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New York | +1 212 606 7176 | Lauren Gioia | Lauren.Gioia@Sothebys.com | Darrell Rocha | Darrell.Rocha@Sothebys.com
Melanie Brister | Melanie.Brister@Sothebys.com

Prominent Artist Supporters of THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM Donate Works to Benefit the Institution's New Building Project

TO BE OFFERED IN SOTHEBY'S CONTEMPORARY ART AUCTIONS THIS MAY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, 12 March 2018 – Sotheby's is honored to announce that an intergenerational group of prominent artists with close ties to the mission and history of The Studio Museum in Harlem will donate important works for auction this May at Sotheby's New York to benefit the institution. Artists including **Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Mark Bradford, Sam Gilliam, Rashid Johnson, Glenn Ligon, Julie Mehretu, Lorna Simpson** and **Lynette Yiadom-Boakye** will participate in *Creating Space: Artists for The Studio Museum in Harlem: An Auction to Benefit the Museum's New Building*, supporting the campaign to construct the museum's new home designed by Adjaye Associates in collaboration with Cooper Robertson.



View of Main Entrance from 125th Street
Courtesy Adjaye Associates

The donated works will be offered in Sotheby's Contemporary Art auctions on 16 & 17 May in New York, and will be on public exhibition in Sotheby's York Avenue galleries beginning 4 May. A list of all participating artists and details about their donated works will be available later this spring.

Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem, said: "I'm profoundly touched by the tremendous generosity that artists and their representatives have demonstrated for



Street Level View of Main Entrance
Courtesy Adjaye Associates

this project. Artists are at the heart of everything the Studio Museum has done for the past fifty years—from our foundational *Artist-in-Residence* program to creating impactful exhibitions of artists of African descent at every stage in their careers. It means so much to have artists support us in creating this dynamic new building, where their work can engage the public even more deeply."

The artists participating in *Creating Space: Artists for The Studio Museum in Harlem* have relationships with the Studio Museum that span virtually all of the institution's five-decade history.

All were significantly impacted at some stage in their careers by the work of the Studio Museum. **Sam Gilliam** first presented work at the Studio Museum in *Harlem Artists '69* (1969), less than a year after the Museum opened to the public in September 1968. **Glenn Ligon's** long relationship with the Museum began with an internship in the 1980s, and his site-specific work *Give Us a Poem* has greeted Museum visitors since 2007 and will be installed in the new building. **Lorna Simpson's** work was first shown at the Studio Museum in *Constructed Images: New Photography* (1989). **Mark Bradford** and **Rashid Johnson** both made their New York debuts in *Freestyle* (2001), the first in the Museum's now-iconic "F-show" series of emerging artists, which also included **Julie Mehretu**. **Lynette Yiadom-Boakye** was featured in another "F-show," *Flow*



Cross Section Perspective from Lenox Avenue
Courtesy Adjaye Associates

(2008); her first solo museum exhibition, *Any Number of Preoccupations*, opened at the Studio Museum in 2010. **Njideka Akunyili Crosby** and **Mehretu** were participants in the Museum's signature *Artist-in-Residence* program in 2011–12 and 2000–01, respectively. Many are represented in the Studio Museum's collection and all have long exhibition histories at the Museum. **Simpson** was the inaugural recipient of the Studio Museum's Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize in 2006; the Studio Museum subsequently awarded the Wein Prize to **Ligon** (2009) and **Akunyili Crosby** (2015).

Valentino D. Carlotti, Sotheby's Global Head of Business Development, commented: "It is our privilege to partner with The Studio Museum in Harlem during this pivotal moment in its history, as it advances its legacy as a platform of artist development and support."

Amy Cappellazzo, Chairman of Sotheby's Fine Art Division, added: "It is a tremendous honor to support The Studio Museum in Harlem as it embarks on a building project that will further its important mission into the next 50 years and beyond. The artists participating in these sales represent some of the most vital creative voices of our time, and it is a great privilege to present their works this spring."



Exterior View from
125th Street Plaza
Courtesy Adjaye
Associates

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 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 Adjaye

Associates in collaboration with Cooper Robertson, the 82,000 square foot facility will be the first created expressly for the Museum'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.

While the Studio Museum's galleries are currently closed in preparation for a late Fall 2018 groundbreaking, the Museum is working to deepen its roots in the community through *inHarlem*, a dynamic set of collaborative programs in our neighborhood. The Museum's groundbreaking exhibitions, thought-provoking conversations, and engaging art-making workshops continue at a variety of partner and satellite locations in Harlem.

For more information visit studiomuseum.org or:

[youtube.com/studiomuseum](https://www.youtube.com/studiomuseum)

[facebook.com/studiomuseum](https://www.facebook.com/studiomuseum)

Twitter and Instagram: @studiomuseum

Sotheby's Presents: *Fearless Now*

Throughout our marquee May auctions of Impressionist & Modern and Contemporary Art in New York, Sotheby's will celebrate brave artistic voices across time – from the pioneering Impressionists working outside of the Paris Salon in the 19th century, to groundbreaking artists, collectors and patrons who are making their own rules today. Follow us throughout the spring for video, articles and news from our original series [Fearless Now](#).

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Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of Sotheby's Financial Services, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Contemporary Art department, and

two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

Images are available upon request

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