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di Rosa

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**Acclaimed Artist Oliver Lee Jackson Debuts Original Body of Work
in New Exhibition at di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art**

Oliver Lee Jackson: Any Eyes

November 19, 2021- February 20, 2022

Napa, CA (November 1, 2021) – When asked about viewers of his work, acclaimed American painter, printmaker and sculptor Oliver Lee Jackson has responded, “It’s for anybody’s eyes. Any eyes will do.” di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art announces a new exhibition guest curated by Diane Roby, *Oliver Lee Jackson: Any Eyes*, opening Friday, November 19, 2021, and continuing through Sunday, February 20, 2022.

This exhibition presents – for “any eyes” – a selection of Jackson’s works in painting, sculpture, and mixed media. While recent retrospectives at the National Gallery of Art and Saint Louis Art Museum have brought renewed critical attention to Jackson’s paintings and works on paper, this exhibition highlights the true breadth of his practice, featuring previously unseen works in materials ranging from burlap, felt and paint to steel, wood and marble.

“We’re thrilled that Jackson – so well-known as a painter for decades – has chosen di Rosa as his venue to exhibit these sculptures and tapestries for the first time,” said di Rosa Curatorial Associate Twyla Ruby. “Devotees of his past work are going to be in for a real treat.”

“Re-casting Oliver Lee Jackson as a ‘maker’ rather than an ‘artist,’ this exhibition sheds light on connections between his painterly and sculptural practices,” said di Rosa Executive Director Kate Eilertsen.

Over several decades, Jackson – whose studio is located in Oakland, California – has created a complex body of work that masterfully weaves together visual influences ranging from the Renaissance to modernism with principles of rhythm and improvisation drawn from his study of African cultures and American jazz. Born in St. Louis, Jackson taught at California State University, Sacramento, for many years. His artworks are also in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Metropolitan Museum, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Detroit Institute of the Arts; and many other public and private collections.

“You’re the spectator, and I’m a spectator, after I finish,” Jackson has said of his works. Exhibition curator Roby – who has worked with Jackson for nearly 40 years – is an archivist who also manages the artworks inventory of the Lawrence Ferlinghetti Trust.

“If you’re familiar with Jackson's work, you’ll notice certain thematic images and figural elements in this exhibition that have consistently appeared over decades: figures floating, rising, reaching, embracing, pushing or pulling, hanging or suspended,” said Roby. “The point, for Jackson, is to enable an experience between the viewer and the work, a state of being that may provoke feelings of tenderness, or joy, or sympathy, or conflict, or ambivalence, or all of these at once. All he asks of viewers is to open their eyes and look.”

Several special events are scheduled for the opening weekend of *Oliver Lee Jackson: Any Eyes*. First, di Rosa will host an exhibition-related hands-on art session on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. called “[Making Art with Everyone \(Haciendo arte con todos\)](#),” with free art activities inspired by the exhibition.

di Rosa Patrons Circle members are invited to a [Patrons Reception & Curator Tour](#) on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The artist will be in attendance. There will be a [Members’ Reception](#) on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 3, there will be a special lunchtime talk with di Rosa Curatorial Associate Twyla Ruby from 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. titled [Exhibition in Focus: Oliver Lee Jackson: Any Eyes](#). Free with admission in Gallery 1. To learn about becoming a member or Patrons Circle member of di Rosa, contact development@dirosaart.org.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, there will be a special [Artist Talk in Gallery 1](#) by exhibition artist Oliver Lee Jackson, from 3-4 p.m. Join Jackson and guest curator Diane Roby as they discuss Jackson’s artistic practice and the works on view in *Oliver Lee Jackson: Any Eyes*. Free with admission. Free for di Rosa members. These and other event details can be found on di Rosa’s website and social media channels.

ABOUT DI ROSA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art presents contemporary exhibitions and educational programs for all ages and maintains a permanent collection of notable works by artists living or working in the San Francisco Bay Area from the mid-twentieth century to the present day. A wide range of styles, media and subject matter provides an overview of the creative energy and freedom to experiment that characterize this region of California. di Rosa features multiple galleries, a sculpture park and a 35-acre lake, all located on 217 scenic acres in Napa Valley’s famed Carneros region that are protected in perpetuity under the Napa County Land Trust.

di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art is located at 5200 Sonoma Highway, Napa. The campus is open to the public Friday to Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM. For more information visit www.dirosaart.org

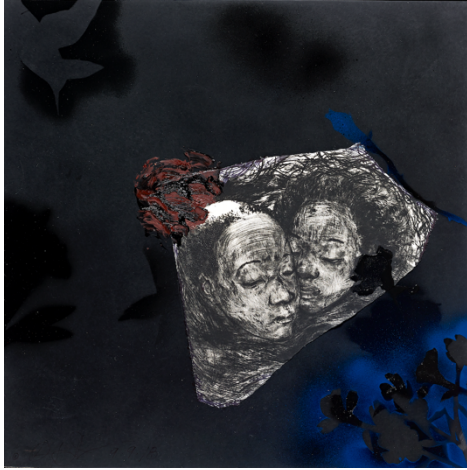


IMAGE CREDITS | Painting Detail: Oliver Lee Jackson, *No. 17, 2018 (9.9.18)*, 2018, Oil-based paints, applied paper on panel. Courtesy of the Artist and Rena Bransten Gallery. **Artist Headshot:** Artist Oliver Lee Jackson, photo by Fred Sweets.