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The Newark Museum of Art Reopens, Oct. 8, 9 and 10
Pay-What-You-Wish Admission through Dec. 31

NEWARK, NJ – September 16, 2020 – The Newark Museum of Art will reopen to the public in early October, following an extended closure as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Museum members are invited to visit first on Member-only Days – Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9, as well as Saturday & Sunday morning – before the museum reopens to the public at noon on Saturday, October 10. Admission will be on a Pay-What-You-Wish basis through the end of the year. Gallery hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. Timed admission tickets are required for all visitors, including children over 2. **Tickets can be reserved online at– <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/general-admission-tickets-12044802071>.**

Numerous safety measures will be in place for the reopening, including mandatory attendance limits of 25 percent capacity and strict social distancing measures that adhere to local, state, and federal guidelines. Each guest's temperature will be checked at the door and hand sanitization stations will be located throughout the facility. All guests and staff are required to wear face coverings throughout the museum. Due to their limited size, certain galleries of the museum will remain closed through the end of the year, including the Ballantine House, the Victorian mansion which is part of the museum's complex.

The Newark Museum of Art will welcome visitors and encourage them to *Make Room to Wonder*, with wayfinding and experiences to help guests explore the awe-inspiring collections.

“If there was ever a time for art to help our world heal, this is it,” said Linda C. Harrison, director and CEO of The Newark Museum of Art. “After months of our society facing elements such illness, tragedy, racial unrest and isolation, we are finally able to safely gather in small numbers to appreciate art and creativity.”

Harrison also offered thanks to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka for their input on reopening guidelines and offered them praise for managing the pandemic in Newark, New Jersey's largest city. While the city experienced nearly 8,400 cases of COVID-19 and had nearly 650 deaths from the coronavirus, state and city leadership did much to ensure that outbreaks did not escalate further, according to Harrison.

This past May, Harrison was appointed by Mayor Baraka to serve as lead of the Arts, Recreation, and Culture Committee for the Newark Reopening and Recovery Strikeforce, an unprecedented and multi-disciplinary effort between government, the private sector, and organizations that has worked collectively to create policies and strategies on how to continue to move Newark forward as the COVID-19 threat slowly decreases.

In addition to these elected leaders, Harrison credits a group of 19 employees at The Newark Museum of Art – nicknamed the “Change Agents” – for developing the reopening plan and helping establish new museum policies. “We would not have been able to reopen without them,” she said. “Our staff really is the heart and soul of the institution. Incorporating them in the process was one of our highest priorities.”

When the Museum reopens, visitors can view new installations in the *Global Contemporary* gallery, which were originally slated to open in the spring. The second iteration includes *Wolfgang Gil: Sonic Geometries*, and *Four Quiltmakers, Four American Stories*. Highlighting works from across the Museum’s vast holdings, this gallery showcases work by living contemporary artists who have been influenced by works in the Museum’s collection. Located in the North Wing, *Global Contemporary* sits at the intersection of the American Art, Decorative Arts, and Arts of Global Asia galleries.

“We are overjoyed to welcome visitors back to the Museum to rediscover our most beloved artworks and to experience installations by living artists in our recently inaugurated *Global Contemporary* space” said Catherine Evans, Deputy Director, Collections & Curatorial Strategies at The Newark Museum of Art.

Long-term exhibitions in the *Global Contemporary* section include:

- *Four Quiltmakers, Four American Stories*, which takes a trans-historical approach to this enduring textile art, featuring distinctly different quilts made between 1864 and 2010. Included are an 1864 New Jersey album quilt; a 1920s Louisiana crazy quilt top; and two quilts that demonstrate contemporary approaches to the art of quilt making — *Phantoms in a Chinese Restaurant* (1991) by Debbie S. L. Lee, and [*America in Context #3*] *American Gothic*, (2010) by Luke Haynes. Quiltmakers, working alone or together, tell stories by assembling and stitching fabric into layered images that warm loved ones, adorn furniture or hang on walls. Each quilt is as unique as its maker or group of makers, whether replicating traditional patterns or creating new designs.
- *Wolfgang Gil: Sonic Geometries*, which showcases three of Gil’s sound sculptures — including a new work, *Resonant Bodies I (v2)*, (2020), created for this exhibition — along with abstract painting and sculpture from the Museum’s collection. A Venezuelan-born American artist who lives and works in Newark, Gil approaches sound as a malleable material with curves, edges, and changing geometries — a medium that can be stretched in all dimensions.

Coinciding with the museum’s reopening is the annual Newark Art Festival (October 8-11), a series of virtual art programs in 2020, including a “gallery tour” featuring the works of several Newark artists. Making its debut in the virtual installation is a quilted portrait by globally renowned textile artist Bisa Butler. Titled *Warmth of Other Sons*, the Museum recently commissioned this monumental textile by Butler, a resident of East Orange, New Jersey, who taught in the Newark Public School system for 10 years. *Warmth of Other Sons* will initially be on loan as part of *Bisa Butler: Portraits*, the first solo museum exhibition of her work, scheduled to open at the Art Institute of Chicago in November. In May, it will debut at The Newark Museum of Art.

For more information on the reopening of The Newark Museum of Art, visit us on the web at www.newarkmuseumart.org.

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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 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.