

# PRESS RELEASE

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## SEATTLE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS PRIZE-WINNER BRENNA YOUNGBLOOD'S SOLO EXHIBITION

Held for the winner of the 2015 Gwendolyn Knight | Jacob Lawrence Prize

November 13, 2015–April 17, 2016

SEATTLE  
ART  
MUSEUM

ASIAN  
ART  
MUSEUM

OLYMPIC  
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PARK

1300 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
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SEATTLE, WA - Seattle Art Museum presents *abstracted realities*, the solo exhibition of Brenna Youngblood, winner of the 2015 Gwendolyn Knight | Jacob Lawrence Prize. Featuring eight works using photo-based collage, painting, assemblage, and sculpture, the show explores the iconography of public and private suburban experience; issues of identity, ethics, and representation; and the politics of abstraction.

"Since its inauguration in 2009, the Gwendolyn Knight | Jacob Lawrence Prize has been recognizing black artists at the forefront of contemporary art," says Kimerly Rorschach, SAM's Illsley Ball Nordstrom Director and CEO. "In 2013, it went to the visionary LaToya Ruby Frazier, who recently won a MacArthur 'Genius' Grant; incredible artists such as Theaster Gates and Titus Kaphar have also received the prize. I'm thrilled to show Youngblood's work at SAM, carrying on the legacy of the Lawrences."

The exhibition is curated by Sandra Jackson-Dumont, Frederick P. and Sandra P. Rose Chairman of Education at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Formerly, she was SAM's Deputy Director for Education and Public Programs/Kayla Skinner Adjunct Curator for Modern and Contemporary Art.

"I selected these works by Brenna to represent her subversively critical approach to content and because of their compelling compositions," says Jackson-Dumont. "The work is refreshingly process-based and rooted in a deep interest in abstraction, formalism, and contemporary issues."



In addition to this solo exhibition, staged in the museum's Gwendolyn Knight | Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Youngblood was honored with a \$10,000 award to further her artistic practice. Funding for the fellowship and exhibition is provided by the Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence and Jacob Lawrence Endowment and generous support from the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation. The exhibition is organized by the Seattle Art Museum. Additional support provided by contributors to the SAM Fund.

**You're invited to join us at the private reception for *abstracted realities* at the Seattle Art Museum on Thursday, November 12 at 6 pm. RSVP to Rachel Eggers. Afterward, stay for *SAM Talks: Brenna Youngblood and Sandra Jackson-Dumont*, a conversation between the artist and curator.**

**Image credits:** *Chuck Taylor*, 2015, Brenna Youngblood, American, b. 1979, color photograph and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 60 in. Courtesy of the artist and Honor Fraser Gallery. *X*, 2015, Brenna Youngblood, American, b. 1979, paper and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 60in. Courtesy of the artist and Honor Fraser Gallery.

#### ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a "museum without walls," free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of more than 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.