

Brooklyn Museum

A YEAR OF YES

Press Release

November 2016

Infinite Blue

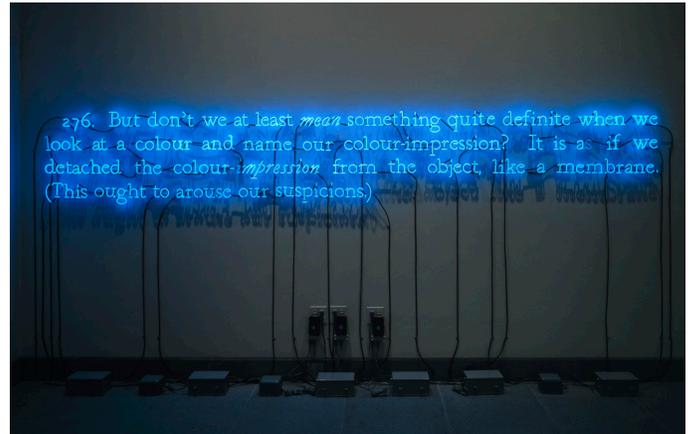
The Brooklyn Museum presents *Infinite Blue*, opening November 25

Part of *A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum*

The Brooklyn Museum presents *Infinite Blue*, a major collection exhibition in the Museum's Great Hall and Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin Pavilion and Lobby that uses the color blue as a lens through which to explore art from ancient Egypt to the present. Through a cross-generational and multidisciplinary array of work, blue is examined as a link from the past to the present: as a historical force for global commerce; as an emblem of power, beauty, and spiritualism; and as a symbol for gender difference, among other uses and purposes.

Infinite Blue will be on view from November 25, 2016, through 2017 and is part of *A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum*, a yearlong project celebrating a decade of feminist thinking at the Brooklyn Museum.

Opening to the public in four phases, *Infinite Blue* will expand throughout its run to represent the breadth of the Museum's global collections, including objects from our holdings of Asian, Egyptian, African, American, Native American, and European art, among them paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, the decorative arts, illuminated manuscripts, printed books, and contemporary art. The objects were selected for their beauty and historical significance as well as for their representative roles in the narrative of the color blue in art. Highlights include ceramic



Joseph Kosuth (American, born 1945). *276 (On Color Blue)*, 1993. Neon tubing, transformer, and electrical wires, 30 x 162 in. (76.2 x 411.48 cm). Brooklyn Museum; Mary Smith Dorward Fund, 1992.215. © 2016 Joseph Kosuth / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. (Photo: Brooklyn Museum)

masterpieces from the Asian art collection; never before exhibited illuminated manuscripts from the European collection; costumes from the Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; images of Egyptian and South Asian blue-skinned deities; and paintings that contemplate blue in nature, among many others. The installation will engage visitors from the moment they enter the Museum's glass Pavilion with "*Untitled*" (*Water*), an expansive curtain of blue iridescent beads by Felix Gonzalez-Torres, and *Liquidity Inc.*, an immersive video experience by Hito Steryl in the Museum's Great Hall.

On view throughout the full run of the exhibition, the first iteration highlights some of the most remarkable works from the Museum's acclaimed holdings. Such works include *Wine Jar with Fish and Aquatic Plants*, one of the finest examples of early Chinese blue-and-white porcelain in the world; and six never before exhibited illuminated manuscripts that showcase the symbolic ways Christian iconography employed the color blue—whether to describe the Virgin Mary's celestial mantle, heaven's azure expanse, or the Holy Spirit's divine aura.



Significant contemporary works include Joseph Kosuth's *276 (On Color Blue)*, in which he reproduces in blue neon a quotation from philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein that questions our perception of blueness; and five works from Byron Kim's ongoing series of *Sunday Paintings*, which represent the sky on the day they were painted with a short text of activities from the artist's life on that day.

Nancy Spector, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, states: "*Infinite Blue* is an inspiring demonstration of how Brooklyn Museum curators can work collaboratively across departments to examine the rich and intertwined history of world cultures. They are rethinking the global collection through the lens of blue, in order to illuminate shared cultural themes through the ages, such as trade, spirituality, symbolism, and material innovation. The goal is not to homogenize the representation of different world cultures but rather to demonstrate points of confluence as well as points of great, if not irreconcilable, difference. Blue will provide a connective tissue with which to examine how the color has been manifest physically and symbolically in cultures as far afield as ancient Egypt, Asia, and Africa to nineteenth-century European and American painting and decorative arts, to the art of the present."

About *A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum*

The exhibition is part of *A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum*, which celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art through ten diverse exhibitions and an extensive calendar of related public programs. *A Year of Yes* recognizes feminism as a driving force for progressive change and takes the transformative contributions of feminist art during the last half-century as its starting point. The Museum-wide series imagines next steps, expanding feminist thinking from its roots in the struggle for gender parity to embrace broader social-justice issues of tolerance, inclusion, and diversity. *A Year of Yes* begins in October 2016 and continues through early 2018.



This exhibition is organized by a curatorial team including Yekaterina Barbash, Associate Curator of Egyptian Art; Susan Beningson, Assistant Curator, Asian Art; Joan Cummins, Lisa and Bernard Selz Curator, Asian Art; Barry R. Harwood, Curator, Decorative Arts; Deirdre Lawrence, Principal Librarian, Libraries and Archives; Cora Michael, Associate Curator, Exhibitions; Nancy Rosoff, Andrew W. Mellon Curator, Arts of the Americas; and Lisa Small, Curator of European Painting and Sculpture, Brooklyn Museum, Eugenie Tsai, John and Barbara Vogelstein Curator of Contemporary Art, with guidance provided by Nancy Spector, Deputy Director and Chief Curator.

Generous support for this exhibition is provided by an anonymous donor and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. *Infinite Blue* is part of *A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum*, a yearlong series of ten exhibitions celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art. Leadership support is provided by Elizabeth A. Sackler, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Calvin Klein Family Foundation, Mary Jo and Ted Shen, and an anonymous donor. Generous support is also provided by Annette Blum, the Taylor Foundation, the Antonia and Vladimer Kulaev Cultural Heritage Fund, Beth Dozoretz, The Cowles Charitable Trust, and Almine Rech Gallery.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution: \$16; students with valid I.D. and seniors \$10. Ages 19 and under FREE. Also FREE: Thursday nights, 6–10 pm, and first Saturday of the month (except September), 5–11 pm. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling 718.501.6234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/ Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday and Friday, 11 am to 6 pm; Thursday 11 am to 10 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm; first Saturday of each month (except September), 11 am to 11 pm. Closed Monday, Tuesday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.