

WALLACH ART GALLERY

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

WALLACH ART GALLERY TO OPEN *UPTOWN TRIENNIAL 2020* AT THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

NEW YORK, NY, September 23, 2020 – The Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University is pleased to open *Uptown Triennial 2020*, the second iteration in the series, presenting the work of contemporary artists in dialogue with the Harlem Renaissance—a defining moment in American modernism and African-American cultural history—during its centennial year. *The exhibition opens to Columbia students, faculty, and staff on September 24, 2020 (reservations are required) and with a 3D virtual tour for the broader community.* Full public access to the gallery is expected later this fall. Reservations to the exhibition, links to the 3D virtual tour and updates on gallery access are available at wallach.columbia.edu. The exhibition closes on December 13, 2020.

Uptown Triennial 2020 is organized by Wallach director and chief curator, Betti-Sue Hertz. “The exhibition features 25 artists whose works project a confidence in Black identity that reflects a quest for making visible emerging subjectivities that mine popular and historical iconographies,” said Hertz.

Uptown Triennial 2020 includes works by artists Derrick Adams, Tariq Al-Sabir, Dawoud Bey, Sanford Biggers, Kabuya Pamela Bowens-Saffo, Jordan Casteel, Renee Cox, Gerald Cyrus, Priyanka Dasgupta & Chad Marshall, Damien Davis, Delano Dunn, Awol Erizku, Derek Fordjour, Hugh Hayden, Leslie Hewitt, Jennie C. Jones, Kahlil Joseph, Autumn Knight, Whitfield Lovell, Glendalys Medina, Rashaun Rucker, Xaviera Simmons, Dianne Smith, and LeRone Wilson. These 25 accomplished artists work in a wide range of media including painting, photography, video, sculpture, installation and performance.

Whitfield Lovell provides an installation of three paintings and sculptural items representing returning Black World War I soldiers. Large Installations by Xaviera Simmons and Derrick Adams focus on the *great migration* of Blacks seeking opportunities in the industrialized northern cities and the *Green Book* as a required resource for north/south car transport during Jim Crow, respectively. Hugh Hayden, a Columbia School of the Arts alumni, reimagines the cast iron skillet recasting the historical object with west African mask forms. Hayden says, “It’s an honor and quite surreal to be included amongst so many artists that I look up to, particularly given this time, as we collectively engage with notions of the Harlem Renaissance in our own works.”

Six historical works in *Uptown Triennial 2020* offer touchstones from which to explore the far reaching arc of the Harlem Renaissance’s influence. A first edition of *The New Negro: An Interpretation*, the anthology compiled by Alain Locke and a cornerstone of the movement, is included in this exhibition. *Uptown Triennial 2020* also presents original works by several of the Harlem Renaissance’s revered figures—Aaron Douglas, Augusta Savage, James Van Der Zee, and James Weldon Johnson. A maquette of a theatrical stage set for Duke Ellington by Joseph Urban is also in the exhibition.

Education and Public Programming

The *Uptown Triennial 2020* exhibition will be accompanied by *virtual* public programs exploring the work and practice of the exhibition artists and their contributions to a larger representation of Black life and culture in the 21st century. Programming will also explore how the Harlem Renaissance continues to resonate today. For the most current listing of the Uptown Triennial 2020 education and public programming schedule visit wallach.columbia.edu.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Harlem Renaissance ... Revolving ... Revisiting ... Re-generations | October 1 at 7pm

Taking inspiration from works in the exhibition, an intergenerational group of local poets share poetry from different eras of Harlem's cultural history as well as new verse. In selecting readings and creating responses, history is a circular dialog revolving around past and present. Each of the poets will revisit moments in Harlem's collective history alongside their experience of viewing works in *Uptown Triennial 2020*. From this process will emerge an evening of re-generation where the poets, separated by decades, will give responses informed by their lived experiences and the timeline of Harlem past and present. Featuring: Daniel Carlton, Shadenia Davis, and Brad Walrond.

Moving Across Time: Then and Now | October 22 at 7pm

What does it mean for artists to be responsive in contemporary moments, moments that are extensions of the past?

Artists offer glimpses of their movement across time that help us understand places and experiences that shape our communities. Harlem artist Augusta Savage is one such artist who accomplished this in her life's work of sculpting images of the Black community while shaping Harlem as a place for artists. Several artists in the Uptown Triennial 2020 connect with Savage's legacy. Jeffreen Hayes will weave together the connections as she offers reflections on Savage's lasting imprint.

