of bodies traverse a variety of artistic and craft traditions. The physiological and psychological characteristics of her figures also reflect Self’s personal desire to articulate cultural attitudes and realities as they relate to race and gender. She writes, “The

fantasies and attitudes surrounding the Black female body are both accepted and rejected within my practice, and through this disorientation, new possibilities arise.” Her work has been included in solo and group exhibitions at Tramway in Glasgow, the New Museum, Art + Practice, and LA><ART, among others. Self received her BA from Bard College and her MFA from Yale University. A 2017 recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant, she lives and works in New York and New Haven.

Sable Elyse Smith (b. 1986, Los Angeles) is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and educator whose practice considers memory and trauma, working from the archive of her own body to mark the difference between witnessing and watching. “To see,” she writes, “is unbearable.” Her work has been presented at institutions including MoMA PS1, the New Museum, and Recess Assembly. It has also been seen through Artist Television Access in San Francisco and at Birkbeck Cinema in collaboration with the Serpentine Galleries. *Sable Elyse Smith: Ordinary Violence* is on view at the Queens Museum through February 18, 2018. Her writing has been published in *Radical Teacher*, *Selfish Magazine*, *Studio*, and *Affidavit*, and she is currently working on her first book. Smith has received awards from Creative Capital, Fine Arts Work Center, the Queens Museum, Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, the Franklin Furnace Fund, and Art Matters. She recently served as a visiting critic at Columbia University and is currently a visiting artist in at Virginia Commonwealth University. She lives and works in Richmond, Virginia.

Upcoming 2017 Artist-in-Residence Programs

Gallery Tour: *We Go as They*

Sunday, November 12, 1 pm

Autumn Knight, Sanity TV

Episode 2: Sunday, November 12, 3 pm

Episode 3: Sunday, December 10, 3 pm

Part of a series of interview-based performances throughout the exhibition, Knight’s Sanity TV investigates the flexible boundaries of identity and psyche. Each episode explores a distinct topic and builds towards the season finale on January 7, 2018.

The Artist’s Voice: Autumn Knight with Okwui Okapasili

Friday, December 8, 6pm

The Artist’s Voice: Julia Phillips

Sunday, December 17, 3pm

Visit studiomuseum.org/calendar for the latest information and to RSVP.

About The Studio Museum in Harlem

Founded in 1968 by a diverse group of artists, community activists, and philanthropists, The Studio Museum in Harlem is internationally known for its catalytic role in promoting the work of outstanding artists of African descent. Now approaching its 50th anniversary, the Studio Museum is preparing to construct a new home at its current location on Manhattan's West 125th Street, designed by internationally renowned architect David Adjaye with Cooper Robertson as the first building created expressly for the institution's program. The new building will enable the Studio Museum to better serve a growing and diverse audience, provide additional educational opportunities for people of all ages, expand its program of world-renowned exhibitions, effectively display its singular collection, and strengthen its trailblazing *Artist-in-Residence* program.

The *Artist-in-Residence* program was one of the institution's founding initiatives and is the reason why "Studio" is in the name. The program has supported more than one hundred emerging artists of African or Latino descent, many of whom who have gone on to highly regarded careers. Alumni include Chakaia Booker, David Hammons, Kerry James Marshall, Julie Mehretu, Wangechi Mutu, Mickalene Thomas, and Kehinde Wiley.

The collection includes nearly two thousand paintings, sculptures, works on paper, prints, photographs, mixed-media works, and installations dating from the nineteenth century to the present. Artists represented include Romare Bearden, Robert Colescott, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Chris Ofili, Betye Saar, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker, and Hale Woodruff, as well as many former artists in residence. The Studio Museum is the custodian of an extensive archive of the work of photographer James VanDerZee, the renowned chronicler of the Harlem community from 1906 to 1983.

The Studio Museum's exhibitions expand the personal, public, and academic understanding of modern and contemporary work by artists of African descent. A wide variety of on- and off-site programs brings art alive for audiences of all ages—from toddlers to seniors—while serving as a bridge between artists of African descent and a broad and diverse public. A leader in scholarship about artists of African descent, the Studio Museum publishes *Studio* magazine twice a year and creates award-winning books, exhibition catalogues, and brochures.

Hours and Admission

The Studio Museum is open Thursday and Friday, noon–9 pm; Saturday, 10 am–6 pm; and Sunday, noon–6 pm. The Museum is closed to the public but available for school and group tours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid ID) and seniors, and free for children twelve and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information visit studiomuseum.org.

Support

The *Artist-in-Residence* program is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the Jerome Foundation; Kiki Smith; RBC Foundation—USA; the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation; and by endowments established by the Andrea Frank Fund; the Jacob and Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Trust and Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Exhibitions at The Studio Museum in Harlem are made possible thanks in part to support from The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Council. Additional support is generously provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Lead sponsor of *Fictions*



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