

PRESS RELEASE

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SEATTLE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR JACOB LAWRENCE: THE MIGRATION SERIES

Highlights include a talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson and the return of the Complex Exchange series

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*The Migration Series, Panel 18:
The migration gained in momentum.*



Author Isabel Wilkerson

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum and local community partners present a series of programs and events related to *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series*. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of Jacob Lawrence's birth, the exhibition brings together all 60 panels of Lawrence's masterwork—depicting the exodus of African Americans from the rural south between World War I and World War II—for the first time in more than two decades on the West Coast.

SAM's dynamic lineup of events includes a talk by Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson, author of the award-winning book on the Great Migration, *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Complex Exchange, a partnership between Seattle Art Museum and Northwest African American Museum (NAAM), returns; this recurring series pairs Seattle community members in conversations about themes inspired by an exhibition.

Other highlights include drop-in art-making sessions led by artist Eve Sanford and tours featuring community members sharing personal stories related to migration and immigration.

SAM PROGRAMS & EVENTS RELATED TO THE MIGRATION SERIES

Public tours, as well as programs for educators and school groups, will be offered in addition to the following public and family programs. Details are subject to change; additional programs or events may be added. For the most up-to-date information on *Migration Series* programs and events, visit SAM's website.



Sat Jan 31–Sun Apr 23
SAM Members Get In Free To NAAM and Wing Luke During The Migration Series

As part of a special collaboration, Seattle Art Museum members will get in free to the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience during the run of the *Migration Series* exhibition. Both museums will have exhibitions on view that relate to the themes expressed in the Jacob Lawrence exhibition. SAM members simply need to present their SAM membership card to gain free entrance.

Thu Feb 2, Thu Mar 2, Thu Apr 6
Migration Stories

6:30–7 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Every First Thursday, community members share personal stories of migration, immigration, place, and home. Free and open to the public.

Thu Feb 2, Thu Mar 2, Thu Apr 6
The Migration Series: Drop-In Art-Making Sessions

6:30–8:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Visit SAM on First Thursdays during the exhibition for a free drop-in art-making session led by artist Eve Sanford. Free and open to the public.

Thu Feb 2
Teen Art Lab

4:30–6:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

This edition of Teen Art Lab takes a deep dive into Jacob Lawrence's *Migration Series*. Tour the exhibition, explore its themes, and experiment with Lawrence's bold technique in creating these iconic images. Free with registration. Support for teen programs is provided by Hearst Foundations.

Fri Feb 3
First Friday Lecture

11 am–noon

Seattle Art Museum

Join Patricia Junker, Ann M. Barwick Curator of American Art, as she discusses *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series*. Free and open to the public.

Thu Feb 9
Migration Stories Open Mic

6:30–7 pm

Seattle Art Museum

The Migration Stories Open Mic invites community members and guests to share their own stories of immigration, migration, displacement, and community. Free and open to the public.

Sun Feb 19
Step Afrika! The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence

1–2 pm

Seattle Art Museum

In collaboration with Meany Center for the Performing Arts, professional dance company Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles historically practiced by African American fraternities and sororities, African traditional dance, and influences from a variety of other dance and art forms. In this pop-up performance, the company will perform creative excerpts of their work inspired by Jacob Lawrence and the Great Migration. Free and open to the public; RSVP requested.

Thu Mar 23

Complex Exchange (Part 1 of 2)

7-9 pm

Northwest African American Museum

SAM and NAAM's recurring series Complex Exchange pairs Seattle community members from a variety of disciplines in conversations to tackle themes inspired by an exhibition. This edition will include two free programs, one held at the Northwest African American Museum on March 23 to discuss *An Elegant Utility*, and one held at the Seattle Art Museum on April 12 to discuss *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series*. Presenters TBA.

Sponsored by Starbucks Coffee Company.

Wed Mar 29

SAM Talks: Isabel Wilkerson and the Great Migration

7-8:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Isabel Wilkerson, author of the bestselling and award-winning masterwork, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, chronicles one of the greatest untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities in search of a better life. For more information on this speaker, please visit www.prhspeakers.com.

Wed Apr 12

Complex Exchange (Part 2 of 2)

7-9 pm

Seattle Art Museum

SAM and NAAM's recurring series Complex Exchange pairs Seattle community members from a variety of disciplines in conversations to tackle themes inspired by an exhibition. This edition will include two free programs, one held at the Northwest African American Museum on March 23 to discuss *An Elegant Utility*, and one held at the Seattle Art Museum on April 12 to discuss *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series*. Presenters TBA.

Sponsored by Starbucks Coffee Company.

