

STUDIO MUSEUM HARLEM

For Immediate Release

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The Studio Museum in Harlem's 2008-09 Artists-in-Residence



Artist-in-Residence studios
Photo: Russell Watson

NEW YORK, NY, October 21, 2008—The Studio Museum in Harlem is proud to announce the new 2008-09 artists in residence—**Khalif Kelly, Adam Pendleton** and **Dawit L. Petros**. Since opening in a rented loft at Fifth Avenue and 125th Street in 1968, the Studio Museum has earned recognition for its catalytic role in advancing the work of visual artists of African descent through its *Artist-in-Residence* program. The program has supported over one-hundred graduates who have gone on to highly regarded careers.

Every year, the Museum offers a 12 month studio residency for three emerging artists. Each artist is granted a free non-living studio space, a \$20,000 fellowship, and a \$1,000 material stipend. The program is designed to serve emerging artists of African descent locally, nationally and internationally. Artists' media may include sculpture, painting, printmaking, digital art, mixed media, photography, and film and video. At the end of the residency, an exhibition of the artist's work will be presented in the Museum's galleries.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Khalif Kelly

Born 1980, Nashville, TN

Education

2008, MFA, Yale University, New Haven, CT

2006, MFA, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

2003, BFA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Khalif Kelly's work operates in a matrix wherein language and identity are encoded, and history plays and is played with. Kelly takes elements loosely based on his personal history and merge them with elements from pop culture, classical painting and theater. Childhood (as a process of maturation) serves as a recapitulation of racial reclamation. The use of racial caricature references how the figures reflect their own histories as representations of blackness. Kelly constructs children engaging in fictionalized preadolescent rituals to investigate the origins and manifestations of a broader cultural mythology. The result is a spectacularized version of childhood seen through the filter of race. From this point, links to social taboos and racial stereotypes resonate in an overriding expression of contradiction that is at once repulsive and irresistible.

Adam Pendleton

Born 1980, Richmond, VA

Education

2000 Artspace Independent Study Program, Pietrasanta, Italy

Engaging appropriationist and conceptual strategies, Adam Pendleton's work often adapts images from past art historical periods and popular culture, as well as lines from diverse literary and academic texts. Pendleton is less interested in the overt intention of a cultural-political reference than he is in burrowing through their hidden subtexts. He is interested in deciphering and creating new stories by examining the ways in which historical narratives are accepted and absorbed into culture. References may originate in graphic design, advertising, Conceptual art, Fluxus and concrete poetry, art history, or postcolonial and queer theory. Pendleton's work as a writer, performer and visual artist shifts between first- and third-person narratives in a voice that vacillates from the present to the past and from the individual to the collective.

Dawit L. Petros

Born 1972, Asmara, Eritrea

Education

2007, MFA, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

2003, BFA, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Programme de Français, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Canada

Living in diverse geographical locations—Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Canada and the United States— has required Dawit L. Petros to navigate a myriad of terrains. For Petros, this process provides a set of expansive relationships, an awareness of the necessity of simultaneity and recognition of the contradictory ties that bind the dispersed to physical and psychic places. Petros's art encompasses a variety of standpoints and media (including installation, mural, video, performance and photography) to generate an extensive view of the historical implications and contemporary complexities of diasporic representational systems. Numerous challenges ensue—two are paramount. First, it involves negotiating the space between formally driven forms and highly descriptive systems to raise questions of proximity, relation and tenuous links between object/subject and locale. Second, it highlights the problems of representing historical and cultural positions from a position that is itself consistently reassessed.

The *Artist-in-Residence Program* and annual exhibition are presented with the support of: Nimoy Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, Helena Rubinstein Foundation, Jerome Foundation, R & B Feder Charitable Foundation for the Beaux Arts, Robert Lehman Foundation, Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation and by endowments established by the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Trust and Andrea Frank Foundation.

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EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Studio Museum in Harlem's Department of Education and Public Programs offers a range of programs, activities and events that will incorporate artists, scholars and critics in thought-provoking discussions on a wide variety of issues central to the works on view. For more information on these programs, please visit www.studiomuseum.org or call 212.864.4500 x264.

ABOUT THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

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, through its exhibitions, *Artist-in-Residence* program, education and public programming, permanent collection and archival and research facilities.

The Studio Museum in Harlem 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 Museum provides a context within which to address the contemporary and historical issues presented through art by artists of African descent.



Photo: Ray A. Llanos

Since opening in a rented loft at Fifth Avenue and 125th Street in 1968, the Studio Museum has earned recognition for its catalytic role in promoting the works of these artists. The Museum's *Artist-in-Residence* program has supported over ninety graduates who have gone on to highly regarded careers. A wide variety of education and public programs have brought the African-American experience alive for the public by means of lectures, dialogues, panel discussions and performances, as well as interpretive programs, both on- and off-site, for students and teachers. The exhibitions program has also expanded the scope of art historical literature through the production of scholarly catalogues, brochures and pamphlets.

The Studio Museum's permanent collection contains over 1,600 works, including drawings, pastels, prints, photographs, mixed-media works and installations. It is comprised of works created by artists during their residencies, as well as pieces given to the Museum to create an art historical framework for artists of African descent. Featured in the collection are works by Terry Adkins, Romare Bearden, Skunder Boghossian, Robert Colescott, Melvin Edwards, Richard Hunt, Hector Hyppolite, Serge Jolimeau, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Philome Obin, Betye Saar, Nari Ward and Hale Woodruff, among others. The Museum also is the custodian of an extensive archive of the work of photographer James VanDerZee, the quintessential chronicler of the Harlem community from 1906 to 1984.

The Studio Museum in Harlem is supported, in part, with public funds provided by the following government agencies and elected representatives: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Council Member Inez E. Dickens, 9th C.D.; Speaker Christine Quinn and the New York City Council; Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright, 70th C.D. through New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and Manhattan Borough President, Scott M. Stringer.

ADDRESS

The Studio Museum in Harlem is located at 144 West 125th Street, between Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard and Lenox Avenue. Subway: A, B, C, D, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 to 125th Street. Bus: M-2, M-7, M-10, M-100, M-101, M-102 or BX-15.

ADMISSION

The suggested donation is \$7 for adults and \$3 for students (with valid ID) and seniors. Admission is free for children twelve and under. The first Saturday of every month is free for everyone. Sundays are now free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target.

HOURS

The Museum is open Wednesday through Friday, and Sunday from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. The Museum is closed on Monday, Tuesday and major holidays. www.studiomuseum.org
Phone: 212.864.4500.
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