

MEDIA RELEASE

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

Open House Celebration: Sunday, November 11, 2012, 12–6pm
Free and Open to All
Press viewings by appointment

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MUSEUM
HARLEM

The Studio Museum in Harlem announces perFOREmance *Highlighting new performative work from Fore*



Jamal Cyrus, *Texas Fried Tenor*
(performance still), 2012.
Courtesy the artist



Taisha Paggett, *Decomposition of a Continuous Whole* (performance still), 2009.
Courtesy Vox Populi Gallery, Philadelphia



Jacolby Satterwhite, *Reifying Desire: Model It* (video still, detail), 2012.
Courtesy Monya Rowe Gallery, New York

NEW YORK, NY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012—The Studio Museum in Harlem is pleased to announce a major performance component of the highly anticipated exhibition **Fore**, the Museum's new presentation of works by emerging artists of African descent. In addition to the many objects and installations created for *Fore*, the exhibition will also premiere new performances by artists **Kevin Beasley**, **Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle**, **Steffani Jemison**, **Narcissister**, **Taisha Paggett** and **Jacolby Satterwhite**. **Jamal Cyrus** and **Harold Mendez** will also present recent performative work, reflecting the medium's importance to the twenty-nine emerging artists in *Fore*. **perFOREmance**, two three-day performance presentations in December 2012 and February 2013, offers a focused platform for many of these premieres and presentations. Both **perFOREmance / december** and **perFOREmance / february** include intimate conversations with participating artists, leading scholars and Museum curators.

“*Fore* exemplifies the Studio Museum’s commitment to supporting artistic experimentation and innovation,” says Director and Chief Curator Thelma Golden, “We created perFOREmance as a direct response to artists’ desire to explore and integrate multiple disciplines, and to offer our audiences an opportunity to experience the full range of work created by this amazing group of emerging artists.”

Several performances will help inaugurate the exhibition on November 11, 2012. **Jacolby Satterwhite** will present performances that activate his new work *Reifying Desire: Model It* (2012) on several occasions throughout the run of *Fore*, including at a November 11 open house celebrating the exhibition. *Reifying Desire*, created for *Fore*, is a projected, two-channel video installation accompanied by a wooded platform designed to host live, ambient and often unannounced performances in the galleries. And at 2 pm on November 11, dance artist **Taisha Paggett** will blindfold herself and use a site-specific score inspired by Laban Movement Analysis to draw directly on a wall in the Studio Museum’s galleries, creating a new version of her ongoing work, *Decomposition of a Continuous Whole* (2009–12).

perFOREmance Schedules

perFOREmance occurs in two sections: Thursday, December 13 to Saturday, December 15, 2012, and Thursday, February 21 to Saturday, February 23, 2013. All perFOREmance events are free with Museum admission, though space may be limited. Up-to-date RSVP information will be available at studiomuseum.org.

perFOREmance / december features Narcissister, Kevin Beasley, and Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle.

Thursday, December 13

7 pm: *Narcissister: New Works*

Premiere

Brooklyn-based visual and performance artist Narcissister creates provocative yet playful vignettes that reference neo-burlesque and employ a range of materials, including fashion accessories, fake body parts, handmade props, larger-than-life costumes and her own body. Heir to Narcissus, the boy in Greek mythology who fell in love with his own image reflected in a pool and wasted away from unsatisfied desire, Narcissister excused herself from a career in modern dance to focus on a visual arts practice that explores the relationship between sexuality, race and gender. For perFOREmance, Narcissister debuts new work continuing her long-standing interest in challenging conceptions of feminist craft, gender objectification and commodity culture.

Friday, December 14

7 pm *Kevin Beasley: Listening Room*

Premiere. No late admittance.

“Listening Room” is a focused aural event in which a series of presenters share music and sound, and listeners give time to participate in an intimate hearing experience. This edition of “Listening Room,” *Discrepant Origins/ Acousmatics and Ill Perceptions* (2012), investigates acousmatics: sound one hears without seeing an originating cause. Beasley extends the idea—first used by composer Pierre Schaeffer and further developed by music theorist Denis Smalley—and invites presenters to consider the origins of musical and sound qualities, including instrumentation, vocals, samples, keynotes and the signal. Like Beasley’s sculptures, which use common industrial materials that are usually covered by upholstery or textiles, *Acousmatics and Ill Perceptions* draws attention to ubiquitous materials that ordinarily cannot be seen.

