

The Studio Museum in Harlem Announces Spring 2019 Exhibitions and Projects

During 50th Anniversary Year, Wide-Ranging Initiatives Bring the Studio Museum to Audiences in New York City and Around the Nation



Kambui Olujimi and Andre D. Wagner. Photo: SaVonne Anderson

NEW YORK, NY, March 5, 2019 —The Studio Museum in Harlem today announced its spring 2019 schedule of exhibitions and projects, presented at its own temporary program space and in partner institutions throughout Harlem, New York City, and the nation. With site preparation for construction of its new building now underway during the 50th anniversary year, the Studio Museum is reaching out more widely than ever, as it advances new work by artists of African descent and offers the public new perspectives on their achievements.

Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem, says, “Our 50th anniversary lets us reflect on the impact this institution has had, encouraging generations of artists in residence, and creating exhibitions and scholarship that have truly transformed culture. Our spring 2019 exhibitions and programs are going to be the latest waves in this ripple effect. We are proud and excited about the potential of each to touch people far beyond our walls and set off new possibilities everywhere.”

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Leading the schedule is a new exhibition in the Studio Museum's ongoing *inHarlem* initiative: the first collaboration between multidisciplinary artist **Kambui Olujimi** and street photographer **Andre D. Wagner**, on view at the New York Public Library's George Bruce Library from March 25 to June 15, 2019. ***Future Continuous: Kambui Olujimi and Andre D. Wagner*** juxtaposes Wagner's snapshots of everyday New York with Olujimi's fantastical dreamscapes in a special installation at the Library, which is also home to the Museum's *Books, Authors & Kids* and *Studio Salon* series.

For the first time in its history, the Studio Museum will present its annual *Artist-in-Residence* exhibition outside its own walls, when, on June 9, 2019, ***MOOD: Studio Museum Artists in Residence 2018–19*** opens at MoMA PS1. Shown as part of a multiyear partnership between The Studio Museum in Harlem and The Museum of Modern Art, the exhibition features new work by the current participants in the Studio Museum's foundational program: **Tschabalala Self**, **Allison Janae Hamilton**, and **Sable Elyse Smith**, who have explored various aspects of American identity and popular culture.

Studio Museum 127, the Museum's temporary program space, comes alive this spring with two projects and multiple *inHarlem* events. On March 16, Self, Hamilton, and Smith will open their studios to the public for a preview of the work included in *MOOD*. Beginning May 3, ***Radical Reading Room*** will offer a place for ongoing discussion and exchange of texts centering on black thought and the creation of black art and narratives. Visitors to Studio Museum 127 will also have the opportunity to view and collect the latest edition of the Studio Museum's popular ***Harlem Postcards***.

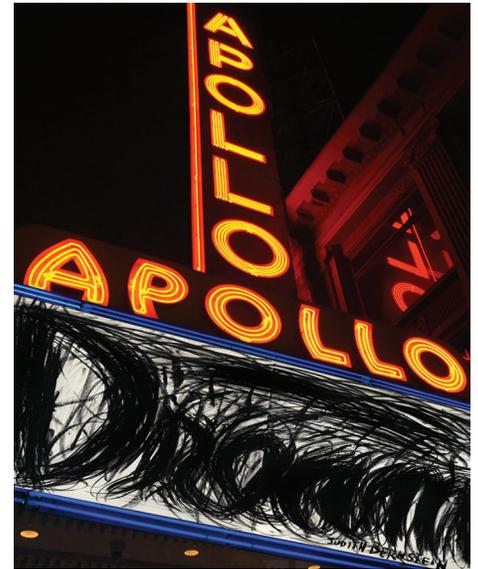
The Museum's innovative teen programs are in full swing during the spring season, with new cohorts entering the *Expanding the Walls* and *Teen Leadership Council* programs. At the same time, the Museum's beloved *Lil' Studio* series for children five and under continues at the New York Public Library's Harlem Library.

Rounding out the season, Maren Hassinger's ***Monuments*** remains on view in Marcus Garvey Park through June 10, while the traveling exhibition ***Black Refractions*** continues its national tour, proceeding from the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco to the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, South Carolina. As the Studio Museum prepares its longtime site at 144 West 125th Street for construction of a new, purpose-built facility designed by Adjaye Associates with Cooper Robertson, these exhibitions and projects provide new avenues for engagement and expansion of its mission.