Jeffreen Hayes, Ph.D. is a Black woman who uses her lived experiences and scholarly research in race, museums and visual culture to reimagine new worlds. Jeffreen creates and holds space for the Black community through her curatorial and leadership work. She has curated a number of exhibitions that include *SILOS*, *Augusta Savage: Renaissance Woman*, *AfriCOBRA: Messages to the People* and *Embracing the Lens: BlackFlorida project*. Jeffreen hosts "for the love of blk" podcast, leads Chicago-based contemporary arts organization Threewalls, and advocates for racial inclusion and equity in the arts.

Harlem Renaissance Men: Johnny Hudgins and Jack Johnson | November 18 and December 2 Collaboration with Center for Jazz Studies

In collaboration with Robert O'Meally, Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature, and the Columbia University Center for Jazz Studies this two-part series explores the lives of two trailblazers. (November 18 at 7pm/ Harlem Renaissance Man: Johnny Hudgins and December 2 at 7pm/ Harlem Renaissance Man: Jack Johnson)

DECEMBER

Uptown Triennial 2020 Town Hall: Building for the Future

For Uptown Triennial 2020 Town Hall: Building for the Future, the Wallach Art Gallery brings together artists, scholars, activists, community leaders, and urban planners to envision how arts and culture will drive New York City forward and how Harlem can lead the effort in imagining new possibilities for a more equitable future.

Exhibition Related Resources

Harlem Renaissance Curriculum Resource Launch / Fall 2020

The Harlem Renaissance Curriculum Resource is the result of a collaboration between the Wallach Art Gallery, the Double Discovery Center (DDC) and the Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME), Teachers College Columbia University. The education guide is composed of curricular modules focused on the Harlem Renaissance for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade that will be disseminated electronically to educators in schools and community-based organizations. It is an instructional tool to extend young people's knowledge and understanding of the cultural and historical significance of the Harlem Renaissance. The modules represent new scholarship about the period and its impact on contemporary life, reflect student-centered and critical inquiry pedagogical approaches, and integrate activities that encourage students to examine the materiality of different texts and media as the means to communicate content.

Wallach Sketch Sessions

Teaching artists demonstrate different techniques employed in the work of Aaron Douglas, Whitfield Lovell and Augusta Savage. Structured activities encourage the public to experiment with and develop their own drawing skills. This program is offered as a series of videos made available through the Wallach Gallery website.

Wallach Kids Activity Sheets

Although in-person Wallach Family Afternoons are on pause, Wallach Kids activity sheets help kids get comfortable with art and experiment with their own self-expression and creativity. A new set of activities will be released on the Wallach Gallery website through the run of the exhibition exploring works in the Uptown Triennial 2020.

Wallach Kids Art Making Videos

Teaching artists lead art-making activities designed for kids that take inspiration from the work of Derek Fordjour and the set design work of Joseph Urban.

For more detailed information, please visit wallach.columbia.edu

Wallach Art Gallery Hours

Wednesday – Friday, noon – 6pm

The Gallery will reopen on September 24 to Columbia students, faculty, and staff. Reservations will be required and are available [here](#). We expect to open to a broader public later in the fall.

Wallach Art Gallery

Lenfest Center for the Arts, Columbia University
615 West 129th Street (enter on 125th Street just west of Broadway)

Media Contacts:

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Select Exhibition Images



Awol Erizku
Origin of Afro-Esotericism, 2018-2020
Archival pigment print
21 x 24 x 2 inches
Edition two from an edition of three plus two artist's proofs



Renee Cox
Beau McCall's outtake from "The Signing", 2020
Archival pigment print
59 ½ x 59 ½ inches
Edition 1 from an edition of 3
Courtesy the artist



Kabuya Pamela Bowens-Saffo
Tracks & Bridges, 2019-2020
Mixed media Drawing techniques & mix-media collage materials
18 x 24 inches each
Courtesy Anderson Brickler Gallery, Tallahassee



Dawoud Bey
Harlem Redux: Former Renaissance Ballroom Site, 2015
Archival pigment print
40 x 48 inches
Artist's proof
Courtesy Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago



Derek Fordjour
Alternation I, 2020
Acrylic, charcoal, oil pastel and foil on newspaper mounted on canvas
72 x 96 inches
Collection of Sonia & Gaurav Kapadia



Whitfield Lovell
Autour de Monde, 2008
Conte crayon on wood panels with globes
102 x 189 x 171 inches

Courtesy DC Moore Gallery, New York



Xaviera Simmons

The Whole United States is Southern, 2019

Acrylic on canvas

Dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist and David Castillo Gallery, Miami

The artist wishes to acknowledge Art For Justice for it's continued support of her studio practice