

# PRESS RELEASE

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## LAST CHANCE TO SEE JACOB LAWRENCE: THE AMERICAN STRUGGLE AT THE SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

Landmark exhibition's only West Coast stop adds extra days due to popular demand before closing May 23



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SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum's spring exhibition, *Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*, closes Sunday, May 23. The only West Coast stop of its five-city national tour, the exhibition reunites the artist's revolutionary 30-panel series *Struggle: From the History of the American People* (1954-56) for the first time since 1958. Due to popular demand, the museum will expand its hours beginning in May and be open Thursdays-Sundays until the exhibition closes. This includes First Thursday (May 6), on which the museum is free to all, all day.

Lawrence's series depicts pivotal moments in early American history, with an emphasis on the experiences of Black people, Native Americans, and women. New work created for the exhibition by Derrick Adams, Bethany Collins, and Hank Willis Thomas reinforce the timeliness of the series. And finally, SAM's presentation of *The American Struggle* includes a gallery dedicated to 12 works of art by today's youth imagining the "31st panel" of Lawrence's series.

"I can't imagine a more meaningful and consequential exhibition to have reopened the museum after its winter closure due to COVID," says Theresa Papanikolas, Ann M. Barwick Curator of American Art. "It's been incredibly rewarding to see audiences back in the galleries, engaging with the work of a beloved Seattle artist that asks us to reimagine narratives of American history and to understand our role in the continued struggle for freedom, democracy, and justice."

### TICKETING INFORMATION

#### Museum Hours

- Closed Monday-Wednesday (beginning in May)
- Thursday-Sunday 10 am-5 pm

#### Daily Prices

- \$29.99 Adult
- \$27.99 Senior (65+), Military (with ID)
- \$19.99 Student (with ID), Teen (15-18)
- FREE for children (14 and under)
- FREE for SAM Members



### Special Prices

- First Thursdays: Free to all, including special exhibitions
- First Fridays: Free general admission and \$7.99 for special exhibitions for seniors (65+)

The museum is open at a limited capacity, with timed tickets available for purchase online and in advance.

### EXHIBITION PUBLICATIONS

The 192-page exhibition catalogue, *Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*, and the young-adult book *American Struggle: Teens Respond to Jacob Lawrence*, are both available for purchase from [SAM Shop](#).

### EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT

*Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle* is organized by the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts. It is co-curated by Elizabeth Hutton Turner, Professor of Modern Art at the University of Virginia, and Austen Barron Bailly, formerly Peabody Essex Museum (PEM)'s Curator of American Art, with support from Lydia Gordon, PEM's Associate Curator of Exhibitions & Research. This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

### Presenting Sponsor



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### Generous Support

**Bette and David Sprague Exhibition Endowment**

**Photo credits:** Installation view of *Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle* at Seattle Art Museum, 2021, photo: Natali Wiseman.

### 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 Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and rededicated as the Asian Art Museum in 1994, and it reopened on February 8, 2020, following an extensive renovation and expansion. 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. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2017.

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 approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures, and time periods.