Harlem Postcards Spring 2019

February 21 to May 19, 2019
Studio Museum 127
429 West 127th Street, New York, NY

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, visual stimulation, artistic contemplation, and creative production. Presenting perspectives on Harlem that are both intimate and dynamic, the photographs are reproduced as limited-edition postcards, which are available free to visitors.



Judith Bernstein, *Dream*, 2019.

This season, we are pleased to present postcards by **Judith Bernstein**, **Teresita Fernández**, **Scherezade García**, and **Baseera Khan**.

Harlem Postcards Spring 2019 is organized by Eric Booker, Exhibition Coordinator, and Alexandra Adams, Curatorial Fellow.

Future Continuous: Kambui Olujimi and Andre D. Wagner

March 25–June 15, 2019
NYPL George Bruce Library
518 West 125th Street, New York, NY

Future Continuous brings together multidisciplinary artist **Kambui Olujimi** and street photographer **Andre D. Wagner** in Harlem's historic George Bruce Library. Working together for the first time, Olujimi and Wagner have created a new, collaborative installation as part of the Studio Museum's *inHarlem* initiative.

Kambui Olujimi presents drawings based on his own dreams and the dreams of his community, which he has collected over the past decade. Inspired by global traditions of dream analysis and by the interpretive dream books sold in bodegas in Harlem and the artist's native Bedford-Stuyvesant, Olujimi's drawings unfold in tableaux installed above the Library's first-floor bookshelves. Reference copies of Olujimi's personal journal are available in zine form at the Library's front desk, so that visitors may further explore a collective unconscious.

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Andre D. Wagner presents a constellation of silver gelatin prints that capture the vibrant streetscapes and residents of Harlem, Bushwick, and greater New York. Celebrating the mundane and highlighting the extraordinary in the everyday, Wagner's photographs reveal vignettes of life in New York: intimate exchanges, summertime adolescence, and Halloween in Harlem.

Olujimi and Wagner's dialogue illuminates the relationship between past, present, and future, mixing real with surreal to ask: "How did we get here—and where are we going?"

Future Continuous is organized by Legacy Russell, Associate Curator, Exhibitions, and Hanna Girma, Curatorial Fellow.

Radical Reading Room

May 3–October 27, 2019

Studio Museum 127

429 West 127th Street, New York, NY

Housed within the Studio Museum 127 project space, *Radical Reading Room* is a site of collective practice where visitors can explore and exchange texts, participate in discussions, and reexamine how we engage in, and make, history. As part of this initiative, the Studio Museum will invite members of its extended community, in Harlem and beyond, to contribute their own printed matter, which will be made readily available on-site as part of the installation. Texts and discussions will focus on examining how art is produced and contextualized, the creation of black narratives, and how language performs within the lived experience of the diaspora.

Radical Reading Room is organized by Legacy Russell, Associate Curator, Exhibitions.

MOOD: Studio Museum Artists in Residence 2018–19

June 9–September 8, 2019

MoMA PS1

22-25 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, NY

MOOD features the work of 2018–19 artists in residence **Allison Janae Hamilton**, **Tschabalala Self**, and **Sable Elyse Smith**. For the first time in the Museum's history, the annual *Artist-in-Residence* exhibition will take place beyond the Museum's walls, at MoMA PS1.

The artists of *MOOD* will explore site and time as maps to American identity and popular culture. As part of this presentation, each artist will create an immersive environment: a passageway to a new world that interrogates both the artist's and the visitor's relationship

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to past and present in this urgent moment in American history. In each space, visitors will inhabit the artist's psychic topography, participating in a mood that is part of the global moment, while traveling through and beyond the fabric of digital culture.



Sable Elyse Smith, Allison Janae Hamilton, and Tschabalala Self. Photo: Madeleine Hunt-Ehrlich

Allison Janae Hamilton's site-specific installation will explore spirituality and mysticism through the landscapes of the American South. Hamilton's multimedia work will comprise video, corporeal sculptures in surrealist form, and imagery that explores matrilineal heritage and an enduring connection to the land.

Tschabalala Self will present a series of print, paint, and collage works based on her experience of Harlem. Growing up nearby and inspired by her return through the residency, Self creates fictional figures rooted in daily rhythms in and around the neighborhood. This new series pays homage to the energy of the city, from the frenetic visual culture of bodegas to the communal experience of waiting at a bus stop.

Sable Elyse Smith will exhibit a series of conceptual sculptures and two-dimensional works that together interrogate violence, economies, language, and social histories. Smith's use of language and everyday materials evokes new associations and issues of labor, class, trauma, and memory.

