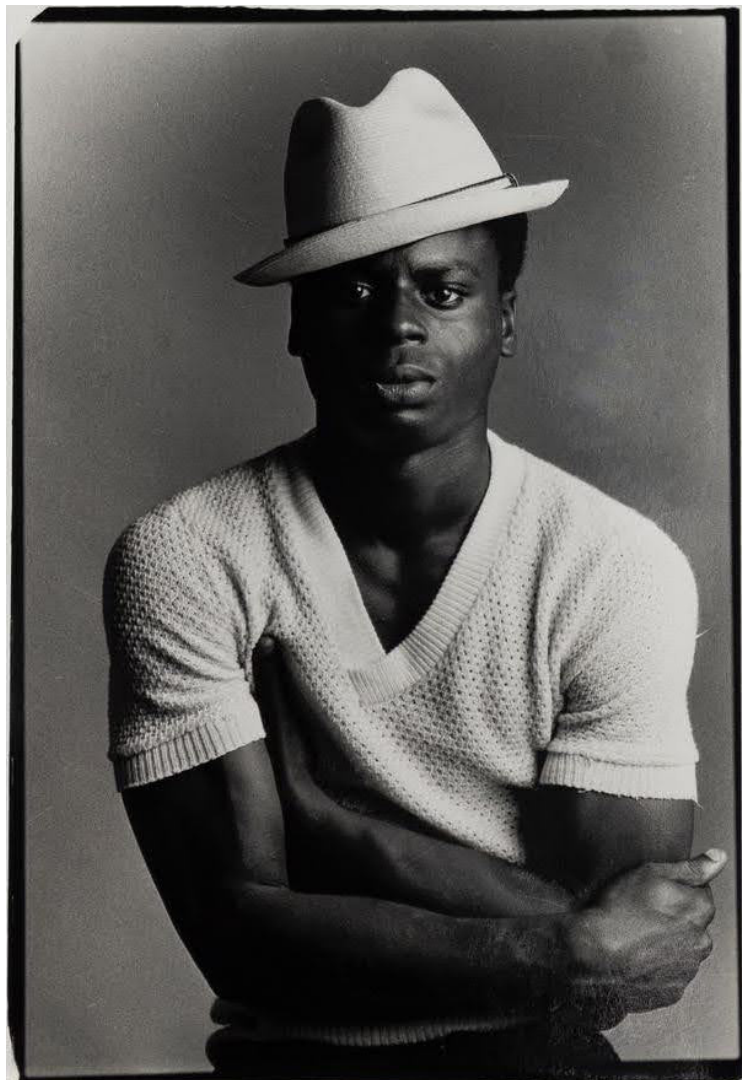


THE BRONX MUSEUM

MAKING ROOM: MUSEUM AS SPACE FOR SELF-EXPRESSION

**JUNE 26 – AUGUST 18, 2024
OPENING: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 • 5–8PM**

Artworks made by participants of the Museum’s Lifelong Studio and Teen Council programs, alongside selections from its permanent collection, highlight the powerful ways in which art can be a conduit for personal narrative, cultural memory, and self-expression



Coreen Simpson, *Richard*, 1984, The Bronx Museum permanent collection.

(THE BRONX, NY – JUNE 10, 2024) – The Bronx Museum of the Arts is pleased to announce *Making Room: Museum as Space for Self-Expression*, an exhibition that showcases artworks by participants of the Museum’s education programs **Lifelong Studio and **Teen Council** alongside selections from the permanent collection. Curated by Patrick Rowe, Director of Education and Public Engagement and Nell Klugman, Associate Director of Education and Public Engagement, this wide-ranging exhibition centers The Bronx Museum’s institutional mission of nurturing the artistic community of The Bronx and demonstrates the boundless possibilities that come from access to arts education.**

Making Room features works produced by participants in Lifelong Studio, the Museum’s free artmaking program for adults ages 55 and older. The program teaches older adults various artmaking techniques including photography, printmaking, zine making, and bookmaking. The exhibition also includes works made by participants in the Museum’s Teen Council—a paid four-month internship for New York City high school students, which offers opportunities for young people to engage deeply with contemporary art and the museum space as well as fostering creative thinking and community.

