

Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) presents

Sadie Barnette: PHONE HOME

January 16-April 14, 2019

(San Francisco, CA)— The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco is the site of a new installation entitled **PHONE HOME** by internationally-renowned artist Sadie Barnette. Glittering in gold and platinum, the work of Sadie Barnette illuminates relics of a past deeply rooted in West Coast aesthetics and politics. A former Artist-in-Residence at The Studio Museum in Harlem, Barnette presents this installation as an example of a continuous exchange between two centers of Black artistic production.

The title, “PHONE HOME,” evokes a spectrum of communications, from outer space to the familial, across galaxies or borders. The site-specific installations on the first-floor columns offer an interactive listening station and library. Part self-portrait and part manifesto, the sparkling library tethers disparate genres and knowledge systems into a constellation of cultural transmissions and collective memory. The domestic becomes monumental in Barnette’s gestures of adornment.

Antiquated technology, “candy-coated” in holographic car paint, acts as both shield and beacon, as the inflection of prismatic light envelops vestiges of her childhood in the Bay Area. With bejeweled offerings of Black power politics and celestial revelry, **PHONE HOME** provides a refuge for those seeking moments of comfort in the reflection of their own light.

This exhibition is curated by Emily Kuhlmann, Director of Exhibitions and Curatorial Affairs and Soleil Summer, Exhibitions Associate.

Artist Biography

Whether in the form of drawing, photography or large-scale installation, Sadie Barnette’s work relishes in the abstraction of city space and the transcendence of the mundane to the imaginative. Born and raised in Oakland, California, she earned her BFA from CalArts and her MFA from the University of California, San Diego. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and internationally and is in the permanent collections of museums such as LACMA, Berkeley Art Museum, the California African American Museum, Studio Museum in Harlem (where she was also Artist-in-Residence), Brooklyn Museum and the Guggenheim. She is the recipient of Art Matters and Artadia awards and has been featured in publications such as The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Artforum, and Vogue. She lives in Oakland, CA and is represented by Charlie James Gallery in Los Angeles.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Artist Talk: Sadie Barnett in conversation with Emily Kuhlmann and Essence Harden at the Untitled Art Fair

Saturday, January 19, 3 - 4pm

Sadie Barnette, 2014-15 Studio Museum Artist-in-Residence, discusses her MoAD exhibition and the role her residency at the Studio Museum played in her practice.

Family Free Day: MLK National Day of Service

Monday, January 21, 11am - 5pm

MoAD celebrates the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday with free entrance and a full day of performance and art activities for children and families.

In Gallery Artist Talk with Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Thursday, January 31, 6:30 - 8pm

Studio Museum artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby discusses her work included in *Black Refractions* and the influences of other artists included in the exhibition on her work.

Artist Talk: William Cordova in conversation with Jeff Chang

Thursday, February 7, 6:30 - 8pm

Studio Museum Resident William Cordova engages with Jeff Chang about the role of ethnic specific museums in supporting artists of color. This program is presented in partnership with Stanford University.

Performance: Time to Talk with the Davalois Fearon Dance Company

Saturday, April 13, 2 - 3:30pm

A multimedia dance piece rooted in research on American history, dance history, racial identity formation, and systemic racism.

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM

ENGAGE: Symposium 2019

Saturday, February 23

10am - 3:30pm

This day-long symposium is inspired by the artists in *Black Refractions*. Featuring exhibition artists, curators, collectors, gallerists, and art writers who will come together for insightful conversations around identity, politics, and the role of institutions on the works and careers of artists of African descent. The day begins and

ends with keynote addresses, live music and dance performances, inspiring panel discussions with artists and curators, and a catered lunch. For the first time, MoAD will fully livestream the entire event.

Opening Keynote Speaker: Naima Keith, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, California African American Museum

Panel 1: On Artists of African Descent

Moderator: Jacqueline Francis, PhD., California College of Art
Kori Newkirk, Artist
Mariane Ibrahim, Gallerist, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery
Emily Kuhlmann, Director of Exhibitions & Curatorial Affairs, MoAD

Panel 2: Artist as Social Change Agent

Moderator: Leigh Raiford, PhD., UC Berkeley
Henry Taylor, Artist
Erin Christovale, Assistant Curator, Hammer Museum
Bridget R. Cooks, PhD., UC Irvine

Closing Keynote Speaker: Aruna D'Souza

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.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS

The American Federation of Arts is the leader in traveling exhibitions internationally. A nonprofit organization founded in 1909, the AFA is dedicated to enriching the public's experience and understanding of the visual arts through organizing and touring art exhibitions for presentation in museums around the world, publishing exhibition catalogues featuring important scholarly research, and developing educational programs.

ABOUT THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

Founded in 1968 by a diverse group of artists, community activists and philanthropists, The Studio Museum in Harlem is internationally known for its catalytic role in promoting the work of artists of African descent. As it celebrates its 50th

anniversary, the Studio Museum is preparing to construct a new home at its longtime location on Manhattan's West 125th Street, designed by internationally renowned architect David Adjaye of Adjaye Associates in collaboration with Cooper Robertson. The first building created expressly for the institution's program, the new building will enable the Studio Museum to better serve a growing and diverse audience, provide additional educational opportunities for people of all ages, expand its program of world-renowned exhibitions, effectively display its singular collection and strengthen its trailblazing *Artist-in Residence* program.

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:

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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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