THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM ANNOUNCES THE YOUTH PHOTO EXHIBITION CAPTURING THE ECHO: EXPANDING THE WALLS 2022

PRESENTED ONLINE, THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION FEATURES MORE THAN THIRTY WORKS BY NEW YORK CITY-AREA TEENS ALONGSIDE PHOTOGRAPHS BY COLLECTION ARTIST JAMES VAN DER ZEE

EXPANDING THE WALLS
UNITE A COHORT OF NEW YORK CITY-BASED TEEN PHOTOGRAPHERS TO CREATE WORKS THAT REFLECT THE MENTAL AND SOCIAL INFLUENCES OF THE PAST TWO YEARS.

The Studio Museum in Harlem today announced the online photography exhibition Capturing the Echo: Expanding the Walls 2022, featuring work by the sixteen artists in the 2022 cohort of the Museum’s annual program, Expanding the Walls. Making Connections between Photography, History, and Community. This year’s online edition of the exhibition marks the program’s twenty-second anniversary.

The exhibition will be accessible at www.expandingthewalls.studiomuseum.org beginning August 1.

Founded in 2001, Expanding the Walls is a unique cohort of New York City-based teenage artists to develop their own language as visual storytellers. Over the course of eight months, participants engage with photographs in the Museum’s collection, including Gerda Paus, Jawed Sardus, Ming Smith, and Comet Man Weems, among others. Participants are additionally passed through an in-depth exploration of the work of leading photographer James Van Der Zee, whose extensive archive has been a constant source of inspiration for the curators and informants for the exhibition.

Theresa Golden, Director and Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem, said, “Expanding the Walls has developed over the years into one of the Studio Museum’s signature programs, a fusion of robust exploration and studio practice that consistently opens new avenues for its participants and a public exhibition that are expected weekly. The sixty-year-old artists in this year’s cohort, working as New York City emerges from the pandemic, have engaged at the same time with their personal experiences, and a rapidly changing world. We are proud to show the remarkable work they have done.”

Shasta Lazor, Director of Education, said, “The photographs in Capturing the Echo: Expanding the Walls 2022 reflect participants’ thoughtful, creative exploration of how the changes that have occurred over the course of the pandemic resonate in their everyday experiences and vision of the future. The young artists have embraced the spaces of the program to build community in response to their needs, expanding how they use the camera as a tool for creative expression—capturing work that oscillates between quiet, intense, and intimate moments, documenting life and change in their everyday experiences.”

For over two decades, Expanding the Walls has encouraged participants to explore and define their artistic practice while building community through workshops, gallery visits, intensive darkroom training, and discussions led by contemporary artists. The program continues to be a secure and vital site for critical and creative self-exploration through photography and the artistic process.

About The Studio Museum in Harlem
The Studio Museum in Harlem is internationally known for its catalytic role in promoting the work of artists of African descent. The Studio Museum is preparing to construct a new home, designed by Adjaye Associates in collaboration with Cooper Robertson, at its longtime location on Manhattan’s West 125th Street. The building—this city’s first custom-designed museum for photography—is expected to open in 2024 and will feature an exhibition space of approximately 30,000 square feet; the galleries will be able to transform from a 2D space to a immersive, multi-sensory 3D experience.

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For more information and to view the exhibition online, please visit www.expandingthewalls.studiomuseum.org.