

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **SEATTLE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS, AUTHOR ANDREW AYDIN, AND ARTIST NATE POWELL**

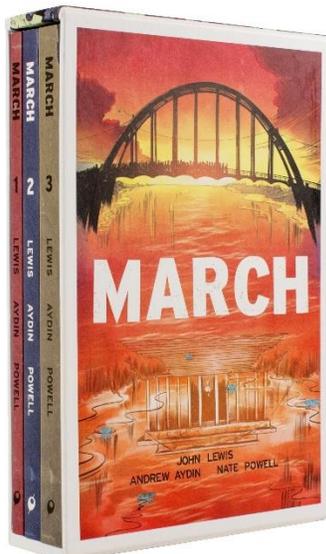
Creators of celebrated graphic novel trilogy *MARCH* to appear at free *Migration and Marches* educational event at Benaroya Hall

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*MARCH* trilogy.



Artist Nate Powell, Congressman John Lewis, and Author Andrew Aydin.

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum announced today that Congressman John Lewis of Georgia will appear with co-author Andrew Aydin and artist Nate Powell in a joint discussion of their award-winning graphic novel trilogy *MARCH*. Hundreds of Seattle-area students will be invited to attend *Migrations and Marches*, an educational program presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series*.

A very limited number of tickets for this free event will also be available to the general public. *Migrations and Marches* will be held on Wednesday, February 22 at 7 pm in Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall across from the downtown museum.

Congressman John Lewis is an American civil rights icon whose commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to a seat in Congress; from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington; and from being beaten by state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president.

The graphic novel trilogy *MARCH*, created by co-author Andrew Aydin and illustrated by New York Times best-selling artist Nate Powell, shares Congressman Lewis' remarkable story with new generations. Winner of the 2016 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the trilogy recounts the story of the civil rights movement through the eyes of one of its most well-known figures and shares important lessons about nonviolent activism and empowerment.

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*Migrations and Marches* is presented in conjunction with *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series* at the Seattle Art Museum. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of Jacob Lawrence's birth, the exhibition brings together for the first time in more than two decades on the West Coast all 60 panels of Lawrence's masterwork that depicts the exodus of African Americans from the rural south in the decades after World War I.

Much like *MARCH*, Lawrence's *Migration Series* distills a complex historical narrative into a series of evocative images and words. Completed in 1941, when the Great Migration was very much ongoing, the *Migration Series* presents a story of American history as it was happening. In it, we can see the beginnings of the historical moment to come: the Civil Rights Movement that *MARCH* recounts.

A book signing with Lewis, Aydin, and Powell will immediately follow the event. Copies of *MARCH* will be available for sale on site by Elliott Bay Book Company.

Major funding for this evening is provided by **Matthew P. Bergman**.

Special thanks to **Benaroya Hall** for its additional support.

#### MORE INFORMATION

**Wed Feb 22**

**Migrations and Marches: An Evening with Congressman John Lewis, Author Andrew Aydin, and Artist Nate Powell**

7 pm

Benaroya Hall (Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall)

This event is free and tickets are required. Most tickets are reserved for Seattle-area high school students, so there are limited general public tickets available. The event should sell out quickly; any available stand-by tickets will be released just prior to the event. Please note that this Seattle Art Museum event is at Benaroya Hall to allow for larger attendance.

For more information and to reserve a ticket, please visit the event page at [seattleartmuseum.org](http://seattleartmuseum.org).

**Image credit:** Courtesy Top Shelf Productions. **Photo credit:** Sandi Villareal.

#### **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.