

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM ANNOUNCES NEW ASSOCIATE CURATOR Connie H. Choi

**NEW YORK, NY, January 18, 2017** — Today, The Studio Museum in Harlem announced the appointment of Connie H. Choi to the position of Associate Curator, Permanent Collection. Choi, currently Assistant Curator of American Art at the Brooklyn Museum, will begin work at the Studio Museum on February 6, 2017. Under the leadership of Director and Chief Curator Thelma Golden, she will assume primary responsibility for the execution and continued articulation of the curatorial department's strategic vision for the Museum's permanent collection, which contains over 2,200 objects from the 19th through 21st centuries.



Photo: Jonathan Dorado

"We are thrilled to have Connie bring her significant experience and expertise in American art, African-American art and museum collections to the Studio Museum," says Thelma Golden. "I am confident that she will be a wonderful addition to the curatorial team as we approach our fiftieth anniversary and continue to grow our collection."

Choi holds a B.A in the History of Art from Yale University and an Ed.M. in Arts in Education from Harvard University. She is currently a Ph.D candidate in Art History at Columbia University, where her research focuses on African-American art; the history of photography; and the intersections between race, history, and culture.

"I've long admired and respected the vision and mission of The Studio Museum in Harlem," Choi says, "so I'm thrilled to be joining the institution as it embarks on a critical and exciting phase."

Choi joined the Brooklyn Museum in 2009 as a graduate intern and research associate. As Assistant Curator, she served as project manager and co-curator for the recent reinstallation of the American

galleries. She also worked closely with the former Andrew W. Mellon Curator of American Art, Terry Carbone, assisting with the Museum's Fund for African American Art, an initiative founded in 2010 to support and encourage purchases and gifts of art by leading African-American artists.

"Connie has made terrific and visible contributions to a number of Brooklyn Museum projects, from original research to helping us grow our pre-1945 collection of art by African-American artists and recently leading the charge in reinstalling our renowned American art collection," said Anne Pasternak, Brooklyn Museum's Shelby White and Leon Levy Director.

Choi organized the exhibition *Forever Coney: Photographs from the Brooklyn Museum Collection*, was part of the curatorial team for *Infinite Blue*, and coordinated the Brooklyn Museum's presentation of *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland, 1861–2008* (Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art). Her essays have been included in *Now Dig This!: Art and Black Los Angeles 1960–1980* (2011), *John Singer Sargent Watercolors* (2013), *Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties* (2014), *Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic* (2015), and *We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965–85* (Forthcoming 2017).

### ***About The Studio Museum in Harlem***

Founded in 1968 by a diverse group of artists, community activists and philanthropists, The Studio Museum in Harlem is internationally known for its catalytic role in promoting the work of outstanding artists of African descent. Now approaching its 50th anniversary, the Studio Museum is preparing to construct a new home at its current location on Manhattan's West 125th Street, designed by internationally renowned architect David Adjaye as the first building created expressly for the institution's program. The new building will enable the Studio Museum to better serve a growing and diverse audience, provide additional educational opportunities for people of all ages, expand its program of world-renowned exhibitions, effectively display its singular collection and strengthen its trailblazing *Artist-in-Residence* program.

The *Artist-in-Residence* program was one of the institution's founding initiatives and is the reason why "Studio" is in the Museum's name. The program has supported more than one hundred emerging artists of African or Latino descent, many of whom who have gone on to highly regarded careers. Alumni include Chakaia Booker, David Hammons, Kerry James Marshall, Julie Mehretu, Wangechi Mutu, Mickalene Thomas and Kehinde Wiley.

The collection includes more than two thousand paintings, sculptures, works on paper, prints, photographs, mixed-media works and installations dating from the nineteenth century to the present. Artists represented include Romare Bearden, Robert Colescott, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Chris Ofili, Betye Saar, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker and Hale Woodruff, as well as many former artists-in-residence. The Studio Museum is the custodian of an extensive archive of the work of photographer James VanDerZee, the renowned chronicler of the Harlem community from 1906 to 1983.

The Studio Museum's exhibitions expand the personal, public and academic understanding of modern and contemporary work by artists of African descent. A wide variety of on- and off-site programs brings art alive for audiences of all ages—from toddlers to seniors—while serving as a

bridge between artists of African descent and a broad and diverse public. A leader in scholarship about artists of African descent, the Studio Museum publishes *Studio* magazine twice a year and creates award-winning books, exhibition catalogues and brochures.

## **Support**

Exhibitions at The Studio Museum in Harlem are made possible thanks to support from the following government agencies: The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Council.

Additional exhibition support is generously provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



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## **Hours and Admission**

The Studio Museum is open Thursday and Friday, noon–9pm; Saturday, 10am–6pm; and 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](http://studiomuseum.org).

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