Saturday, December 15

4 pm *Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle: The Uninvited: Uncharting the Charted*

Premiere

Drawing from her long-term interest in language and the slippages it can create between fiction and reality, Los Angeles–based artist Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle will debut *The Uninvited: Uncharting the Charted* (2012) at The Studio Museum in Harlem. Working with percussionist Chris Taylor and woodwind composer Kevin Robinson, Hinkle will perform a suite of experimental texts and original musical compositions inspired by West African dialects, languages and images of women to explore the complicated relationship between matters of sexuality, race and meditations on place.

5 pm *Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle: The Uninvited: Uncharting the Charted*

Repeat performance

7 pm Thomas J. Lax in conversation with Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Narcissister and Jacolby Satterwhite

Assistant Curator Thomas J. Lax moderates a discussion with Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Narcissister and Jacolby Satterwhite as a culmination of their participation in perFOREmance / december. While their practices are distinct, their work shares several similarities. Each artist works in multiple media, performs in contexts both within and beyond the museum and the contemporary art world, and tests the limits of the live body. How do these artists understand ideas of physical presence and bodily capacity? How do different sites affect their approach to making live work? How does performance relate to other media such as drawing, printmaking and photography?

perFOREmance / february features Jamal Cyrus, Steffani Jemison, Taisha Paggett and Harold Mendez.

Thursday, February 21

6 pm *Harold Mendez: A blurred and generalized projection of you and me*

New York Premiere

Harold Mendez's collaborative-based performance *A blurred and generalized projection of you and me* (2012) explores a Samuel Beckett–like narrative of two characters in a barren and uncertain landscape, and their navigation of selfhood and identity. Mendez uses a multidisciplinary approach to illustrate how identity is constructed, dismantled and then stitched together. The two characters (*Braille Teeth* and *Nobody*) represent individuals seeking to transcend boundaries, borders and the trappings of place. Questioning the definitions of representation, specifically in addressing the real and the imaginary, this work attempts to depict a story of the self and the struggle of putting into language how one recognizes, defines and constitutes oneself and the world.

Friday, February 22

3:30 pm *Harold Mendez: A blurred and generalized projection of you and me*

Repeat performance

7:30 pm *Steffani Jemison: You Completes Me*

Premiere

2012-13 Studio Museum artist in residence Steffani Jemison's first live performance, *You Completes Me* (2012), features Houston-based actor Autumn Knight narrating a long-form poem. Excerpted from street fiction novels, the script is paired with projected images and sound. The performance mirrors the novels' narrative structure

and tropes, as well as their themes of mobility, kinship, violence, prayer and love. Sited in Harlem—where many street fiction novels take place and are widely sold—*You Completes Me* was created on the occasion of *Fore*. *You Completes Me* is a two-part performance that uses repetition and doubling as a conceptual device. Each iteration of the performance will incorporate different projected images and sound.

Saturday, February 23

1 pm: Steffani Jemison: *You Completes Me*

See above for description. *You Completes Me* is a two-part performance that uses repetition and doubling as a conceptual device. Each iteration of the performance will incorporate different projected images and sound.

3 pm Jamal Cyrus: *Texas Fried Tenor*

New York Premiere

Texas Fried Tenor (2012) is a part of Cyrus's "Learning to Work the Saxophone" series. Based on a lyric from the 1977 Steely Dan song "Deacon Blues," Cyrus uses the series to explore the idea of the instrument as a tool of transcendence and personal expression. During the performance, Cyrus will deep-fry a saxophone while reciting a recipe/poem based on the practitioners of the Texas Tenor saxophone tradition, the experience of improvisation and combustible materials. An earlier version of *Texas Fried Tenor* was performed in Austin in May 2012 as part of an exhibition of work by finalists for the 2012 Texas Prize.

5 pm Taisha Paggett: *verse chorus*

Premiere

Taisha Paggett's *verse chorus* (2012–13) is an evening-length work that deconstructs and makes use of the popular dance fitness program Zumba. Focusing on the structures of repetition that characterize aerobics, the work uses an instructional format to highlight how pop culture creates a sense of shared knowledge. Paggett questions how the dance continues to shape identity and construct a sense of individual self despite the dance's mass marketing and mass consumption. *verse chorus* was created on the occasion of *Fore*.

About *Fore*

Fore presents twenty-nine emerging artists of African descent who live and work across the United States. Born between 1971 and 1987, the artists in *Fore* work in diverse media, often blending artistic practices in new and innovative ways. While some artists create large-scale oil paintings, others draw on top of photographs, or combine sculpture and two-dimensional work. More than half of the works in *Fore* have never been exhibited publicly; some are site-specific and react directly to the Harlem neighborhood and its social landscape.

