

STUDIO MUSEUM HARLEM

For Immediate Release

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30 Seconds off an Inch

On view: November 12, 2009 – March 14, 2010



Wayne Hodge
Untitled (Mohrenkopf) (detail), 2008
Courtesy the artist



Jabu Arnell
Disco Ball 2, 2009
Courtesy the artist



Thierry Fontaine
basket, after David Hammons,
2006
Courtesy the artist

NEW YORK, NY, October 20, 2009—The Studio Museum in Harlem will open the fall/winter season with *30 Seconds off an Inch*, a major exhibition of works by forty-two artists hailing from over ten countries. This survey brings together contemporary artworks by artists who, having absorbed the lessons of U.S.-based Conceptual art and identity politics along with those of several mid-century avant-garde international movements and experimental work by artists of color, imbue their respective practices with a critical sense of play and obliqueness. The exhibition presents an inter-generational dialogue among the featured artists, who use a variety of media, including figurative painting, large-scale sculpture, photography, video and site-specific installation, toward engaging with the body and race in clever, subtle and astute ways.

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Eschewing figurative representation and explicit narrative, these artists use, borrow and create alternate aesthetic strategies, influenced by both their predecessors and contemporaries. They incorporate language and text into artworks; use found objects to reference history and culture; and create ephemeral performances or interventions. The result is work that conveys spirit and humor, and that is productively ambiguous, evading projections of any fixed political message.

The exhibition proposes an exciting and interesting set of ideas that engage with the space between art and life. Rather than adhering to the exclusive use of traditional media, these artists venture outdoors collecting materials, walking along city streets and observing vernacular culture. From this social world beyond gallery walls, the artists cull an improbable set of art-making materials; they find inspiration in the makeshift qualities of everyday life and translate that imprecision into art.

Organized by Naomi Beckwith, Assistant Curator, *30 Seconds off an Inch* will be on display from November 12, 2009, through March 14, 2010. Accompanying this exhibition is an extensive full-color catalogue with a critical essay by the curator.

The exhibition includes work by:

Adel Abdessemed
Edgar Arceneaux
Jabu Arnell
Sanford Biggers
Kabir Carter
William Cordova
Thierry Fontaine
Charles Gaines
Deborah Grant
Rashawn Griffin
David Hammons
Maren Hassinger
Leslie Hewitt
Wayne Hodge
Rashid Johnson
Jennie C. Jones
Jayson Keeling
Simone Leigh
Glenn Ligon
Dave McKenzie
Nicole Miller
My Barbarian
Kori Newkirk
Chris Ofili
Demetrius Oliver
Karyn Olivier
John Outterbridge
Clifford Owens
Akosua Adoma Owusu
William Pope.L
Michael Queenland
Robin Rhode
Jimmy Robert
Nadine Robinson
Paul Mpagi Sepuya
Gary Simmons
Xaviera Simmons
Shinique Smith
Soda_Jerk
Kianja Strobert
Stacy Lynn Waddell
Nari Ward

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30 Seconds off an Inch has been generously supported by a grant from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust, with additional support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

In conjunction with the fall/winter 2009-10 exhibition and project season, The Studio Museum in Harlem's Department of Education and Public Programs offers a range of programs, activities and events incorporating artists, scholars and critics in thought-provoking discussions on a wide variety of issues central to the works on view. For more information on public programs, please visit www.studiomuseum.org, or call 212.864.4500.

Kabir Carter: Shared Frequencies

Sunday, November 22, 2—5pm

Shared Frequencies is a portable sound installation and performance environment that relies on multiplex radio communications events as its primary performance material. An array of radio scanners is paired with a set of analog synthesizer modules, and assembled on a set of small, modest folding tables. The scanners pick up a wide variety of speech, encoded data streams, and noise that are converted into (more) synthetic sound. The results of these electroacoustic interactions are projected into the air, and the sounds heard are physically modified by the shape and volume of the installation's site. The project was initially supported by a New York City Independent Radio and Sound Art Fellowship, a program of Media Alliance funded by The Jerome Foundation.

Shared Frequencies is FREE. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call 212.864.4500 x264 to reserve a space.

ABOUT THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

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, through its exhibitions, Artist-in-Residence program, education and public programming, permanent collection, and archival and research facilities.

The Studio Museum in Harlem 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. The Museum provides a context within which to address the contemporary and historical issues presented through art by artists of African descent.

Since opening in a rented loft at Fifth Avenue and 125th Street in 1968, the Studio Museum has earned recognition for its catalytic role in promoting the works of artists of African descent. The Museum's Artist-in-Residence program has supported over ninety graduates who have gone on to highly regarded careers. A wide variety of education and public programs have brought the African-American experience alive for the public by means of lectures, dialogues, panel discussions and performances, as well as interpretive programs, both on- and off-site, for students and teachers. The exhibitions program has also expanded the scope of art historical literature through the production of scholarly catalogues, brochures and pamphlets.

The Studio Museum's permanent collection contains over 1,600 works, including drawings, pastels, prints, photographs, mixed-media works and installations. It is comprised of works created by artists during their residencies, as well as pieces given to the Museum to create an art-historical framework for artists of African descent. Featured in the collection are Terry Adkins, Romare Bearden, Skunder Boghossian, Robert Colescott, Melvin Edwards, Richard Hunt, Hector Hyppolite, Serge Jolimeau, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Philome Obin, Betye Saar, Nari Ward and Hale Woodruff, among others. The Museum also is the custodian of an extensive archive of the work of photographer James VanDerZee, the quintessential chronicler of the Harlem community from 1906 to 1984.



Photo: Ray A. Llanos

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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.



ADDRESS

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.

ADMISSION

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.

HOURS

The Museum is open 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. Phone: 212.864.4500. Fax: 212.864.4800. www.studiomuseum.org.

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