

MEDIA RELEASE

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**STUDIO
MUSEUM
HARLEM**

**The Studio Museum in Harlem presents *The Museum Series*,
an exhibition of photographs by celebrated visual artist and
2013 MacArthur Fellow Carrie Mae Weems**



Carrie Mae Weems, *Project Row Houses* (from "The Museum Series") (detail), 2006–present. Digital chromogenic print, 72 × 60 inches.
Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

New York, NY, December 19, 2013—The Studio Museum in Harlem is pleased to announce the Winter 2014 exhibition, ***Carrie Mae Weems: The Museum Series***, on view **January 30–June 29, 2014**. The exhibition comprises selections from Weems's ongoing series that began in 2006. The artist stands, with her back turned to the camera, in proximity to some of the world's leading museums and cultural institutions. The resulting images act as ruminations on the collecting and exhibiting practices of these sites.

Since 1978, Weems (b. 1953, Portland, Oregon) has examined the historical complexities of identity, class and social relations through photography and other media, such as video, installation, sound and text. Working in series, her generally black-and-white photographs articulate and reify the African-American experience in particular for broad contemplation. Varying from intimate to sweeping in scale, Weems's diverse oeuvre reflects the artist's commitment to revealing inequalities that potentially touch upon all segments of humanity.

“The Museum Series” (2006–present) shows Weems, shrouded in black, traveling to domestic locations, such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Project Row Houses in Houston, as well as outside of the United States to the Tate Modern, London; the Pergamon Museum in Berlin; and the Galleria Nazionale D’Arte Moderna in Rome. The images are complicated by her position as an artist in relationship to these institutions as well as by the constellation of race and gender inequality, agency and access that surround them. Implicated in each photograph by virtue of size and physical position, the viewer is asked to question the manner by which cultural institutions affirm or reject certain histories through their collecting and display decisions.



Carrie Mae Weems, *The Tate Modern* (from “The Museum Series”) (detail), 2006–present. Digital chromogenic print, 72 × 60 inches. Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

Weems was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1953. She earned a BFA from the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia (1981), and an MFA in photography from the University of California, San Diego (1984), continuing her studies in the Graduate Program in Folklore at the University of California, Berkeley (1984-1987). She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including Rome Prize Fellowship (2006); Skowhegan Medal for Photography (2007). In 2012, Weems received a Medal of Arts from the U.S. Department of State and in 2013 she was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Weems was named a 2013 MacArthur Fellow. The artist lives and works in Syracuse, New York.

Carrie Mae Weems: The Museum Series is organized by **Lauren Haynes**, assistant curator and runs concurrently with Weems’s mid-career retrospective, on view at the Guggenheim Museum from January 24 – May 14, 2014. ***Carrie Mae Weems: Three Decades of Photography and Video*** was organized by the Frist Center for Visual Arts in Nashville and has traveled to the Portland Art Museum, The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University.

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Also on view November 13, 2013–March 9, 2014

In addition to ***Carrie Mae Weems: The Museum Series***, the Studio Museum will present ***The Shadows Took Shape***, a dynamic interdisciplinary exhibition exploring contemporary art through the lens of Afrofuturist aesthetics and ***Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art***, traveling from the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston to both the Studio Museum and the Grey Art Gallery at New York University.

About The Studio Museum in Harlem

Founded in 1968, The Studio Museum in Harlem is a contemporary art museum that focuses on the work of artists of African descent locally, nationally and globally, as well as work that has been inspired and influenced by African-American culture. The Museum is committed to serving as a unique resource in the local community, and in national and international arenas, by making artworks and exhibitions concrete and personal for each viewer.

Hours and Admission

The Studio Museum is open Thursdays and Fridays, noon–9 pm; Saturdays, 10 am–6 pm; and Sundays, noon–6 pm. The Museum is closed to the public but available for school and group tours on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults; \$3 for students (with valid identification) and seniors; and 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.

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