

**For Immediate Release**

Media Contact: Liz Gwinn

212.864.4500 x213

egwinn@studiomuseum.org

***The Studio Museum and PERFORMA 09 present  
Saya Woolfalk's No Place: A Ritual Of The Empathics***

**Saturday November 14, 2009**

**4PM & 6PM**



Saya Woolfalk  
*No Place: A Ritual Of The Empathics*  
2009  
Courtesy the artist

**NEW YORK, NY, November 2, 2009**—On November 14, The Studio Museum in Harlem and Performa will present the New York premiere of *No Place: A Ritual of the Empathics* (2009) by 2007-08 Studio Museum artist in residence Saya Woolfalk. This co-presentation continues a partnership that began with the presentation of Dave McKenzie's *All Together Now* (2007) as part of PERFORMA 07.

*No Place: A Ritual of the Empathics* is a continuation of the artist's investigation into a fictional future called *No Place*. In the Studio Museum's 2008 *Artist-in-Residence* exhibition *New Intuitions*, Woolfalk introduced us to the part-plant, part-human people of *No Place* in a multimedia installation. With *A Ritual of the Empathics*, Woolfalk expands the narrative of *No Place* to include the Empathics, a group of contemporary women who attempt to conjure utopian *No Place* into the present through performance.

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**Performance by Saya Woolfalk**

**Dancers and Co-Choreographers: Lauren Palmieri, Hilary Freeland, Brittany Sprung, Krista Scimeca and Sara Senecal**

**Music by Kevin McFadden**

**Performa 09: No Place: A Ritual of the Empathics** is \$7 for the general public and \$5 for seniors, students and Museum members. Admission is payable at the door on the date of the event.

**Adult Programs at The Studio Museum in Harlem are generously supported by Metlife Foundation.**

## **ABOUT PERFORMA 09**

Performa 09, the third edition of the internationally acclaimed biennial of new visual art performance presented by Performa, will be held in New York City from November 1–22, 2009. The three-week festival will showcase new work by more than 80 of the most exciting artists working today, in an innovative program breaking down the boundaries between visual art, music, dance, poetry, fashion, architecture, graphic design, and the culinary arts. Presented in collaboration with a consortium of more than 60 arts institutions and 25 curators, as well as a network of public spaces and private venues across the city, Performa 09 will ignite New York City with energy and ideas, acting as a vital “think tank” linking minds across the five boroughs and bringing audiences together for brilliant new performances in all disciplines.

Performa is a non-profit multidisciplinary arts organization established by RoseLee Goldberg in 2004, dedicated to exploring the critical role of live performance in the history of twentieth century art and to encouraging new directions in performance for the twenty-first century. Performa launched New York’s first performance biennial, Performa 05, in 2005, followed by Performa 07 in 2007. [www.performa-arts.org](http://www.performa-arts.org)

## ● **PERFORMA 09**

### **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.

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 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.



Photo: Ray A. Llanos

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 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; Assemblyman Keith L. T. Wright, 70<sup>th</sup> A.D.; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Institute of Museum and Library Services; the National Endowment for the Arts; Council Member Inez E. Dickens, 9<sup>th</sup> C.D. and Speaker Christine Quinn and the New York City Council.



## 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 id) and seniors. Free for children 12 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. Phone: 212.864.4500. Fax: 212.864.4800. [www.studiomuseum.org](http://www.studiomuseum.org).

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