The Studio Museum's foundational *Artist-in-Residence* program, envisioned by artist William T. Williams in 1968, is an eleven-month residency for emerging artists of African and Latin American descent. *MOOD* is organized by Legacy Russell, Associate Curator, Exhibitions, and Hallie Ringle, former Assistant Curator at the Studio Museum (now

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Hugh Kaul Curator of Contemporary Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art) with Josephine Graf, Curatorial Assistant, MoMA PS1, and will be on view in MoMA PS1's second-floor Projects galleries.

Maren Hassinger: Monuments

Through June 10, 2019

Marcus Garvey Park

Madison Avenue between 120th and 124th Streets, New York, NY

Maren Hassinger: Monuments consists of eight site-specific sculptures installed for approximately one year in Marcus Garvey Park, beginning in June 2018. Hassinger, who has been associated with the Studio Museum since 1984, is a Harlem-based multidisciplinary artist whose works, spanning performance, installation, sculpture, and video, are often meditations on nature and community. Working in the tradition of her earlier projects such as *Wreath* (1979), Hassinger uses branches to create forms that respond to aspects of the park's landscape—an outcropping of rock, a triangle near flower beds, an oval near the pool. The artist created the works with the assistance of volunteers from the Studio Museum's Teen Leadership Council and *Expanding the Walls* programs, so that *Monuments* is a project made in Harlem and for Harlem.

Maren Hassinger: Monuments is organized by Hallie Ringle, former Assistant Curator at the Studio Museum (now Hugh Kaul Curator of Contemporary Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art).

Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem

Through April 14, 2019

Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA

May 24–August 18, 2019

Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC

The Studio Museum in Harlem is partnering with the American Federation of Arts (AFA) to present *Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem*, a major traveling exhibition comprised of more than one hundred works by nearly eighty artists from the 1920s to the present. After debuting at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco, *Black Refractions* will travel to the Gibbes Museum of Art, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Smith College Museum of Art, Frye Art Museum, and Utah Museum of Fine Arts.

The exhibition is accompanied by a new publication of the same title copublished by the American Federation of Arts and Rizzoli Electa. The richly illustrated volume includes essays by Connie H. Choi and Kellie Jones; entries by a range of writers, curators, and scholars; and

a conversation between Choi, Thelma Golden, and Jones that draws out themes and challenges in collecting and exhibiting modern and contemporary art by artists of African descent.

Teen Programs

Expanding the Walls: Making Connections Between Photography, History and Community is an eight-month photography-based program for a select group of students enrolled in a high school or GED program. Participants work with a diverse group of arts professionals to explore issues related to community, history, and culture while learning the basics of photography in a regimen of art workshops, discussion groups, and field excursions. *Expanding the Walls* uses the work of renowned photographer James VanDerZee as a catalyst for discussion and art making. The program culminates with a celebration of the participants' work.



Expanding the Walls 2019 cohort. Photo: Ginny Huo

In January 2019, *Expanding the Walls* welcomed a new class of fifteen high school-age participants from all over New York City into the Museum's trailblazing teen photography program. This year's participants are Anthony Arevalo, Belen Vanesa Zapata Bautista, Charles Etuk, Leila Fuentes, Bryam Franco, Aisha Hashmi, Steeve Hedouville, Emmanuel Lugo, Skye Mayo, David Mills, Michelle Morocho, Kenny Peña, Saiida Powell, Ashley Teague, and Sadia Zaman.

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Shanta Lawson, Director of Education, says, “Each year of *Expanding the Walls* is unique, as each group of teens brings new ideas and energy to the program. I am especially excited to witness the ways this cohort will explore and engage with communities during our landmark 50th anniversary year: a moment of reflection and celebration of the Museum’s legacy as a place for critical and creative engagement.” The program will culminate with an exhibition of participant work in the Carson Family Hall at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, opening in summer 2019.

The *Teen Leadership Council* is a group of New York City–based teens that fosters a fun and safe space to express creative ideas. Teen Leadership Council members assist with planning and facilitating the Museum’s free programs for teens, including *Art Looks* and *Studio Works*, and collaborate with other teen organizations for special programs. Through visits to museums, talks with arts professionals, and exchanges with their peers, the Teen Leadership Council nurtures creativity and ambition in developing the next generation of cultural programmers. Six young people from around New York City have been selected to participate. This year’s participants are Iraisly Arenas, Claudio Arriola, Seloni Daryanani, Darrien M. Gaston-Williams, Jillian Peprah-Frimpong, and Ming X. Zhang.

