

Brooklyn Museum

Press Release

February 2017

Brooklyn Museum to Honor Trustee Kasseem Dean and Alicia Keys at the Seventh Annual Brooklyn Artists Ball on April 3

Tables on Sale Now for the Museum's Art-Infused Dinner and Dance Party

On Monday, April 3, the Brooklyn Museum will host the seventh annual Brooklyn Artists Ball—the art world's most innovative and experiential gala of the season. This year's highly anticipated event will honor Brooklyn Museum trustee and music producer Kasseem "Swizz Beatz" Dean and artist and activist Alicia Keys for their outstanding commitment to art in all its forms.

Designed with the electric energy of this year's honorees in mind, the night will be full of artist collaborations, transformative décor brought to life by David Stark Designs, and special surprise performances.

The fundraiser will begin with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Museum's lobby at 6:30 pm before shifting to the Beaux-Arts Court for a sit-down dinner. The post-dinner dance party crowds will gather in the Ruben Pavilion for revelry and surprises.

"We are thrilled to honor Kasseem and Alicia," says Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Brooklyn Museum. "They are extraordinary artists who passionately support other artists and embody



Kasseem Dean and Alicia Keys. Photo by Inez and Vinoodh

the qualities of creative freedom, social progress, and radical goodness that the Brooklyn Museum holds dear. With Kasseem and Alicia, there's no doubt that this gala will be out of this world."

Tickets begin at \$1,500; tables of ten begin at \$25,000. Proceeds will assist with expanding access within our community through education and programming and enhancing the Museum's visitor experience. For more information about the Brooklyn Artists Ball, visit www.brooklynmuseum.org/calendar/event/brooklyn_artists_ball_april_2017, email brooklynartistsball@brooklynmuseum.org, or call 718.501.6424.

About the Honorees

Brooklyn Museum Trustee Kasseem Dean (Swizz Beatz) is an internationally acclaimed producer and global entrepreneur. A Grammy® Award-winning musician and producer, he possesses talents that extend well beyond the music world and has forged

successful partnerships with Reebok, Christian Louboutin, Aston Martin, Lotus, and Audemars Piguet, among others. In 2014, he launched the Dean Collection, which houses his ever-growing collection of contemporary art and creates learning opportunities for young art enthusiasts. Dean was honored for his own artistic enthusiasm with the prestigious Gordon Parks Foundation Award in 2013. He is currently enrolled at the Harvard Business School and works closely with many charitable causes, particularly ones focused on children, including Keep a Child Alive, co-founded with his wife, Alicia Keys.

Alicia Keys is a 15-time Grammy® Award-winning singer-songwriter-producer, an accomplished actress, a *New York Times* best-selling author, an entrepreneur, and a powerful force in the world of activism. On November 4, she released her critically acclaimed sixth studio album, *Here*, on RCA Records. Offering a glimpse into what matters most to her, the album shines a light on the sonic soulfulness of New York, the city that raised her. As an accompaniment to the album, she also released a short film, entitled *The Gospel*, inspired by her songs.

Last September Keys joined the judges' panel of NBC's "The Voice" for its eleventh season alongside Miley Cyrus, Adam Levine, and Blake Shelton. She will return to the show as a coach this fall.

In 2014, Keys launched We Are Here, a global movement aimed at building a better world where all people are heard, respected, and treated with dignity. In 2003 she co-founded Keep a Child Alive, an organization that provides HIV treatment to children orphaned as a result of AIDS. Keys and Dean are married and live in New York with their two children. Both are integrally involved in many charities, with a particular focus on children, including Keep a Child Alive, the Bronx Charter School for the Arts, the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, the Gordon Parks Foundation, and the organization Children's Rights.

About the Brooklyn Museum

The Brooklyn Museum presents important art in eye-opening ways and has long been at the forefront of engagement with underserved and younger audiences, from its widely popular *Target First Saturdays* program and creative reinstallations of its permanent collection, to its pioneering online presence and inventive use of technology in reimagining the visitor experience. A driving force behind the massive growth and energy of the borough of Brooklyn and its diverse cultural community, the Brooklyn Museum annually welcomes half a million visitors—one of New York's most diverse museum-going audiences.

With roots dating back to 1823, the Brooklyn Museum is one of the oldest and largest museums in the United States, with a collection representing nearly every culture, ranging from some of the most important ancient Egyptian works in the nation to the arts of the Pacific Islands, Asia, Africa, and the Islamic world; American and European art; and international contemporary works. The Brooklyn Museum is also home to the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, the country's only facility of its kind.

This season, the Museum continues to present *A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum*, a yearlong project celebrating a decade of feminist thinking at the Brooklyn Museum. Spring 2017 exhibitions include *Marilyn Minter: Pretty|Dirty; Infinite Blue; A Woman's Afterlife: Gender Transformation in Ancient Egypt; Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern; and We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965–85*.

The Museum reaches audiences across the country and internationally with a robust schedule of traveling exhibitions, including current tours of *Egyptian Treasures; Who Shot Sports: A Photographic History, 1843 to the Present; Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic; Divine Felines; and Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks*. For more information, visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.