

MEDIA RELEASE

The Studio Museum in Harlem
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studiomuseum.org/press



THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM PARTNERS WITH THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART TO PRESENT *WE FOUND US*, THE 2019 EXHIBITION OF THE EXPANDING THE WALLS PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM



Sixx Teague, *EMPOWERMENT*, 2019. Digital chromogenic print. Courtesy the artist.

NEW YORK, NY, July 9, 2019— From July 19, 2019 through August 30, 2019, *We Found Us: Expanding the Walls 2019* will present work by the fifteen artists in the 2018–19 cohort of The Studio Museum in Harlem's annual residency program *Expanding the Walls: Making Connections Between Photography, History, and Community*. During their eight months in the program, the participants from New York City–area high schools explore the history and techniques of photography. *We Found Us* will be on view in **The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education** while the Studio Museum constructs a new building on the site of their longtime home on West 125th Street.

We Found Us reflects on the personal and collective development of the fifteen artists in this year's program, capturing what they find significant in their daily lives. The exhibition demonstrates their shared interest in storytelling, technical experimentation, and the possibilities of photography as a channel for expression. *We Found Us* is a declaration born as the artists', grappling throughout the residency with themes of selfhood, found new perspectives on the world through their cameras and one another. The artists are: Aisha Hashmi, Anthony Trowner, Sixx Teague, Belen Vanesa Bautista, Bryam Franco, Charles Etuk, David Mills, Kenny Peña, Leila Annah Fuentes, Michelle Morocho, Sadia Zaman, Saiida Powell, Skye Mayo, Emmanuel Lugo, and Steeve Hedouville.

Each artist takes command of their own narrative and shows us what we otherwise would not see. *We Found Us* is a testament to their attention to visual life in New York City communities and is the culmination of months of art making, social critique, and museum education.



Aisha Hashmi, *Home*, 2019. Digital chromogenic print. Courtesy the artist.

Established in 2001, *Expanding the Walls* helps participants explore and define their artistic practices while building community through workshops, gallery visits, intensive darkroom training, and discussions led by contemporary artists. The archive of photographer James VanDerZee (1886–1983), which is housed at the Studio Museum, serves as a primary catalyst for the students' critical reflections on the representation of culture and community.

Selections from the VanDerZee archive are on view alongside the participants' works, which place a contemporary lens on VanDerZee's visual commentary on community, history, and representation. Like VanDerZee, many of the participants chose to record the people, places, and

experiences they find important to preserve for the future.

We Found Us: Expanding the Walls 2019 is organized by Alex Adams, Curatorial Fellow at The Studio Museum in Harlem and Mia Matthias, Joint Curatorial Fellow at The Studio Museum in Harlem and The Museum of Modern Art, with Ginny Huo, Senior Coordinator, Teen Programs, and the 2018–19 *Expanding the Walls* participants. Special thanks to photographer and professor Isaac Diggs for his mentorship and The School of Visual Arts for their continued support of the program.

The annual *Expanding the Walls* exhibition is being presented for the second year in a row in partnership with The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Studio Museum in Harlem would like to thank The Met for generously hosting this exhibition in the Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education during construction of the Studio Museum's new building.

Expanding the Walls is made possible with support from The Keith Haring Foundation Education Fund; Conscious Kids; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Joy of Giving Something; and Colgate-Palmolive. Additional support for The Studio Museum in Harlem's Education programs is provided by the Thompson Foundation Education Fund; Gray Foundation; Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts; Con Edison; and the Hearst Endowment Fund. The Studio Museum in Harlem is deeply grateful for Donna Mussenden VanDerZee's continued support of *Expanding the Walls*.

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 artists of African descent. As it celebrates its 50th anniversary, The Studio Museum is preparing to construct a new home at its longtime location on Manhattan's West 125th Street. Designed by Adjaye Associates in collaboration with Cooper Robertson, the 82,000-square foot facility will be the first created expressly for the Museum'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.

While the Studio Museum is currently closed for construction, the Museum has opened Studio Museum 127, a temporary programming space located at 429 West 127th street, and is working to deepen its roots in its neighborhood through *inHarlem*, a dynamic set of collaborative programs. The Museum's groundbreaking exhibitions, thought-provoking conversations, and engaging art-making workshops continue at a variety of partner and satellite locations in Harlem and beyond.

For maps, exhibitions, events, articles and more, visit **studiomuseum.org** or follow us @studiomuseum on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

About The Met

The Met presents over 5,000 years of art from around the world for everyone to experience and enjoy. The Museum lives in three iconic sites in New York City—The Met Fifth Avenue, The Met Breuer, and The Met Cloisters. Millions of people also take part in The Met experience online.

Since it was founded in 1870, The Met has always aspired to be more than a treasury of rare and beautiful objects. Every day, art comes alive in the Museum's galleries and through its exhibitions and events, revealing both new ideas and unexpected connections across time and across cultures.

The Met's Education Department is dedicated to making art accessible to everyone, regardless of background, ability, age, or experience, the Education Department is central to the Museum's mission and currently presents over 32,000 educational events and programs throughout the year. These programs include workshops, art-making experiences, specialized tours, fellowships supporting leading scholarship and research, high school and college internships that promote career accessibility and diversity, K–12 educator programs that train teachers to integrate art into core curricula across disciplines, and school tours and programs that spark deep learning and lifelong relationships with and through art.

Through its website and social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, The Met expands its visitor experience to people all over the world. For additional information about the Museum, visit **metmuseum.org**.

Hours and Admission

We Found Us: Expanding the Walls 2019 is on view in the Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Enter through the street-level entrance at Fifth Avenue and 81st Street.

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