Ginny Huo, *Expanding the Walls/Youth Programs* Coordinator, says, “I have the honor to work with incredibly dynamic, talented, and smart teens from New York City. We are looking forward to this upcoming year to continue to explore what it means to be an artist and to engage with our communities through meeting and visiting with wonderful artists, organizers, institutions, and exchanges with other teens. I’m excited for what’s ahead and what this cohort will create!”



Teen Leadership Council 2019 cohort. Photo: Ginny Huo

Selected Spring 2019 Programs and Events

Books, Authors, & Kids featuring Valerie Williams-Sanchez

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 1–2 pm

NYPL George Bruce Library

518 West 125th Street, New York, NY

Join author and illustrator Valerie Williams-Sanchez for an interactive reading of *Lorena and the Magic Mocha Mirror!* After the reading, create a mirror of your own using special art materials during this fun family workshop that celebrates literacy and visual arts.

Artist-in-Residence Open Studios

Saturday, March 16, 2019, 1–4 pm

Studio Museum 127

429 West 127th Street, New York, NY

Allison Janae Hamilton, Tschabalala Self, and Sable Elyse Smith, the 2018–19 artists in residence, open their studios located at Studio Museum 127, the Museum's temporary programming location. Visitors are invited to meet the artists and be among the first to view their works in progress in advance of their summer exhibition at MoMA PS1. Conceived at the formation of the Studio Museum fifty years ago, the *Artist-in-Residence* program remains central to the Museum's mission. *Open Studios* is free and open to all.

Studio Squared: Collaging Migration

Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 6–8 pm

African Services Committee

429 West 127th Street, New York, NY

Experiment with bold colors and geometric shapes to tell stories of journeying from one place to another. Inspired by the work of Jacob Lawrence, this hands-on workshop will begin with a brief discussion of selected images from his “Migration Series.” Following the conversation, teaching artist Monique Schubert will guide participants through a series of individual and collaborative art-making exercises, intended to explore the medium of collage. Participants are encouraged to create multiple collages that reflect their experiences of migration within and across borders.

This edition of *Studio Squared* is presented in partnership with African Services Committee, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and self-sufficiency of the African community in New York City and beyond.

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Studio Salon

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 2–4 pm
Saturday, April 27, 2019, 2–4 pm
NYPL George Bruce Library
518 West 125th Street, New York, NY

Studio Salon invites language lovers to a series of author talks, book clubs, and writing workshops inspired by our exhibitions. Exploring text as an important source material for artists, this program unpacks the dynamic intersections of literature and contemporary art.

Lil' Studio

Session A: Thursdays, March 7, April 4, and May 2; 11 am–12 pm
Session B: Saturdays, March 9, April 6, and May 4; 11 am–12 pm
NYPL Harlem Library
9 West 124th Street, New York, NY

Parents, caregivers, and organizations servicing little ones ages 2.5 to 4 are invited to enjoy art making and other activities that encourage creative time and bonding. Session A is designed for organizations and agencies providing care for preschool-age children. Session B welcomes parents and caregivers. *Lil' Studio* is free, and refreshments will be provided. Preregistration is required.

Visit studiomuseum.org/calendar for the full program and event listing.

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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 internationally renowned architect David Adjaye of Adjaye Associates in collaboration with Cooper Robertson. 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.

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 more information, visit studiomuseum.org. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube: [@studiomuseum](https://www.instagram.com/studiomuseum)

About the New York Public Library

The New York Public Library is a free provider of education and information for the people of New York and beyond. With ninety-three locations—including research and branch libraries—throughout the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island, the Library offers free materials, computer access, classes, exhibitions, programming and more to everyone from toddlers to scholars, and has seen record numbers of attendance and circulation in recent years. The New York Public Library serves more than 17 million patrons who come through its doors annually and millions more around the globe who use its resources at nypl.org. To offer this wide array of free programming, The New York Public Library relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support the Library at nypl.org/support.

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Education programs are made possible thanks in part to funding from Target; Gray Foundation; Con Edison; May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation; and Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts.

Expanding the Walls and Youth programs are made possible with support from 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; Hearst Endowment Fund; Colgate-Palmolive. The Studio Museum in Harlem is deeply grateful for Donna Mussenden VanDerZee's continued support of Expanding the Walls.

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