

STUDIO MUSEUM HARLEM

For Immediate Release

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New Intuitions

Leslie Hewitt, Tanea Richardson and Saya Woolfalk 2007–08 Artists in Residence

On view: July 16 – October 26, 2008



Left to right: Saya Woolfalk, Tanea Richardson, Leslie Hewitt
Photo: Ray Llanos

NEW YORK, NY, June 23, 2008 – Three exciting young artists join The Studio Museum in Harlem’s storied tradition with the opening of *New Intuitions*, the 2007–08 *Artist-in-Residence* exhibition. Leslie Hewitt, Tanea Richardson and Saya Woolfalk have spent the last year working in the Museum’s eponymous studio spaces, and will now energize its galleries with three markedly different bodies of new work and site-specific installations.

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From Hewitt's play with photography, ephemera and history, to Richardson's surreal sculptural forms, to Woolfalk's utopian tableau, the work in *New Intuitions* is almost disparate, but is linked formally and conceptually. All three artists highlight the importance of process and craft, work with installation and are concerned with language and knowledge formation. Hewitt, Richardson and Woolfalk are also experimentalists, reveling in the process of art-making as one of discovery and illumination, rather than a means to an end.

The exhibition title *New Intuitions* comes from the poet, Adrienne Rich, quoting Italian thinker Antonio Gramsci. Gramsci posits that culture shifts only when artists' imaginary and fantastical creations act as a mirror for society. These dynamic young artists evoke a world that is not at all foreign, but one in which our lived experiences are seen anew.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Leslie Hewitt (b. 1977, Saint Albans, New York; lives and works in New York) received her MFA from Yale University in 2004 and her BFA from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 2000. She was a Clark Foundation fellow and attended New York University, studying Africana Studies, from 2001 to 2003. Hewitt has held residencies at Aljira: A Center for Contemporary Art and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. A *Frequency* alum, she has exhibited at the Bronx Museum of the Arts; SculptureCenter, Long Island City; Rush Arts Gallery, New York; the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford; and LAXART, Los Angeles.

For *New Intuitions*, Hewitt will present two bodies of photographic works that explore how appropriated pictures preserve vernaculars but create new meanings in new contexts. She will also present a three-dimensional structure that brings her photographic arrangements into "real" space, as well as a new body of gouache drawings on wood panel.

Tanea Richardson (b. 1977, Los Angeles, CA; lives and works in New York) received her MFA from Yale University in 2007, and a BS in mathematics in 2000 and BFA in 1999 from Stanford University.

Richardson has created surreal three-dimensional forms that escape the two-dimensional restrictions of painting. Crafted from lush textiles and bound with telecommunication wires and cables, Richardson's works for *New Intuitions* reflect upon fabric work as traditional women's labor and the way in which our understanding of certain bodies is limited by language. Richardson will also present two text works that reflect on the specter of black figures in the cultural world.

Saya Woolfalk (b. 1979, Gifu City, Japan; lives and works in New York) received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2004 and a BA in economics and visual art from Brown University in 2001. Woolfalk was a Fulbright fellow in 2005 and has participated in residency programs at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and Whitney Independent Studies Program. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the *Greater New York* at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in 2005 and galeria vermelho in São Paulo in 2006.

Woolfalk's hand-crafted, rainbow-colored utopian world, *No Place*, is the basis for her pseudo-ethnographic and psychoanalytic work. For *New Intuitions*, *No Place* will be presented as a tableau, enabling viewers to enter a space that blurs the distinction between viewing a scale representation of *No Place* and actually visiting the site. Woolfalk will also present a video project and drawings based on the utopia.

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

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

In conjunction with the summer 2008 exhibition and project season, 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 public programs, please visit www.studiomuseum.org, or call 212.864.4500 x264.

Thursday, August 21, 7–9 pm

The Artist's Voice: Artists-in-Residence 2007–08 Panel

Moderated by Naomi Beckwith, Assistant Curator

Join the current Studio Museum artists in residence, Leslie Hewitt, Tanea Richardson and Saya Woolfalk, for an in-depth discussion of their exhibition, work and residency experiences.

The Artist's Voice is FREE. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call 212.864.4500 x264 to reserve a space.

The Artist's Voice is made possible, in part, by an endowment established by the Ron Carter Family in memory of Studio Museum Trustee Janet Carter.

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, Artists-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.

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 artists of African descent. The Museum's Artists-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 is 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:

The 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; Manhattan Borough President, Scott M. Stringer.



Photo: Ray A. Llanos

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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

Suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid identification) and seniors. Free for children 12 and under. The first Saturday of every month is free for everyone.

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. Phone: 212.864.4500. Fax: 212.864.4800. www.studiomuseum.org.

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