

## MEDIA RELEASE

The Studio Museum in Harlem  
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STUDIO  
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### ***Lynette Yiadom-Boakye: Any Number of Preoccupations*** **On view November 11, 2010—March 13, 2011**



Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *Any Number of Preoccupations*, 2010. Courtesy Dr. Kenneth Montague / The Wedge Collection, Toronto, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

**NEW YORK, NY, October 19, 2010**—This fall, the Studio Museum in Harlem will present British artist Lynette Yiadom-Boakye's very first solo museum exhibition, *Lynette Yiadom-Boakye: Any Number of Preoccupations*, organized by Associate Curator Naomi Beckwith. Yiadom-Boakye (b. 1977, London) was recently included in the Studio Museum's *Flow* (Spring 2008), an acclaimed exhibition of new work by emerging African artists from across the world. On view from November 11, 2010—March 13, 2011, *Any Number of Preoccupations* will feature works created between 2003—when the artist completed her postgraduate work at the Royal Academy Schools—and 2010. The approximately twenty-five works on view will be a mix of her larger and smaller canvases of fictional portraits, primarily oil-on-canvas.

Similar to a novelist, Yiadom-Boakye creates characters that have lively back stories; yet she leaves it up to the viewer's imagination to fill in the details of these fictional lives. She works quickly, embracing the physicality and technicality of painting, and often destroys unsuccessful work—a strategy she says helps her maintain “freshness and urgency.” Language is a strong influence on Yiadom-Boakye; in addition to painting she is a prolific writer of fiction, poetry and essays.

The catalogue for the exhibition will feature essays by Beckwith and renowned critic and curator Okwui Enwezor, a short story by Yiadom-Boakye, and a foreword by Studio Museum Director and Chief Curator Thelma Golden. This exhibition continues the Studio Museum's commitment to the presentation of work by international artists of African descent—as exemplified by exhibitions such as *Flow, Meschac Gaba: Tresses* (2005), *Chris Ofili: Afromuses* (2005) and *Yinka Shonibare* (2002). Additionally, it builds on the museum's support for midcareer artists through the production of solo exhibitions and scholarly catalogues, most recently seen in *Kori Newkirk: 1997-2007* (2007).

### **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.

### **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 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid id) and seniors. Free for children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target.

*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.*