

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM ANNOUNCES ARTIST LIST FOR *FICTIONS* New Installment in Emerging Artist Series Features Nineteen Artists from around the United States; Will Be on View Alongside New Work by the 2016–17 Artists in Residence

NEW YORK, NY, August 23, 2017— The Studio Museum in Harlem today named nineteen artists to be featured in *Fictions*, the fifth in the Museum's signature "F-show" series of emerging artist exhibitions. Hailing from across the United States, the artists in *Fictions* engage with a variety of media—including video, photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, and installation—as they investigate the complexities of the contemporary moment.

On view September 14, 2017 to January 7, 2018, *Fictions*, organized by Connie H. Choi, Associate Curator, Permanent Collection, and Hallie Ringle, Assistant Curator, examines the stories that form the foundation of these artists' practices, from the personal to the political and the everyday to the imagined. *Fictions* will be on view with *We Go as They: Artists in Residence 2016–17*, filling the galleries with two of the Museum's most eagerly anticipated exhibition initiatives.

"Since its founding in 1968, the Studio Museum has been strongly committed to supporting and showcasing the work of emerging artists," said Director and Chief Curator Thelma Golden, "I am thrilled that Hallie and Connie are continuing the legacy of our beloved 'F-shows' with a new presentation of a diverse group of artistic voices, bringing to Harlem insightful perspectives from locations around the country, including Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, and Texas."



Deborah Roberts, *The Bearer*, 2017. Mixed media on paper, 44 x 32 in.
Courtesy the artist and Fort Gansevoort, New York. Photo: Philip Rodgers

Echoing its predecessors *Freestyle* (2001), *Frequency* (2005–06), *Flow* (2008), and *Fore* (2012–13), the title *Fictions* refers to both the narratives that artists create and the stories that they refute in their work. Most of the artists in *Fictions* are presenting work at the Studio Museum for the first time, yet they all share concerns at the core of the Studio Museum's mission, including questions around race and identity and the values of African-American, Latinx, U.S., and global artistic communities. Together, their works demonstrate the diversity and vitality of artistic practice in the United States today.



Texas Isaiah, *My Grandson's Stretch*, 2016. Digital photograph, 20 × 30 in. Courtesy the artist

Artists in *Fictions*

Paul Stephen Benjamin (b. 1966, Chicago, IL; Lives and works in Atlanta, GA)

Krista Clark (b. 1975, Burlington, VT; Lives and works in Atlanta, GA)

Michael Demps (b. 1976, Detroit, MI; Lives and works in New Haven, CT)

Genevieve Gaignard (b. 1981, Orange, MA; Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA)

Nikita Gale (b. 1983, Anchorage, AK; Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA)

Allison Janae Hamilton (b. 1984, Lexington, KY; Lives and works in New York, NY)

Matthew Angelo Harrison (b. 1989, Detroit, MI; Lives and works in Detroit, MI)

Texas Isaiah (b. 1986, Brooklyn, NY; Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA)

Patrick Martinez (b. 1980, Los Angeles, CA; Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA)

Walter Price (b. 1989, Macon, GA; Lives and works in New York, NY)

Christina Quarles (b. 1985, Chicago, IL; Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA)

Deborah Roberts (b. 1962, Austin, TX; Lives and works in Austin, TX)

Sherrill Roland (b. 1984, Asheville, NC; Lives and works in Morrisville, NC)

Amy Sherald (b. 1973, Columbus, GA; Lives and works in Baltimore, MD)

Devan Shimoyama (b. 1989, Philadelphia, PA; Lives and works in Pittsburgh, PA)

Sable Elyse Smith (b. 1986, Los Angeles, CA; Lives and works in Richmond, VA)

Maya Stovall (b. 1982, Detroit, MI; Lives and works in Detroit, MI)

Jazmin Urrea (b. 1990, Artesia, CA; Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA)

Stephanie Williams (b. 1981, Washington, D.C.; Lives and works in Washington, D.C.)

We Go as They: Artists in Residence 2016–17, also on view September 14, 2017 to January 7, 2018, brings together the work of Autumn Knight (b. 1980), Julia Phillips (b. 1985), and Andy Robert (b. 1984), the 2016–17 artists in residence at The Studio Museum in Harlem. Occupying studios on the third floor of the Museum, Knight, Phillips, and Robert have spent the year in close conversation with each other, negotiating the physical and psychological boundaries that come with working in close proximity to one another. Their work, though different in form, is united by an investment in exploring space, identity, and power. The title, *We Go as They*, makes reference to the cohort Knight, Phillips, and Robert formed, bound together by their experience in the residency, as well as the community of

artists, curators, and Museum staff that surround and nurture the program.

Investigating the space between abstraction and figuration, Robert created a series of nocturne paintings of Harlem scenes that formally engages the history of painting, from French social realism to the Harlem Renaissance to Pop Abstraction. Phillips's seemingly functional metal and ceramic objects relate to the human body and invite the viewer to imagine a potential use. Working with physical relations as a metaphor, Phillips makes reference to psychological, social, gender, and racial power dynamics. In her installation and performance, Knight continues her investigation of the flexible boundaries of identity and psyche through her fictional talk show, *Sanity TV*, where she promotes neither sanity nor insanity.

We Go as They: Artists in Residence 2016–17 is organized by Hallie Ringle, Assistant Curator.



Andy Robert, *Check II Check*, 2017. Oil on canvas, 71 × 59 1/2 in. Courtesy the artist. Photo: Adam Reich

Also on View

Their Own Harlems

On view through January 7, 2018

In honor of the centennial of the birth of Jacob Lawrence (1917–2000), *Their Own Harlems* examines the ways in which the urban landscape has influenced Lawrence's artistic practice, as well as that of other artists. Known primarily for his bodies of work that depict historical figures, Lawrence was also a keen observer of contemporary life, drawing inspiration throughout his career from the years he spent living in Harlem. He thought of Harlem in a broad sense, acknowledging the powerful and positive experiences people of African descent across the country could find in "their own Harlems." The works in this exhibition thus consider different aspects of urban life, such as the ritual of moving through the city and the direct observation of scenes on the street, to illustrate how the city has served as a source of inspiration for artists across generations.

Drawn entirely from the permanent collection and the Harlem Postcards project, *Their Own Harlems* features the work of more than twenty artists including Dawoud Bey, Jacob Lawrence, Julie Mehretu, Wardell Milan, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Their Own Harlems is organized by Connie H. Choi, Associate Curator, Permanent Collection.

Harlem Postcards Fall/Winter 2017

September 14, 2017–January 7, 2018

Harlem Postcards is an ongoing project that invites contemporary artists of diverse backgrounds to reflect on Harlem as a site of cultural activity, political vitality, and creative production. Representing intimate and dynamic perspectives of Harlem, the images reflect each artist's oeuvre with an idiosyncratic snapshot taken in, or representative of, this historic locale. Each photograph has been reproduced as a limited-edition postcard available free to visitors. This season, the featured artists are Nona Faustine, Kiluanji Kia Henda, Timothy Hyunsoo Lee, and Paul Anthony Smith.

Harlem Postcards Fall/Winter 2017 is organized by Doris Zhao, Curatorial Assistant.

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 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–9pm; Saturday, 10am–6pm; and Sunday, noon–6pm. 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. Free for children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information visit studiomuseum.org.

Support

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Lead sponsor of *Fictions*



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.



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