



WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART

June 2015

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WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART ADVANCE EXHIBITION SCHEDULE, 2015 – 2016

The following exhibitions are planned through 2016 at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, located at 600 Main Street, Hartford, CT. **Dates and exhibitions are all subject to change and must be confirmed prior to publication.** Email media@wadsworthatheneum.org to request selected high-resolution images for publicity.

EXHIBITIONS

June 4, 2015 – Sept. 6, 2015	Mark Bradford / MATRIX 172
July 3, 2015 – Sept. 20, 2015	Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis
July 11, 2015 – Nov. 15, 2015	Aspects of Portraiture: Photographs from the Wadsworth Atheneum
Oct. 1, 2015 – Jan. 3, 2016	Mark Dion / MATRIX 173
Oct. 17, 2015 – Jan. 24, 2016	Warhol & Mapplethorpe: Guise & Dolls
Nov. 14, 2015 – April 17, 2016	Sound and Sense: Poetic Musings in American Art
Feb. 13, 2016 – May 15, 2016	Gothic to Goth: Romantic Era Dress and Its Legacy

PERMANENT COLLECTION INSTALLATIONS

On view indefinitely	Post-War and Contemporary Art
July 3, 2015 – Oct. 18, 2015	Visions from Home: Surrealism in Connecticut
Opening Sept. 19, 2015	European Art and Decorative Arts

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTIONS

Mark Bradford / MATRIX 172

June 4 – Sept. 6, 2015

Mark Bradford (American, born 1961) grew up in South Central Los Angeles, where the everyday realities of the local community and urban landscape inform his racially and politically charged work. Known for his tactile, map-like collage paintings, Bradford's trademark monumental, mixed-media abstractions layer string and advertising posters stripped from the streets of his notoriously gritty neighborhood, where he maintains his studio. The social and political interests intrinsic to Bradford's "post-black" work are symbolically represented, veiled in abstraction. For Bradford's MATRIX project, he creates a site-specific wall drawing inspired by Sol LeWitt, the conceptual artist and Hartford native who is the founder of the "wall drawing" art form, of which there are four on display at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Akin to an excavation, Bradford's installation will become a metaphor for 40 years (or layers) of MATRIX history at the museum. The wall drawing will be accompanied by two recent "pull paintings" by the artist, a new technique he developed through the process of making MATRIX wall drawing tests in the studio.

Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis

July 3–Sept. 20, 2015

"Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis" is the first retrospective of the American artist Peter Blume (1906–1992) since 1976. Organized by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the exhibition reveals Blume's central role in the development of American modernism and examines the artist's impact on late 20th-century narrative painting. The exhibition also considers Blume's relationships with a community of artists and writers, many of whom were friends and neighbors in Sherman, Connecticut, where he settled in 1930. In addition to the paintings and drawings by Blume that appear in "Nature and Metamorphosis," the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art presents "Visions from Home: Surrealism in Connecticut," an installation of works from the museum's permanent collection by important artists with whom Blume had close ties and regular contact in Connecticut. This includes the American artists Alexander Calder and Kay Sage, and European painters Arshile Gorky and Yves Tanguy. Taken together, this pairing of Blume's works with that of his peers will invite visitors to explore how this artistic circle—which also extended to writers, poets, collectors and important art dealers—exchanged ideas and influenced one another and how the environment of Connecticut directly impacted their work.

Director's Choice

Aspects of Portraiture: Photographs from the Wadsworth Atheneum

July 11, 2015 – Nov. 15, 2015

Aspects of Portraiture addresses the various approaches to photographic portraiture taken by artists, ranging from classical pieces by Irving Penn, Richard Avedon and Timothy Greenfield Sanders, to symbolic portraits by Patti Smith and John Coplans, to those that tell stories by artists like Adrian Piper and Carrie Mae Weems. Organized by Wadsworth Atheneum Director and CEO Susan Talbott, this selection of nearly 50 works examines social history, identity and race, as well as nostalgia for the traditional portraits that once defined photography, and outlines the transformation of photographic portraiture throughout modernist movements such as Dadaism and Surrealism. Unmediated traditional portraits going back to the 1940s are displayed in concert with symbolic portrayals using objects as surrogates for human subjects, and narrative portraits, often employing a mix of images and text. Such new approaches to capturing the core of human character are well represented in the Wadsworth Atheneum's rich collection of post-war and contemporary photography, and come together for the first time in this thoughtful survey of portraiture from the museum.