COMMUNITY EVENTS RELATED TO THE MIGRATION SERIES

Seattle-area community partners present exhibitions, events, and performances related to themes found in the epic narrative series.

Sun Jan 8–Sat Feb 18

Truth B Told

ONYX Fine Arts

More than 150 paintings, sculpture, photography, mixed-media, video, and 3-dimensional installations by 48 Northwest artists of African descent.

Sat Jan 28–Sun May 28

An Elegant Utility

Northwest African American Museum

Featuring a collection of artifacts—including photographs, utilitarian household belongings, and legal ledgers—*An Elegant Utility* examines how the personal history of artist Inye Wokoma's familial lineage, the Green family, serves as an entry point through which the larger story of African-Americans in Seattle is reflected.

Wed Feb 1–Sat Mar 4

Utopia Neighborhood Club: A Student Response Part II – The Jake Legacy Residency

Jacob Lawrence Gallery | University of Washington

Three students—Yabsira Wolde, Brianna Wray, Bobby Yin—will each spend one week creating new work, presenting programs, and conducting workshops in a portion of the Gallery. This will be followed by a two-week group exhibition of student work organized by students Zachary Bowling and Jessica Capó.

Wed Feb 1–Sat Mar 4

Utopia Neighborhood Club: Jacob Lawrence: The Legend of John Brown + Other Works

Jacob Lawrence Gallery | University of Washington

Lawrence came to Seattle to teach at the University in 1971 after an already illustrious, barrier-shattering career in the arts. He was a professor at the school until 1985, serving as Professor Emeritus until his death in 2000. This exhibition highlights Lawrence's mastery of various printmaking techniques.

Thu Feb 16–Sat Feb 18

Step Afrika! The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence

8 pm

Meany Hall | University of Washington

Meany Center for the Performing Arts presents professional dance company Step Afrika! making its Seattle debut with this evening-length work integrating projections of the painter's 60-panel masterpiece, *The Migration Series*, with rhythmic footsteps, body percussion, and spoken word to create a multimedia performance chronicling the early 20th century exodus of African Americans from the rural south.

Sat Feb 18, 2017–Sun Feb 11, 2018

Year of Remembrance: Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience

This exhibition features poems by Lawrence Matsuda and artwork by Roger Shimomura. *Year of Remembrance* recognizes the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which was issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and resulted in the forced removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans.

Sat Feb 18

Artist Talk and Poetry Reading With Roger Shimomura and Lawrence Matsuda

4–5:30 pm

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience

Meet Roger Shimomura and Lawrence Matsuda as they examine their works that interpret and reflect on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and relate them to contemporary times. This program is in conjunction with the exhibition, *Year of Remembrance: Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner*. SAM members will enjoy the Wing Luke Museum member price for this Saturday afternoon program.

Tue Feb 21

Community Conversation: Immigrant Journeys

7–8:30 pm

Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI)

Presented in partnership with MOHAI, KCTS journalist Enrique Cerna moderates an important community conversation about the personal experiences of King County's immigrants and refugees, and their contributions to Puget Sound's creative spirit, culture, and economy. But in this time of change, how do they now view the future?

Sat Mar 11 and Sun Mar 12

Dance Theatre of Harlem

8–11 pm

Paramount Theatre

STG Presents Dance Theatre of Harlem, performing an eclectic, demanding repertoire of treasured classics, cutting-edge contemporary works, and works that use the language of ballet to celebrate African American culture.

Ongoing

Where I'm Bound: African Americans and Migration in Art and Life

Online | Seattle Public Library

Discover the history behind the images in Lawrence's masterwork with the Seattle Public Library's Shelf Talk blog post and resource list, *Where I'm Bound: African Americans and Migration in Art and Life*.

REGISTERING AND PURCHASING TICKETS FOR SAM PROGRAMS

Advance registration or ticket purchase is required for SAM public programs. To register or purchase tickets, visit seattleartmuseum.org or call the Box Office at 206.654.3121.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT

This exhibition is made possible thanks to the generous loan of the entire series from The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Presenting Sponsor

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Additional Support
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Image credit: *The Migration Series, Panel 18: The migration gained in momentum.*, 1940–41, Jacob Lawrence, American, 1917–2000, casein tempera on hardboard, 18 x 12 in., Gift of Mrs. David M. Levy, The Museum of Modern Art, © The Museum of Modern Art/Licensed by SCALA / Art Resource, NY, © 2016 The Jacob and Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Foundation, Seattle / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

Photo credit: Joe Henson.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum in 1994. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a “museum without walls,” free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.