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STUDIO
MUSEUM
HARLEM

spring 2010 exhibitions and projects

On view April 1 - June 27, 2010

Collected. Reflections on the Permanent Collection

VidéoStudio: New Work from France

Harlem Postcards: Xenobia Bailey, Yara El-Sherbini, Brendan Fernandes, Monique Schubert

StudioSound: DJ /rupture

Collected. Reflections on the Permanent Collection



Dave McKenzie, Self Portrait Pina, 2002.
The Studio Museum in Harlem, gift of the artist 83.10

Collected. Reflections on the Permanent Collection offers a series of meditations on artworks entrusted to The Studio Museum in Harlem. Envisioned as eight exhibitions within an exhibition and featuring approximately 100 works that span the mid-century to today, *Reflections* investigates shared thematic concerns between the works on view. These include media and materials; traditional art historical genres like portraiture and landscape; and cultural notions of history and memory. The distinct viewpoints of the exhibition's sections aim to provide fresh modes of visual reflection by reinterpreting, reexamining and resituating these pieces into critical conversation with one another. *Reflections* is the second in the "Collected" exhibition series, continuing the exploration begun in *Collected. Propositions on the Permanent Collection* (Spring 2009).

Each section within *Reflections* uses the featured objects as catalysts for expanding upon how art is produced and traditionally presented in museum spaces. **Catalogue: Systems of Dis/Order** looks to the legacies of Minimalism and Conceptual art to consider the idea of seriality, featuring works that employ repetition, pattern and musical scores to challenge modes of structure and organization. **Subject** casts artists as the focus, via self-portraiture or visual tributes to other artists of varying disciplines; while **Site** brings together interpretations of the studio as a nexus for social relations, artistic production, self-reflection and the foundation of an expanded, "world-as-studio" practice. These perspectives, along with **Gleam, Masquerade, Place, Work** and **A Delicate Touch** offer multiple ways of experiencing and understanding the breadth of the Studio Museum's holdings. In addition, several **Highlights** consider individual pieces, including artworks by Robert Colescott, Leonardo Drew, Ellen Gallagher, Louise Nevelson and Howardena Pindell, in depth. The wall texts accompanying these featured artworks include the contributions of scholars and artists in our extended community, who lend new insights in a continuing interpretative process.

The works on display embody the Studio Museum's mission and programming, presenting historically significant work by artists of African descent, and art inspired by black culture locally, nationally and internationally. They also evidence the Museum's ongoing collecting processes, incorporating pieces acquired from former artists in residence, artists featured in past exhibitions, as well as gifts and works acquired through the Acquisitions Committee. *Collected. Reflections on the Permanent Collection* was organized by the curatorial team of Thelma Golden, Naomi Beckwith, Lauren Haynes, Thomas J. Lax, Tasha Parker and Abbe Schriber. *Reflections* offers innovative ways to see the Museum's collection in the present moment, and allows an opportunity to contemplate the rich, expansive range of ideas linking artists throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

VidéoStudio: New Work from France

In a trio of month-long programs, the Studio Museum presents the work of three North African artists—Yto Barrada, Bouchra Khalili and Djamel Kokene—who were born or currently live in France. While these artists emerge from a specific Afro-European context, the exhibition brings together work that considers “France”—and the very idea of the nation—as a concept rather than a stable category. Together their work encourages us to consider the relationship between individuals and the state; culture and the law; and identity and modes of representation. *VidéoStudio: New Work from France* is the second installment of *VideoStudio*, an ongoing series of video art.



Yto Barrada, *The Smuggler*, 2006.
Courtesy the artist



Djamel Kokene, *433' (20 ans de nationalité française)*, 2006.
Courtesy the artist and Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris



Bouchra Khalili, *Straight Stories—Part 2: Anya*, 2008.
Courtesy the artist

Barrada, Khalili and Kokene use the immediacy and transience of film and video to question conceptions of cinematic form, national identity and statelessness. Each artist reinterprets techniques drawn from artistic genres including guerilla theater, documentary film and narrative storytelling. **Yto Barrada** (b. 1971) recounts narratives of individuals—botanists, smugglers and magicians—and specific places, such as gardens and vacant lots. She addresses issues of postcolonial power in Morocco, where she lives and works.

Bouchra Khalili (b. 1975) follows the stories of contemporary migrants as they navigate geographic and psychological landscapes. Her subjects are made discernible only through overheard conversations, maps and urban panoramas. **Djamel Kokene** (b. 1968) stages site-specific interventions in spaces such as museums and workshops, and records these performances on video. For the artist, the performances and videos of them each function as individual works, a move that tests the boundaries of media specificity and the limits of the artist's role in contemporary society.

VideoStudio was inaugurated in fall 2008 to foster critical engagement with video, digital and new media practices.

Harlem Postcards

Brendan Fernandes, 2329 Frederick Douglass Boulevard, 2010. Courtesy the artist



Represented, revered, and recognized by people around the world, Harlem is a continually expanding nexus of black culture, history and iconography. Venerable landmarks, such as the Abyssinian Baptist Church, the Apollo Theater, Hotel Theresa, Audubon Ballroom and 125th Street, remain popular emblems of important historic moments and moods.

The Studio Museum's ongoing series, Harlem Postcards, invites contemporary artists of diverse backgrounds to reflect on Harlem as a site for artistic contemplation and production.

Installed in the Museum lobby and available to visitors free of charge, Harlem Postcards present intimate views and fresh perspectives on this famous neighborhood. This season we feature images by **Xenobia Bailey, Yara El-Sherbini, Brendan Fernandes and Monique Schubert.**

StudioSound: DJ /rupture

This season's *StudioSound* composer Jace Clayton is a writer and musician living in Brooklyn, who performs internationally as DJ /rupture. In addition to his work as a turntablist and producer, Clayton is a member of the band Nettle and host of *Mudd Up!*, a weekly radio show on WFMU, 91.1 fm. He also runs Soot Records, an independent label dedicated to international urban music.

Clayton's interests include music, globalization, public space, and digital technologies/networks, with an emphasis on Latin America, Africa, and the Arab world. He has given lectures and artist talks at Harvard University and other cultural/educational institutions in Germany, Spain, Peru, The Netherlands, and Brazil.



StudioSound invites musicians, producers and musical innovators to create original compositions inspired by the works on view. This commissioned-based project activates the museum's lobby and adds a parallel dimension to the art and artists on view. Past *StudioSound* artists include DJ Spooky, My Barbarian, Rich Medina, George E. Lewis, Marc Cary, and Guillermo E. Brown. *StudioSound* is organized by Dominic Hackley and Stephanie Pottinger.

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 unique resource in the local community, and in national and international arenas, by making artworks and exhibitions concrete and personal for each viewer. With a permanent collection of over 1,600 artworks, offerings of lectures, panel discussions, performances and interpretive programs, the Studio Museum serves as the nexus for black artists locally, nationally and internationally, and for work that has been inspired by black culture.

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.



The Studio Museum in Harlem is located at 144 West 125th Street, between Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard and Lenox Avenue. Subway: A, B, C, D, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 to 125th Street. Bus: M-2, M-7, M-10, M-100, M-101, M-102 or BX-15. Museum hours are: Wednesday through Friday, and Sunday from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. The Museum is closed on Monday, Tuesday and major holidays. Suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid id) and seniors. Free for children 12 and under. The first Saturday of every month is free for everyone. Sundays are now free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information please call 212.864.4500 or visit studiomuseum.org