

# PRESS ADVISORY

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## SEATTLE ART MUSEUM AND NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM ANNOUNCE PARTICIPANTS FOR COMPLEX EXCHANGE

Recurring series pairs Seattle community members in conversations about themes inspired by current exhibitions



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SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) and the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) announced today the participants for *Complex Exchange: Communities of Yesterday and Tomorrow*. This recurring series pairs Seattle community members from a variety of disciplines in conversations to tackle themes inspired by an exhibition.

This edition of Complex Exchange includes 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*. Complex Exchange features presenters and practices that reference black experience and the lives of people of color from a local context.

*Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series* (January 21–April 23, 2017) 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 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth.

*An Elegant Utility* (January 28–May 28, 2017) articulates the layered narratives of the Green family who settled in the Central District during the Great Migration. Collected photographs and artifacts explore the ways in which socio-historical conditions produced their realities, how they navigated structural oppression, and how they continued to materialize their aspirations.

Free and open to the public; RSVP requested. More information and complete list of participants below.

**Thu Mar 23**  
**Complex Exchange (Part 1 of 2)**  
7-9 pm  
Northwest African American Museum

Moderator: **Inye Wokoma**, filmmaker and visual artist



Presenters: **Yirim Seck**, rapper and performer; **Brian Carter**, heritage program lead at 4Culture; **Vivian Phillips**, chair of the Seattle Arts Commission

Live performance by Yirim Seck.

**Wed Apr 12**

**Complex Exchange (Part 2 of 2)**

7-9 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Moderator: **Barbara Earl Thomas**, artist and vice president of the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation

Presenters: **David Pierre-Louis**, executive director of Kay Tita; **David Harris**, cultural entrepreneur; **Jade Solomon Curtis**, dancer and choreographer

Live performance by Jade Solomon Curtis.

Complex Exchange sponsored by



**Image credits:** *The Migration Series, Panel 58: In the North the African American had more educational opportunities.*, 1940-41, Jacob Lawrence, American, 1917-2000, casein tempera on hardboard, 12 x 18 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. *An Elegant Utility* image courtesy of Inye Wokoma.

#### **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. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrate their tenth anniversary in 2017.

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.

#### **ABOUT NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**

NAAM is a nonprofit organization and the only museum in the Northwest dedicated to exhibiting the art, history, and culture of people of African descent. The Museum is housed in the historic Colman School building located in the heart of the Central District just above the I-90 lid overlooking Jimi Hendrix Park. NAAM is a vibrant community gathering place with 19,000 sq. ft. featuring three main galleries, a gift shop, genealogy center, and rental spaces to host private events and public programs. Our exhibits and programs explore the richness and diversity that echo the varied interests of the Black community. NAAM always has something new and relevant to offer the Northwest and beyond.