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New Installation by Light Artist Phillip K. Smith III to Illuminate The Newark Museum of Art

*Three Half Lozenges to Brighten the Façade of Museum's Main Building
Beginning October 9, 2021*

NEWARK, NJ – October 14, 2021 – As part of its robust Fall 2021 schedule, The Newark Museum of Art will debut the latest permanent art installation by renowned light artist Phillip K. Smith III during the evening of Saturday, October 9, 2021. *Three Half Lozenges* will illuminate the main façade of the Museum, standing as a beacon for the City of Newark and activating the downtown arts district. The installation will be Smith's first major, site-specific-artwork on the East Coast.

Located within the context of Downtown Newark and its developing Arts District, the installation is uniquely color choreographed by Smith as a precisely paced, full-spectrum work experienced from the streets and the surrounding Washington Park. Shifting from full fields of color to gradating lines and curves, the three half-lozenge shaped windows operate as a monumental light-based triptych at the scale of architecture. During the day, the façade remains its true, historical self. At sunset, the windows slowly emerge as full color, reconfiguring one's experience of The Newark Museum of Art, Washington Park, and the city itself.

"*Three Half Lozenges* is our gift to the City of Newark and to the surrounding area," said Linda C. Harrison, Director and CEO of The Newark Museum of Art. "Phillip K. Smith III's breathtaking work will brighten our building and the City, while guiding the community into the Museum to experience our exhibitions and our unique arts and public programming."

"The historic two-story high windows on the Museum façade provides the perfect canvas and armature for light, casting its glow across this rapidly changing city." Phillip K. Smith III

About the Artist

Phillip K. Smith III is an American artist based in Southern California. He creates light-based works

that draw upon ideas of light and space, form, color, light and shadow, environment, and change. His works integrate art, science, and technology with geometry and color oscillation drawn from natural and mathematical sequences.

Growing up in Southern California's Coachella Valley, Smith received his Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design. After living on the East coast, living and working in New York City, he returned to the Palm Springs, Calif. area in late 2000.

Smith has worked on and created numerous large-scale sculptures across the country, as well as internationally. He has participated in numerous museum installations and shows around the country, and his artwork is held in many private and permanent museum collections. *Three Half Lozenges* joins an earlier Smith acquisition by the Museum, entitled *Torus 9*, a wall-mounted light sculpture with a color palette inspired by the sun setting across the California desert.

Featured in hundreds of online and print publications, Smith is known for creating large-scale temporary installations such as [*Lucid Stead*](#) in Joshua Tree, [*Reflection Field*](#) and [*Portals*](#) at the Coachella Music and Arts Festival, [*1/4 Mile Arc*](#) in Laguna Beach, and [*The Circle of Land and Sky*](#) at the inaugural 2017 Desert X exhibition.

His public artworks are sited in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Kansas City, Nashville, Oklahoma City, Detroit, and beyond. Smith was recently commissioned to create permanent, light-based works for the cities of West Hollywood, CA and Bellevue, WA.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Phillip K. Smith III is available for interviews over Zoom or telephone. Please call Alexa Chavarria at (201) 668-4994 to arrange.

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Photography by Lance Gerber.

About The Newark Museum of Art

Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art is the largest art and education institution in New Jersey and one of the most influential museums in the United States. Its renowned global art collections, supported by significant holdings of science, technology and natural history, rank 12th among North America's art museums. The Museum is dedicated to artistic excellence, education, and community engagement with an overarching commitment to broadening and diversifying arts participation. As it has for over a century, the Museum responds to the evolving needs and interests of the diverse audiences it serves by providing exhibitions, programming and resources designed to improve and enrich people's lives.

The Museum also encompasses the 1885 Ballantine House mansion, the Victoria Hall of Science, the Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss Planetarium, the MakerSPACE, the Billy Johnson Auditorium, the Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden, an authentic 1784 Schoolhouse, and the Newark Fire Museum.

The Newark Museum of Art, a not-for-profit museum of art and science, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the

Arts/Department of State (a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts), the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Estate of Phyllis and Sanford Bolton, the Wallace Foundation, and other corporations, foundations, and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.

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