

MEDIA RELEASE

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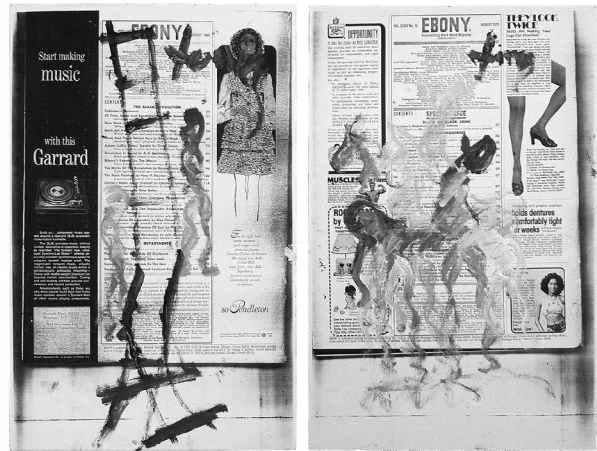
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The Studio Museum in Harlem to present
Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet and Contemporary Art, an interdisciplinary exhibition
examining contemporary artistic interpretations of the iconic publications



Ellen Gallagher, *Hare*, 2013. Ink, watercolor, oil, pencil and cut paper on paper. 44 4/5 × 46 3/5 in. Private Collection. Courtesy Hauser & Wirth. Photo credit: Ernst Moritz



Purvis Young, *Horses on Ebony*, 1994. Paint on copy of *Ebony* magazine. 17 × 11 in., diptych. Courtesy the artist's estate. Photo: Marc Bernier

New York, NY, September 9, 2014—This fall, The Studio Museum in Harlem will debut *Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet and Contemporary Art*, an exhibition exploring the ways contemporary artists use *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines as a resource and as inspiration in their practices. Published by Johnson Publishing Company for over sixty years, both magazines are cultural touchstones for many African Americans and often represent a commonality between people of diverse backgrounds. Considering *Ebony* and *Jet* from a variety of perspectives—as journalistic material and important documenters of black life, as metaphor for African-American culture and as theoretical spaces for black thought and exchange—the exhibition examines the magazines' material and cultural legacy as artists perceive them. While much of the work in the exhibition utilizes *Ebony* and *Jet* imagery and text as source material, for some, the concept of these iconic publications and their institutional histories provides the starting point for artistic production. As popular, widely-circulated print publications, the magazines ushered in a particular phenomenon of collection and display in black domestic spaces. Somewhat analogously, many of the artists included in *Speaking of People* maintain their own personal archives of these iconic publications.

The first exhibition devoted to this topic, *Speaking of People* features over thirty works by a multi-generational, interdisciplinary group of sixteen artists. Organized by Assistant Curator **Lauren Haynes**, *Speaking of People* includes photography, painting, sculpture and sound works that will occupy the Museum's Main galleries and Project Space. Accompanying the exhibition will be a fully illustrated exhibition catalogue with essays by Assistant Curator **Lauren Haynes**; scholars **Siobhan Carter-David**, **Romi Crawford** and **Elizabeth Alexander**; and artist **Hank Willis Thomas**; as well as a foreword by Studio Museum Director and Chief Curator **Thelma Golden**. The publication is designed by The Original Champions of Design, New York.

***Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet and Contemporary Art* will be on view at The Studio Museum in Harlem from November 13, 2014 to March 8, 2015.**

Participating Artists

Noel Anderson (b. 1981, Louisville, KY)
Jeremy Okai Davis (b. 1979, Charlotte, NC)
Godfried Donkor (b. 1964, Kumasi, Ghana)
Ellen Gallagher (b. 1965, Providence, RI)
Theaster Gates (b. 1973, Chicago, IL)
Lyle Ashton Harris (b. 1965, Bronx, NY)
David Hartt (b. 1967, Montreal, Canada)
Leslie Hewitt (b. 1977, New York, NY)
Glenn Ligon (b. 1960, Bronx, NY)
Kerry James Marshall (b. 1955, Birmingham, AL)
Ayanah Moor (b. 1973, Norfolk, VA)
Lorna Simpson (b. 1960, Brooklyn, NY)
Martine Syms (b. 1988, Los Angeles, CA)
Hank Willis Thomas (b. 1976, Plainfield, NJ)
Mickalene Thomas (b. 1971, Camden, NJ)
Purvis Young (1943–2010)

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About The Studio Museum in Harlem

Founded in 1968, 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. The Museum is committed to serving as a unique resource in the local community, as well as in national and international arenas, by making artworks and exhibitions concrete and personal for each viewer.

Hours and Admission

The Studio Museum is open Thursday and Friday, noon–9pm; Saturday, 10am–6pm; Sunday, noon–6pm. The museum is closed to the public but available for school and group tours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid ID) and seniors. Free for children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information visit studiomuseum.org.