Fore is the fourth in a series of emerging artist exhibitions presented by the Studio Museum, following *Freestyle* (2001), *Frequency* (2005–06) and *Flow* (2008). This exhibition traces the development of artistic ideas since *Flow*, taking into account social, political and cultural conditions in the United States. Whether gathering and assembling everyday objects, referencing urban architecture and economies, or using film and video to mirror the transmission and reception of information through social media, the artists in *Fore* emphasize that contemporary art is deeply tied to its location, time and historical context. This exhibition investigates questions at the core of the Studio Museum's mission, exploring art's relationship to U.S. and global communities.

Organized by Lauren Haynes, Naima J. Keith and Thomas J. Lax, Assistant Curators at the Studio Museum, *Fore* continues the Studio Museum's mission as the nexus for artists of African descent, locally, nationally and internationally, and for work inspired by black culture.

Fore is made possible thanks to Leadership Support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Major support provided by Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support provided by the Ed Bradley Family Foundation.

Artists in the Exhibition

Firelei Báez / b. 1980, Santiago, Dominican Republic; Lives and works in New York, New York

Sadie Barnette / b. 1984, Oakland, California; Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Kevin Beasley / b. 1985, Alexandria, Virginia; Lives and works in New York, New York

Crystal Z. Campbell / b. 1980, Prince George's County, Maryland; Lives and works in New York, New York and Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Caitlin Cherry / b. 1987, Chicago, Illinois; Lives and works in New York, New York

Jamal Cyrus / b. 1973, Houston, Texas; Lives and works in Houston, Texas

Noah Davis / b. 1983, Seattle, Washington; Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Abigail DeVille / b. 1981, New York, New York; Lives and works in New York, New York

Zachary Fabri / b. 1977, Miami, Florida; Lives and works in New York, New York

Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle / b. 1987, Louisville, Kentucky; Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Steffani Jemison / b. 1981, Berkeley, California; Lives and works in New York, New York

Yashua Klos / b. 1977, Chicago, Illinois; Lives and works in New York, New York

Eric Nathaniel Mack / b. 1987, Columbia, Maryland; Lives and works in New York, New York

Harold Mendez / b. 1977, Chicago, Illinois; Lives and works in Chicago, Illinois

Nicole Miller / b. 1982, Tucson, Arizona; Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Narcissister / b. 1971, New York, New York; Lives and works in New York, New York

Toyin Odutola / b. 1985, Ife, Nigeria; Lives and works in San Francisco, California

Akosua Adoma Owusu / b. 1984, Alexandria, Virginia; Lives and works in Alexandria, Virginia and Ghana

Jennifer Packer / b. 1984, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Lives and works in New York, New York

Taisha Paggett / b. 1976, Los Angeles, California; Lives and works in Chicago, Illinois and Los Angeles, California

Valerie Piraino / b. 1981, Kigali, Rwanda; Lives and works in New York, New York

Nikki Pressley / b. 1982, Greenville, South Carolina; Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Jacolby Satterwhite / b. 1986, Columbia, South Carolina; Lives and works in New York, New York, and Provincetown, Massachusetts

Sienna Shields / b. 1976, Rainbow, Alaska; Lives and works in New York, New York and Rainbow, Alaska

Kianja Strobert / b. 1980, New York, New York; Lives and works in Hudson, New York

Jessica Vaughn / b. 1983, Chicago, Illinois; Lives and works in New York, New York

Cullen Washington Jr. / b. 1976, Alexandria, LA; Lives and works in New York, New York

Nate Young / b. 1981, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; Lives and works in St. Paul, Minnesota

Brenna Youngblood / b. 1979, Riverside, California; Lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Also on View

Gordon Parks: A Harlem Family 1967

Harlem Postcards: 10th Anniversary

Harlem Postcards: Albert Maysles, Philip Maysles, Frank Stewart, Deborah Willis

Fall/Winter 2012–13 exhibitions and projects will be on view November 11, 2012–March 10, 2013. A previously announced opening date of November 8, 2012 was postponed due to logistical challenges caused by Superstorm Sandy.

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 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 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; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; National Endowment for the Arts; Council Member Inez E. Dickens, 9th Council District, Speaker Christine Quinn and the New York City Council; and Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer.

Hours and Admission

The Studio Museum is open Thursday and Friday, noon-9pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-6pm. The Museum is closed to the public but available for school and group tours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid identification) and seniors. Free for children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information visit studiomuseum.org.

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