Beyond the Studio

To the Audience,

In celebration of Cauleen Smith, the Epstein recipient of the prestigious Joyce Alexander Wein Prize, The Studio Museum will present a conversation between Smith and artistic director Thelma Golden on May 21 at 6:00 pm EDT. The program will be streamed live on Zoom and feature live CART captioning.

Thelma Golden said, “The conversations that happen around our spring benefit, Beyond the Studio, lead our audience to see that we have an obligation to make society more equitable. This is one of the major contributions of the Studio Museum, and we do so out of an abundance of caution and in the best interest of our community, our audiences, our committed team, and their families. As a proud citizen of Harlem and a public institution, we also are mindful of our responsibilities as a leader in our community. Our educational opportunities and our cultural education are critical to continuing the initiative going forward.”

Presentations of the dialogue with Cauleen Smith will honor the recipient of the annual Joyce Alexander Wein Prize, established to recognize the accomplishments of an artist or scholar whose work and/or life have made a significant contribution to the history and future of African American art and the larger American art world. In addition to her groundbreaking work on the Studio Museum’s exhibition, Give It or Leave It, Smith is a professor at Columbia University and lives in New York.

About Cauleen Smith
Born in Riverside, California, and educated at San Francisco State University (BA) and the California College of Arts and Crafts (MFA), Cauleen Smith is known for her installations and performances that incorporate everyday objects and self-portraits to explore ideas of identity, history, and community. Smith’s endlessly generative imagination has put her at the forefront of today’s racially and socially engaged scholarship. Harrowing about the lives of numerous individuals and the culture in which they were created, her work examines protest, resistance, and by extension, our role in writing and reading these disappearing stories and in confronting the initiative going forward.

The conversation between Smith and Golden will support the Museum’s general operations, emerging artists, and the exhibition of digital projects dedicated to providing meaningful engagement for audiences of all ages.

About the Studio Museum
The Studio Museum in Harlem’s top priority is guaranteeing the safety of each member of our community, our audience, our committed team, and their families. As a proud citizen of Harlem and a public institution, we also are mindful of our responsibilities as a leader in the promotion of best public health practices. For these reasons, we are unable to host the conversations and activities included in the program Beyond the Studio live. However, we are excited to make this valuable programming available to the Studio Museum’s growing community. We are thrilled to be able to do just that in support of Museum for general operations, emerging artists, and the exhibition of digital projects dedicated to providing meaningful engagement for audiences of all ages.

About Tracee Ellis Ross
By the late 1990s, Ross had established herself as a household name due to her work in television and film. Ross made her acting debut in the film Spotsylvania (1990), which was released in 1991. Her performance received critical acclaim, and it marked her first appearance in a major motion picture. Ross continued to build her reputation on television, securing roles in several popular series such as The moth man (1990) and The Patty Duke Show (1963-1970). She went on to star in numerous television series, earning critical acclaim and a growing fan base.

About Cauleen Smith
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About saidiya hartman
Saidiya Hartman is a scholar of African American literature and cultural history whose works explore the afterlife of slavery in modern American society and bear witness to lives, losses, and community. Cauleen Smith, whose endlessly generative imagination has put her at the forefront of today’s racially and socially engaged scholarship, Harrowing about the lives of numerous individuals and the culture in which they were created, her work examines protest, resistance, and by extension, our role in writing and reading these disappearing stories and in confronting the initiative going forward.

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