

MEDIA RELEASE

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**STUDIO
MUSEUM
HARLEM**

Studio Museum Launches Two New Initiatives: Studio (un)framed and Studio Lab



Dave Mackenzie, photo postcard from *Fences*, 2010

NEW YORK, NY, January 31, 2011—The Studio Museum in Harlem announces two new innovations that expand upon the Museum’s founding mission to support artists of African descent, bring art to diverse audiences, and facilitate meaningful dialogue about contemporary art and culture: **Studio (un)framed** and **Studio Lab**.

Studio (un)framed is a new commissioning project inviting artists to use the Museum’s magazine, *Studio*, as a jumping-off point for the creation of an accessible and affordable artist’s multiple. The first incarnation of *Studio (un)framed*, available exclusively at the Museum Store, is an intervention by 2003-04 artist in residence Dave McKenzie. McKenzie’s work *Fences* (2010) is both a physical addendum to the magazine and an investigation into language: the project documents McKenzie’s attempt to learn Chinese, the native language of his neighbor. *Fences* intersperses six photo postcards throughout fall/winter 2010 issue of *Studio* and wraps the magazine in a sheet that evokes schoolchildren’s brown-paper textbook covers, but unfolds to reveal McKenzie’s writing on migration, interpersonal communication and the ethical stakes of learning and questioning.

McKenzie says, “I wanted to make a work that showed a process of thinking while also initiating a moment to act. So, the text and the photographs are a way for me to sketch out an artistic position in relation to daily concerns. Even the title, *Fences*, is less a metaphor for physical borders and more a metaphor for moving past seemingly random occurrences and towards meaningful actions.”

Fences was produced in an edition of 300 and is available at the Museum Store and studiomuseum.org/shop. The first 50 copies are now on sale for a special price of \$25, making *Fences* a perfect investment for a beginning collector, *Studio* reader or art enthusiast.

The *Studio (un)framed* project was supported by a grant from Bloomberg.

Studio Lab is a hybrid initiative designed for ideas in formation, synthesizing elements from the Museum's prestigious *Artist-in-Residence* program, acclaimed public programs and deep commitment to cultural dialogue. This year-long project invites select multidisciplinary artists and scholars—working locally, nationally and internationally—for a series of discussions and explorations. The form of each investigation is intentionally open-ended, and might encompass a public conversation, a series of brainstorming sessions or the creation of a work of art.

Studio Lab is built on three specific conceptual ideas or platforms: Cultural Specificity, Performance and Making Publics. In addition, a select group of artists are given free rein to identify and develop hypotheses of their own making, including projects that respond to Harlem as a cultural site. London-based painter Lynette Yiadom-Boakye was the inaugural *Studio Lab* participant in November 2010. Over the course of two weeks Yiadom-Boakye took photographs and made sketches of people and places throughout Harlem and New York City, and recorded a conversation about her artistic process with Associate Curator Naomi Beckwith.

In March, artist Steffani Jemison will travel from Houston to Harlem for *Studio Lab*. Later this year, the Museum will host a performance associated with one of the Performance platforms, and will invite a local artist to work on a self-directed project.

Documentation of *Studio Lab* will be archived at the Museum; selected photos, videos and audio will be available to the public at studiomuseum.org.

Major funding for *Studio Lab* is provided by The Ford Foundation.

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 Thursday and Friday, noon-9pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-6pm. The museum is closed to the public on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid id) and seniors. Free for children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target.

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