

## MEDIA RELEASE

The Studio Museum in Harlem  
144 West 125th Street  
New York, NY 10027  
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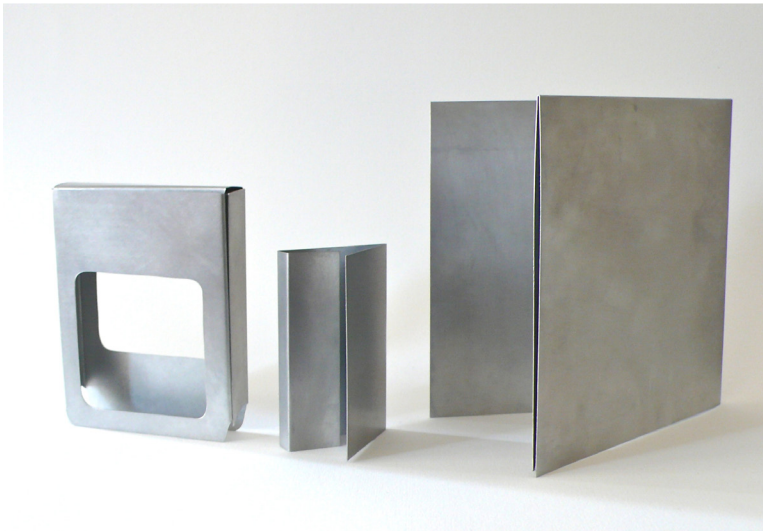
**Contact:**

Liz Gwinn, Communications Manager  
egwinn@studiomuseum.org  
646.214.2142

**STUDIO  
MUSEUM  
HARLEM**

### ***2012 Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize awarded to Jennie C. Jones***

***Award established by jazz impresario George Wein goes to artist working with the visual legacy of experimental music***



Left: Jennie C. Jones, *Song Containers*, 2011. Courtesy the artist. Right: Joyce Alexander Wein and George Wein, c. 1990s.

**NEW YORK, NY, January 22, 2013**—The Studio Museum in Harlem has awarded the seventh annual Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize to Jennie C. Jones. The Wein Prize, one of the most significant awards given to individual artists in the United States today, was established in 2006 by jazz impresario, musician and philanthropist George Wein to honor his late wife, a long-time Trustee of the Studio Museum and a woman whose life embodied a commitment to the power and possibilities of art and culture. The \$50,000 award recognizes and honors the artistic achievements of an African-American artist who demonstrates great innovation, promise and creativity.

Inspired by his wife's life-long support of living artists, George Wein envisioned the Wein Prize as an extension of the Studio Museum's mission to support experimentation and excellence in contemporary art. Director and Chief Curator Thelma Golden and more than 700 guests will celebrate the seventh Wein Prize at the Museum's Gala 2012 on February 4, 2013. The Gala was originally scheduled for October 29, 2012, but was postponed due to Hurricane Sandy.

Jennie C. Jones creates visual and sonic abstractions that explore the histories of music and sound. Calling her artistic approach “listening as a conceptual practice,” Jones creates work in many forms—from drawing and painting to sculpture and sound installation—investigating how sound and music can be portrayed with a sparse visual language. Jones is particularly interested in the simultaneous innovations in art and music of the 1950s and 60s, drawing upon the influences and aesthetics of experimental jazz and Minimalist art as she embraces improvisation, readymade objects and the material culture of music.

Born in 1968 in Cincinnati, Ohio, Jennie C. Jones lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received a BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1991) and an MFA from Rutgers, Mason Gross School of the Arts (1996). She has completed residencies at The Lower East Side Printshop (2011), The American Academy in Rome (2008), the Liguria Study Center for the Arts and Humanities (2003–04), the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (1999) and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (1996), among others. Jones has exhibited her sculptures, drawings and audio works nationally and internationally at institutions including Artists Space, The Aspen Art Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, The Kitchen, The Menil Collection, and The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Her work was included in the Studio Museum exhibitions *Freestyle* (2001), *30 Seconds off an Inch* (2010) and *Shift: Projects, Perspectives, Directions* (2012). Solo exhibitions of her work will open at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in 2013 and at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston in 2014.

Along with Jennie C. Jones, the Joyce Alexander Wein Prize has honored the work of and facilitated the artistic growth of six previous recipients: Leonardo Drew (2011), Leslie Hewitt (2010), Glenn Ligon (2009), Nadine Robinson (2008), Trenton Doyle Hancock (2007), and Lorna Simpson (2006). In some cases, such as with Drew, Ligon and Simpson, the prize recognized and saluted decades of important work by midcareer artists. Hancock, Hewitt and Robinson, on the other hand, received the prize relatively early in their careers, providing both broadened attention and a resource for experimentation. In all cases, the prize’s direct cash grants to artists, now totaling \$350,000, has had an unprecedented impact on contemporary African-American art.

## **About Joyce and George Wein**

George Wein met Joyce Alexander at a concert in 1947, when she was a nineteen-year-old senior at Simmons College. They began an exploration of jazz and the arts that grew through their college years, continued to their marriage in 1959 and lasted throughout their fifty-eight-year romance and business partnership. Together, Joyce and George created a brilliant collection of African-American art dating from the 1920s to the 1990s, which was shown publicly for the first time at the Boston University Art Gallery just a few months after Joyce’s passing. Journalist Ed Bradley noted in the catalogue accompanying the exhibition that to his friends Joyce and George, “collecting art was like collecting knowledge.”

Throughout her life, Joyce was deeply involved with philanthropy, and the arts were not the only beneficiaries of her generosity. She and George established the Joyce and George Wein Chair in African American Studies at Boston University (George’s alma mater). The Alexander Family Endowed Scholarship Fund at Simmons College, from which Joyce graduated as a chemistry major, followed. Joyce was also a founder of the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women. In partnership with Kenneth Chenault and his wife, Studio Museum Board Member Kathryn C. Chenault, the Weins have been major fundraisers for the Harlem Children’s Zone.

George Wein opened the Boston club Storyville in 1950 and produced the first Newport Jazz Festival in 1954 and Newport Folk Festival in 1959. He advanced the business of live music and pioneered the concept of sponsor association with music events. Wein continues to perform, speak and receive honors around the world. His award-winning biography, *Myself Among Others: A Life in Music*, has become a major reference on jazz history.

## ***About The Studio Museum in Harlem***

Founded in 1968, The Studio Museum in Harlem is a contemporary art museum that focuses on the work of artists of African descent locally, nationally and globally, as well as work that has been inspired and influenced by African-American culture. The Museum is committed to serving as a unique resource in the local community, and in national and international arenas, by making artworks and exhibitions concrete and personal for each viewer.

## ***Hours and Admission***

The Studio Museum is open Thursday and Friday, noon-9pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-6pm. The museum is closed to the public 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.

*The Studio Museum in Harlem is supported, in part, with public funds provided by the following government agencies and elected representatives: The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation; Assemblyman Keith L. T. Wright, 70th A.D.; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Institute of Museum and Library Services; the National Endowment for the Arts; Council Member Inez E. Dickens, 9th C.D. and Speaker Christine Quinn and the New York City Council.*