

Press Release
August 2022

Collective Yearning: Black Women Artists from the Zimmerli Art Museum **on view September 6 - December 14, 2022**

The **Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities** and the **Zimmerli Art Museum** are pleased to announce the exhibition, *Collective Yearning: Black Women Artists from the Zimmerli Art Museum*. The exhibition will be on view from September 6 - December 14, 2022 in the **Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series Galleries** at Douglass Library with an accompanying satellite exhibition in the **Focus Gallery** at the Zimmerli Art Museum.

The exhibition is curated by **Dr. Amber Wiley**, Assistant Professor, Art History, Rutgers University, and her students Jasmine Daria Cannon, Kyle b. co., Helen Gao, Grace Lynne Haynes, Emily Hu, Grace Kim, Desiree Morales, Michael Randall, and Audrey Roclore. It is based on an Exhibition Seminar taught by Wiley in Spring 2021 that focused on the range of 24 Black women artists represented in the Zimmerli Art Museum's permanent collection.



Faith Ringgold, *The Sunflower Quilting Bee at Arles*, 1996
Color lithograph. Image and Sheet: 22 9/16 x 30 1/16 inches
Collection of Judith K. Brodsky. Gift of the Brodsky Center. 1996.0181
©2022 Faith Ringgold / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York,
Courtesy ACA Galleries, New York

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

Featuring prints, photographs, and multimedia artworks, this exhibition is the first time the university has conducted a comprehensive and methodical review of its holdings of art by Black women artists. Many of the artists have ties to New Jersey, New York City, and Philadelphia, ranging from canonical figures such as Rutgers faculty and artists Emma Amos and Kara Walker, to emerging artists Nona Faustine, Atisha Fordyce, and Daonne Huff. To accompany the exhibition, CWAH will publish a catalogue with student-generated entries and invited guest essays from artists, activists, and critics from within and outside Rutgers. **Student curators developed the following exhibition themes:**

Self-Making and Identity highlights how the artists across the collection share a common desire to voice themselves after being silenced and excluded from the art history canon for so long. However, where these artists depart is that they all have a critical eye and praxis dedicated to sharing their artistry as Black women, demonstrating their care for issues that impact Black women, and exploring the long history of what it means to be a Black woman.

The Brodsky Center and Rutgers Print Collaborative, founded by Judith K. Brodsky and Barbara Madsen, respectively, are representative models of a practiced intersectional feminism and a mode of communal print production. These institutions invited Black women in to take up space, give lectures on their work and ultimately exist.

Process and Materiality. Printmaking can be a laborious and meditative process that requires much planning. The artists use a wide range of handmade and mechanical techniques, from traditional woodcuts to newer methods of digital printing. The works in this exhibition speak to the master craftsmanship of Black women artists.

The Art of Storytelling gives us a lens into the radical imagination that invites us to create our own alternate universe through complex narratives that re-define our realities and shape our existence. This exhibition puts the Black woman's gaze at the forefront, and allows the audience to see the internal world of Black women, and the creative stories they produce when given agency.

Alchemy and Spirituality. Many of the artists and artworks within the exhibition explore religion, astrology, numerology, and folklore as part of their artistic practice. They deliberately implement conjuring symbols from global spiritual practices, including Afro-Haitian, ancient Egyptian, Pagan, Vedic, and Christian. In expressing human thought and feeling through the creative process in search of catharsis, enlightenment, or wisdom, these artists embark on the path of the alchemist.

To highlight this significant exhibition, CWAH and ZAM will host a series of in-person and virtual events that will include artists, art historians, cultural organizers, and the student curators. [Full program and registration details to be announced in early fall.](#)

VENUE INFORMATION

The **Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series Galleries** are in the **Mabel Smith Douglass Library** (8 Chapel Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901). The galleries are free and open to the public. Hours are Monday through Friday 9am - 6pm and weekends by appointment only. ***MASK REQUIRED for entry.** Hours are subject to the university libraries operating schedule. **Please direct all inquiries to:** womenart@cwah.rutgers.edu. The **Focus Gallery** is in the **Zimmerli Art Museum** (71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901). The museum is free and open to the public. Hours are Saturday & Sunday: 12pm - 5pm; Wednesday & Friday: 11am - 6pm; Thursday 11am - 8pm; closed on Monday & Tuesday. Further information about the exhibit, events, accessibility services, and parking can be found at cwah.rutgers.edu and zimmerli.rutgers.edu.

SPONSORS

Sponsored by the Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities and the Zimmerli Art Museum. Funding provided by **Douglass Residential College**, the **Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice**, and an **anonymous donation**. Co-sponsored by the **Institute for Women's Leadership**.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities (CWAH) is a university-wide unit reporting to the **Vice President of Academic Initiatives** under the auspices of the **Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**. CWAH is a consortium member of the Institute for Women's Leadership, at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series is a program of CWAH in partnership with **Rutgers University Libraries**. Founded in 1971, it is the oldest continuous running exhibition space in the United States dedicated to making visible the work of emerging and established contemporary women artists. The **Zimmerli Art Museum**, founded in 1966, is one of the largest and most distinguished university-based art museums in the nation. The museum's collection includes more than 60,000 works, ranging from ancient to contemporary art.



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