

Brooklyn Museum

Press Release

October 2016

Brooklyn Museum Celebrates Trailblazers: Women in the Arts at October 20 Event

Honorees Include Sarah Arison, Ellen Gallagher, Miyoung Lee, Janet Mock, and Lowery Stokes Sims

The Brooklyn Museum today announced the honorees for the Trailblazers: Women in the Arts awards, an annual celebration of fearless women making an impact on arts, culture, and philanthropy. Slated for October 20, this year's event honors Sarah Arison, Ellen Gallagher, Miyoung Lee, Janet Mock, and Lowery Stokes Sims.

In a newly expanded program, Trailblazers: Women in the Arts begins at 9:30 am with a breakfast reception in the Museum's Beaux-Arts Court, followed by an awards ceremony and conversation in the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Auditorium. The program concludes with the presentation of the 2016 Women in the Arts awards and a seated luncheon. Guests will also have the opportunity to preview *Beverly Buchanan—Ruins and Rituals* in the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art before it opens to the public. Trailblazers: Women in the Arts 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.

"We couldn't think of more deserving people to honor with this year's Women in the Arts awards, as they have forever changed the art landscape through their

trailblazing devotion to the arts; from artists and curators to philanthropists and change agents, each one of them has demonstrated such vision and courage," says Anne Pasternak, the Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Brooklyn Museum.

Past award recipients include Marina Abramović, Mera and Jennifer Rubell, Laurie Simmons and Lena Dunham, Yoko Ono, Shirin Neshat, Kara Walker, Kiki Smith, Cindy Sherman, the Guerrilla Girls, Annie Leibovitz, Maya Lin, Mary Schmidt Campbell, and Elizabeth A. Sackler.

Tables are available for purchase:

- \$20,000 (Trailblazer)—includes breakfast reception, program, and luncheon seating for 12
- \$10,000 (Visionary)—includes breakfast reception, program, and luncheon seating for 10
- \$7,500 (Ceiling Crasher)—includes breakfast reception, program, and luncheon seating for eight

Single tickets are available for purchase:

- \$1,000 (Mover)—individual ticket for breakfast, program, and luncheon reception
- \$2,500 (Host)—one Mover ticket as well as 10 seats for a nonprofit or educational institution to attend the awards program only

Event proceeds benefit educational and artistic public programs in the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art and the Brooklyn Museum.

Purchase advance tables or tickets online at bit.ly/trailblazers_womeninthearts or by contacting Julie Sengle at 718.501.6409 or julie.sengle@brooklynmuseum.org.

About the Honorees

SARAH ARISON is president of the Arison Arts Foundation, a private grant-making organization that provides support for emerging artists and the institutions that foster them. She is a trustee of the National YoungArts Foundation, New World Symphony, MoMA PS1, Americans for the Arts, and American Ballet Theatre; and a member of the Young Collectors Council of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. In addition, she is a founding member of the Americas Foundation of the Serpentine Gallery. In a new career as a film producer, she produced her first feature, *Desert Dancer*, starring Freida Pinto, with Relativity Media in 2015. Her second film, *The First Monday in May*, opened at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2016. Previously, Arison had many years of experience in the fashion industry, working at *W Magazine* and with brands such as Oscar de la Renta, Chanel, David Yurman, Estée Lauder, and Alberta Ferretti.

ELLEN GALLAGHER was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and lives and works in New York and Rotterdam, Holland. She attended Oberlin College and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Repetition and revision are central to Gallagher's treatment of advertisements that she appropriates from popular magazines like *Ebony*, *Our World*, and *Sepia* and uses in works such as *eXelento* (2004) and *DeLuxe* (2004–5). Initially, Gallagher was drawn to wig advertisements because of their gridlike structure. She later realized that it was the accompanying language that attracted her, and began to bring these “narratives” into her paintings—making them function through the characters of the advertisements, as a kind of chart of lost worlds. Gallagher received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Art and a Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship. Solo exhibitions of her work have been included at the Whitney Museum of American Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; Saint Louis Art Museum; Des Moines Art Center; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston.

MIYOUNG LEE worked for nine years as a vice president at JP Morgan in the Equity Capital Markets and Private Placements Division. Prior to JP Morgan, she worked at Bain and Company. She is a trustee of the Children's Museum of Manhattan, the Grace Church School, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, and serves on the Acquisition Committees of the Brooklyn Museum and the Studio Museum in Harlem. She is also on the New York Advisory Council of Common Sense Media. A 1987 graduate of Harvard University, with a B.A. in psychology, Lee received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. She was born in Philadelphia and spent most of her childhood in Seoul, Korea. She resides in New York City with her husband, Neil Simpkins, a managing director at the Blackstone Group. They have two children, Jihae and Jiwon, who attend Dalton and the Grace Church School.

JANET MOCK is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Redefining Realness*, and host of MSNBC's *So POPular!*, a weekly series about popular culture, politics, identity, and representation. She also serves as contributing editor at *Marie Claire*, the magazine where she first stepped forward publicly as a young trans woman. Her writing and media advocacy have been recognized by the Ms. Foundation for Women, Planned Parenthood, ADCOLOR, and *TIME*, which dubbed her “one of the 30 most influential people on the internet,” and *Fast Company*, which named her “one of the most creative people in business.” Mock was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and currently lives and writes in New York City.

LOWERY STOKES SIMS is the retired curator emerita at the Museum of Arts and Design, where between 2007 and 2015 she served as the Charles Bronfman International Curator and the William and Mildred Lasdon Chief Curator. From 2000 to 2007, Sims was executive director, and then president, of the Studio Museum in Harlem and served as its adjunct curator for the permanent collection. Sims was on the education and curatorial staff of the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1972 to 1999. A specialist in modern and contemporary art, she is known for her particular expertise in the work of African, Latino, Native, and Asian American artists. Sims served on the jury for the memorial for the World Trade Center, and as the chair of the Cultural Institutions Group, a coalition of museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and performing arts organizations funded by the City of New York. Sims was a fellow at the Clark Art Institute in 2007, visiting professor at Queens College and Hunter College in 2005 and 2006, and visiting scholar in the Department of Art at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in 2007.

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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.