Artworks by participants in Lifelong Studio and Teen Council are accompanied by selections from the Museum’s permanent collection including by artists such as **Martin Wong, Glenn Ligon, Coreen Simpson, Jamel Shabazz, and Sandra Ramos**. These artists each have a unique connection with The Bronx Museum—Ligon completed the Museum’s flagship **AIM Fellowship** in 1984, the Museum presented a solo exhibition of Jamel Shabazz’s work, *Eyes on the Street*, in 2022. As a result, the exhibition functions as dialogue between the Museum’s past and present, shedding light on the manifold ways in which it has fostered an artistic community through its programs and exhibitions.

“*Making Room* showcases the brilliant work produced in the Museum’s educational programs, and the vital dialogue that’s created when a multitude of viewpoints are honored and amplified,” comments **Executive Director Claudio Rodriguez**. “Exhibitions like this highlight a central tenet of The Bronx Museum’s mission: to amplify the voices of younger generations, empower our communities through education and cultural resources, and reflect the diverse fabric of The Bronx through access to arts education.”

The exhibition features three distinct sections: “ME,” “US,” and “HERE.” Artworks in the “ME” section—such as Simpson’s *Richard* (1984) or **Ester Hernández’s** *The Offering* (1988)—feature solitary figures in an exploration of personal narrative and self-representation, while artworks in the “US” section depict the formation of different creative communities—as seen in **Nikki S. Lee’s** *The Skateboarders Project* (29) (2000) and *The Young Japanese (East Village) Project* (10) (1997). Finally, “HERE” focuses on the Museum’s locale by presenting works such as **Sophie Calle’s** 2002 book, *The Bronx*, alongside artworks and projects by the Teen Council including zines and sculptural life-cast portraits made in collaboration with artist **Rigoberto Torres**.

“*Making Room* celebrates the unique artistic community that has formed at The Bronx Museum as a result of our long-term commitment to robust and rigorous education programs, emphasizing creative self-expression through art making as a way of learning and connecting at the Museum,” says **Patrick Rowe, Director of Education and Public Engagement**.

Nell Klugman, Associate Director of Education and Public Engagement adds: “Working in the Museum’s Education Department, I’ve seen learners find a creative home for themselves here in many ways. This exhibition celebrates that and draws upon the physical space of the museum, its collection, and the relationships artists and communities have forged here as connected and important resources.”

Making Room will include interpretive materials made collaboratively by participants in the Museum’s education programs and Education Department staff members. This collaboration exemplifies the institution’s work to forefront and validate their community’s relationship with art and their experience of the Museum space.

The Museum will host a suite of educational and artmaking programs throughout the exhibition’s run, including artmaking opportunities in the lobby that complement the work done within the Lifelong Studio and the Teen Council programs. This engagement falls in line with the show’s ethos: to inspire The Bronx Museum’s visitors to view their own creative expression in dialogue with the work of contemporary artists.

CREDITS

Making Room is curated by The Bronx Museum's Director of Education and Public Engagement Patrick Rowe and Nell Klugman, Associate Director of Education and Public Engagement.

The exhibition is made possible, in part, by The Keith Haring Foundation, Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation, Pinkerton Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Con Edison, Deutsche Bank, The William Randolph Hearst Foundation, The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, The New Yankee Stadium Community Benefit Fund, William Talbott Hillman Foundation, E. A. Michelson Philanthropy, The Institute of Museum and Library Services, and The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation. Education and Community Programs are made possible, in part by New York City Council Member Althea Stevens. Sustaining support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

ABOUT THE BRONX MUSEUM:

For over five decades, The Bronx Museum of the Arts has been a vanguard of cultural diversity and accessibility in the contemporary art world. The Museum offers 100% free admission for everyone to all its exhibitions and programs, providing a vital creative outlet to the public. Through its curatorial practices, including a permanent collection, the Museum seeks to uplift and champion BIPOC artists who have been historically marginalized and silenced in the U.S. The history and culture of The Bronx are a never-ending source of inspiration for the Museum, and its programs are designed to facilitate meaningful engagement with the people of the borough while also attracting visitors from all over New York City and the world. The Bronx Museum is a leader in the cultural sphere with its unwavering commitment to access, dedication to platforming underrepresented artists, and dynamic community-engaged programming.

1040 Grand Concourse / The Bronx, New York 10456
FREE ADMISSION / Wed–Sun, 11AM–6PM
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