Warhol & Mapplethorpe: Guise & Dolls

Oct. 17, 2015 – Jan. 24, 2016

Focusing on New York in the 1970s and early 80s, “Warhol & Mapplethorpe: Guise & Dolls” will explore the vibrant and tumultuous era of change through the work of Andy Warhol and Robert Mapplethorpe, both of whom created significant bodies of work in self-portraiture, in which particular disguises, characters and ambiguous personalities are evoked. The first dual museum exhibition to feature these two visionary artists, Guise & Dolls will include the artists’ portraits of each other, self-portraits and a selection of iconic portraits of sitters that address role-playing and gender roles—masculinity, femininity and androgyny. The exhibition will showcase approximately 75 works of art including paintings, photographs, Polaroids, prints and video. “Warhol & Mapplethorpe: Guise & Dolls” will tour to additional national venues.

Sound and Sense: Poetic Musings in American Art

Nov. 14, 2015 – April 17, 2016

Sound and Sense: Poetic Musings in American Art will explore the connections between American poetry and painting, sculpture, and decorative arts from the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. The exhibition presents a diverse landscape of masterpieces from the museum’s collection that incorporate poetic inscriptions in their composition or have direct relationships to America’s rich poetic traditions. Featuring art by Winslow Homer, Rockwell Kent, and Georgia O’Keeffe, and poetry by Herman Melville, Lydia Sigourney, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, and William Carlos Williams, the exhibition will present new scholarship and an illustrated catalogue by Richard Koopman Associate Curator of American Decorative Arts Alyce Perry England.

Gothic to Goth: Romantic Era Fashion and Its Legacy

Feb. 13, 2016 – May 15, 2016

“Gothic to Goth: Romantic Era Fashion and Its Legacy” will be the first exhibition to fully explore the Romantic Era as a formative period in costume history. Presenting historic garments alongside literary works, paintings, prints, and decorative arts, the exhibition will examine how European fashion from the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque eras influenced and inspired new styles created between 1810 and 1860. “Gothic to Goth” will illustrate how early nineteenth century costume—just like fine and decorative art, architecture, interior design, literature, and music—moved away from the order and rationality of the previous half century to embrace imagination and emotion, originality and vision, and individuality and subjectivity as guiding principles. The exhibition will culminate with a look at recent Goth and Steampunk fashions, revealing their roots in the rich imagination and aesthetic of Romanticism.

PERMANENT COLLECTION INSTALLATION DESCRIPTIONS

Post-War and Contemporary Art

On View Indefinitely

The reinstallation of the Wadsworth Atheneum’s Contemporary Art collection—featuring work from 1945 to the present—recently opened in three newly renovated galleries. The presentation includes mid-century abstract painting and sculpture by artists Alexander Calder, Helen Frankenthaler, Ellsworth Kelly, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, and Tony Smith. Contemporary favorites by Duane Hanson, Robert Rauschenberg, Cindy Sherman, Bob Thompson, and Andy Warhol are displayed alongside new, large-scale acquisitions by George Segal, Kiki Smith, Richard Tuttle, and Kara Walker. A permanent video gallery features James Nares’ STREET, a grand tour through the streets of Manhattan. A wall drawing by international artist and Hartford native Sol LeWitt—long off-view to visitors—is now featured with a selection of LeWitt sculptures from the collection.

Visions from Home: Surrealism in Connecticut

July 3, 2015 – Oct. 20, 2015

Presented in conjunction with” Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis,” “Visions from Home: Surrealism in Connecticut” is a small installation of works from the Wadsworth Atheneum’s permanent collection that examines the community of artists that flourished in Northwestern Connecticut beginning in the 1930s. The area’s quiet environs and open landscape offered a reprieve from the noise and congestion of city life. Many of these artists cited the rural surroundings and expansive views as a source of inspiration for their imagery and choice of subject. As friends and neighbors, their close contact often facilitated the exchange of ideas and techniques. Through a selection of paintings, drawings, sculpture, and photographs by some of the artists that lived in this bohemian community—including Alexander Calder, Kay Sage, and European artists Arshile Gorky and Yves Tanguy—personal connections and relationships that developed between these artistic and social circles are revealed.

European Art and Decorative Arts

Opening Sept. 19, 2015

The grand finale of the museum’s five-year, \$33 million renovation project will be the public unveiling and centennial celebration of the stunning Beaux-Arts Morgan Memorial Building, which was built by financier J. Pierpont Morgan in honor of his father Junius. The Morgan Memorial Building will boast the first complete reinstallation of the European Art Collection in over 20 years, showcasing over one thousand world-class works of European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts. A centerpiece of this presentation will be the museum’s new treasure, Artemisia Gentileschi’s “Self-Portrait as a Lute Player” (1616 – 18), on view to the public for the first time. An immersive Cabinet of Art and Curiosities will feature remarkable 17th-century objects, many assembled by Morgan himself, combined with natural history specimens and other rarities.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest public art museum in the United States. The museum’s nearly 50,000 works of art span 5,000 years, from Greek and Roman antiquities to the first museum collection of American contemporary art. The Museum’s five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Connecticut. Hours: Wed – Fri: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; First Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

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