

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) presents

Second Look, Twice:

Selections from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation

September 19–December 16, 2018

(San Francisco, CA)—Drawing from the vast collection of prints and multiples accumulated over a lifetime by Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation, Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) presents an original exhibition of the work of fifteen critically-acclaimed contemporary artists of African descent, including Glenn Ligon, Martin Puryear, and Kara Walker, who have used the medium of printmaking to create vivid and abstracted works.

Reveling in the brilliance of gestural compositions, abstract form, and pure color, the works in the exhibition offer a rich look at the various ways in which many of these artists have employed printmaking as an exploratory means of dissemination and new possibility for formulation.

MoAD Director and CEO Linda Harrison notes, "The exhibition *Second Look, Twice* is a perfect opportunity for MoAD to explore important collections such as Jordan's through the lens of the African diaspora. It is thrilling to be able to present so many high-profile artists working here in printmaking—a popular medium—and to see them creating new and highly experimental works either directly under the late Bob Blackburn's tutelage or in the studio he helped to establish."

At the entrance to the exhibition is an elegant etching entitled *Sunday Afternoon* (2000) by one of the foremost printmakers of African American descent in the United States, Robert Blackburn (1920-2003). This historical gesture pays tribute to Blackburn and his important Printmaking Workshop in New York, which was a welcoming gathering place and resource for generations of artists and young students of color from 1948-2001.

Beyond this introduction, visitors encounter a wide array of printed works on paper by some of the most celebrated names in art.

Glenn Ligon's (b. 1961) *Warm Broad Glow (Reversed)* (1988) is a photogravure aquatint print of his text-based work in neon that reads "negro sunshine." Kara Walker's (b. 1969) intaglio print of loosely spiraling black lines, suggestive of a whip, is from a series of six entitled *An Unpeopled Land in Unchartered Waters* (2010). An untitled 2003 lithograph by Mark Bradford (b. 1961) hints at the mixed media collages he creates from the discarded materials of urban life, particularly cast offs from hair salons.

Included also are several 2005 abstract works by Julie Mehretu (b. 1970, Ethiopia), recently commissioned to create the colossal work *HOWL, eon (I, II)* for the SFMOMA atrium. An untitled 1997 lithograph by Ellen Gallagher (b. 1965) mirrors her use of repeated images in collaged grids with rows of tiny lips arranged in various rectangles.

Several of the works on display represent rare experiments in printmaking by artists very much associated with a single medium. The exhibition includes several aquatint etchings created by celebrated Gee's Bend quilt makers Lousiana Bendolph (b. 1960) and Loretta Bennett (b. 1960) at Paulson Fontaine Press in Berkeley, CA.

Leading American sculptor Martin Puryear (b. 1941) collaborated in 2000 with San Francisco's Arion Press to create a series of woodblock prints for a limited-edition reprint of Jean Toomer's important 1923 novel *Cane*. The prints, several of which are on view, are the artist's response to the female characters in the book. Puryear told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 2000 that, prior to this project, his only other experience with woodblock printing had been during his student days.

A number of works in the exhibition demonstrate an unruly desire to expand the notion of what printmaking is. Willie Cole (b. 1955), known for assemblage sculptures made from everyday objects, used ironing boards as printing plates for the two works on view from his 2012 *Five Beauties Rising* series. The ironing boards were dismantled and flattened by being hammered and then repeatedly run over by cars, trucks, and skateboards in order to run them through the printing presses.

Leonardo Drew (b. 1961), known for exposing natural materials to processes of oxidation, burning, and decay, brought his deeply sculptural sensibilities to a recent experiment with Pace Prints, New York in the creation of pigmented and printed handmade paper, on view in this exhibition. Sam Gilliam, Jr.'s (b. 1933) *Snow Lane #33* (1996) is an exuberant multi-layered and collaged relief print coated with acrylic gel that was then raked. Mickalene Thomas (b. 1971) employs a variety of techniques

including woodblock, silk screen, and digital print collage for her colorful interiors such as her 2014 *Interior: Zebra with Two Chairs and Funky Fur*.

Also on view are a 2005 lithograph by Gary Simmons (b. 1964) entitled *Tri-wing Spin* and Lorna Simpson's (b. 1960) 1995 series *9 Props*. These lithographs on felt explore how people can be embodied by objects.

"Artists have always been chroniclers of our time," says Jordan D. Schnitzer. "The fifteen artists in this exhibition force us to think about our history and our values. This exhibition is frustrating, provocative, and inspirational all at the same time! It is only through understanding each other, our similarities and our differences, that we can all help make our communities the communities we want them to be."

ORGANIZATION AND FUNDING

Second Look, Twice: Selections from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation is curated by MoAD Director of Exhibitions & Curatorial Affairs Emily Kuhlmann, MoAD Exhibitions Associate Soleil Summer, and independent curator Essence Harden.

The exhibition *Second Look, Twice* is made possible at MoAD with thanks to support from the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, along with lead support given through the Afropolitan Ball 2018, including Dignity Health, Concepción and Irwin Federman, FivePoint, Gilead Sciences, Pacific Gas and Electric, Target, and Verizon.

About the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation

At age 14, Jordan D. Schnitzer bought his first work of art from his mother's Portland, Oregon contemporary art gallery, spurring his lifelong avocation as collector. He began collecting contemporary prints and multiples in earnest in 1988. Today, the collection exceeds 12,000 works and includes many of today's most important contemporary artists. It has grown to be one of the country's largest private print collections overall. He generously lends work from his collection to qualified institutions, organizing over 100 exhibitions and has had art shown at over 150 museums. Schnitzer is also President of [Harsch Investment Properties](#), a privately owned real estate investment company based in Portland, Oregon, with 25 million square feet of office, multi-tenant industrial, multi-family and retail properties in six western states. For more information about the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, please visit [jordanschnitzer.org](#).

ABOUT MoAD

Opened in 2005 in San Francisco's Yerba Buena arts district, MoAD, a contemporary art museum, celebrates Black cultures, ignites challenging conversations, and inspires learning through the global lens of the African Diaspora.

For more information about MoAD, visit The Museum's website at moadsf.org.

For media information or visuals visit our online press gallery or contact:

Nina Szevich

Public Relations

415.752.2483

nina@szevichpr.com

Mark Sabb

Director of Marketing and Communications

415.318.7148

msabb@moadsf.org

Online moadsf.org/press-center/

General Information

The Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday, 12-5pm. Museum admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens with a valid ID. Youth 12 and under always get in free. For general information, the public may visit The Museum's website at moadsf.org or call 415.358.7200. MoAD is located at 685 Mission Street (at Third), San Francisco, CA.

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