MEDIA RELEASE

The Studio Museum in Harlem
144 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
studiomuseum.org/press

Contact:
Elizabeth Gwinn, Communications Manager
egwinn@studiomuseum.org / 646.214.2142

The Summer Exhibition Season Begins July 16 at The Studio Museum in Harlem
With Five Shows That Span the Generations

New York, NY, June 26, 2015— From photographs taken by high-school students to classic Conceptualism by Lorraine O’Grady (b. 1934) and masterful abstract paintings by Stanley Whitney (b.1946), artworks in many styles and from many generations of artists of African descent will be on view at The Studio Museum in Harlem, as it begins its summer exhibition season on July 16, 2015.

Filling the galleries through October 25 will be:

- **Stanley Whitney: Dance the Orange**, the first New York solo museum exhibition of the work of this painter’s painter
- **Everything, Everyday**, the annual Artists in Residence exhibition, presenting diverse new work by Sadie Barnette, Lauren Halsey and Eric Mack
- **Lorraine O’Grady: Art Is…**, the complete photographic record of the artist’s landmark 1983 performance at the annual African-American Day Parade
- the latest edition of the popular **Harlem Postcards** project, this summer featuring works by Ellen Lesperance, Narcissister, King Texas and Demetrius Wright reproduced as postcards that are free to Museum visitors
- **One Stop Down**, the fifteenth annual **Expanding the Walls** exhibition, with photographs taken by participants in the Studio Museum’s high-school residency program shown alongside historic selections from the James VanDerZee archive

Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem, said, “If there is a theme to this year’s summer exhibition season, it would be community in the broadest sense of the term. We are celebrating the achievement of Stanley Whitney, who moved to New York in 1968, the same year the Studio Museum was founded, and received some of his earliest institutional exposure in our galleries. We are bringing the historic photographs from Lorraine O’Grady’s Art Is… back to...
the neighborhood where they originated. In both *Harlem Postcards* and *Expanding the Walls*, we see artists ranging from the late James VanDerZee to today’s students reflecting on the traits that make Harlem special. And our three outstanding artists in residence for 2014-15 are showing works that they created here within our walls on 125th Street. This gathering of artists and artworks in summer 2015 is a community in itself—and like any good community, it is a vibrant mingling of viewpoints and generations.”

**Summary of the Exhibitions**

*Stanley Whitney: Dance the Orange* brings together twenty-nine paintings and works on paper created between 2008 and 2015 by the artist, whose intensely color-based abstractions have won steadily mounting recognition since the mid-1990s. Rhythmic and lyrical, with a combination of pre-ordained structure and improvisation inspired in part by jazz, Whitney’s square-format paintings arrange rectangles of vivid, single colors in a deliberately irregular grid, with the close-fitting, many-hued “bricks” or “tiles” stacked vertically and arrayed in horizontal bands. *Stanley Whitney: Dance the Orange* is organized for the Studio Museum by Lauren Haynes, Associate Curator, Permanent Collection. A full-color catalogue accompanies the exhibition, featuring contributions by Lauren Haynes, Robert Storr, Lowery Stokes Sims and Stanley Whitney, with a foreword by Thelma Golden.

*Lorraine O’Grady: Art Is…* presents all forty photographs that resulted from Lorraine O’Grady’s performance piece of the same title, in which she entered her own float in the 1983 African-American Day Parade and rode up Harlem’s Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard with fifteen collaborators dressed in white. Displayed on top of the float was an enormous, ornate gilded frame, while the words “Art Is…” were emblazoned on the float’s decorative skirt. At various points along the route, O’Grady and her collaborators jumped off the float and held up empty, gilded picture frames, inviting people to pose in them. The joyful responses turned parade onlookers into participants, affirmed the readiness of Harlem’s residents to see themselves as works of art, and created an irreplaceable record of the people and places of Harlem some thirty years ago. *Lorraine O’Grady: Art Is…* is organized for The Studio Museum in Harlem by Amanda Hunt, Assistant Curator.

*Everything, Everyday: Artists in Residence 2014–15*, organized by Associate Curator Naima J. Keith, presents new work by Sadie Barnette (b. 1984, Oakland, CA), Lauren Halsey (b. 1987, Los Angeles, CA) and Eric Mack (b. 1987, Columbia, MD) during their tenure as artists in residence at the Studio Museum in 2014–15. Barnette, who often deals in the currency of West Coast vernacular, will show recent work that focuses on the horse racing industry, the poetics of naming race horses and the narrative of the racetrack. Halsey transforms part of the Studio Museum’s mezzanine gallery into a site-specific sculptural environment of hieroglyphic reliefs set in an interplanetary desert oasis. Mack, who incorporates textiles and readymade surface into his abstract paintings, presents works that make unexpected and lyrical use of pegboards, moving blankets and other utilitarian objects.
Expanding the Walls: Making Connections between Photography, History and Community presents work made by New York–area high-school students during the annual eight-month residency program at the Studio Museum. Since the program’s founding in 2001, a primary catalyst for the students’ artistic practice and critical reflections on the representation of culture and community has been the James VanDerZee archives housed at the Studio Museum. VanDerZee (1886–1983), the premier photographic chronicler of Harlem during its renaissance period, documented cityscapes and social groups while managing a thriving studio that catered to an emerging black middle class. The exhibition brings VanDerZee’s timeless themes into the present moment while testifying to the Studio Museum’s commitment to the youngest emerging artists.

Harlem Postcards Summer 2015 is the latest installment in an ongoing project that invites contemporary artists to reflect on the many sides of Harlem: as a site of cultural activity, political vitality, visual stimulation, artistic contemplation and creative production. This season, Harlem Postcards features photographs by Ellen Lesperance, Nacissister, King Texas and Demettrius Wright, whose images, both intimate and dynamic, reflect the idiosyncratic visions of artists from a wide range of backgrounds and locations. Each photograph has been reproduced as a limited-edition postcard and is available free to Studio Museum visitors.

Public Programs

The Studio Museum will offer a full slate of public programs in conjunction with the summer exhibition season, including artist talks, book clubs and the Studio Squared series of informal art-making workshops designed for adult participants. For more information, please check studiomuseum.org/event-calendar/.

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 black 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 in Harlem is open Thursdays and Fridays, noon–9 pm; Saturdays, 10 am–6 pm; and Sundays, noon–6 pm. The Museum is closed to the public but available for school and group tours on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Museum admission is by suggested donation: $7 for adults; $3 for students (with valid identification) and seniors; and free for members and children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information, please visit studiomuseum.org.

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