

Public Programs

Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror

September 29, 2021–February 13, 2022

Press Preview: September 22, 2021

Virtual Talk Series

A series of programs help connect a new generation to the work of Jasper Johns and examine the continued impact and relevance of his body of work today. These free virtual programs realize the vision of one exhibition staged concurrently in two venues by serving equally and simultaneously audiences in New York, Philadelphia, and beyond.

Making *Mind/Mirror*. A conversation with Scott Rothkopf and Carlos Basualdo

Wednesday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Online, via Zoom

Register here:

https://whitney.zoom.us/webinar/register/1116098644663/WN_g5GCcF21Oxy4gF_YpqWtlQ

This conversation brings together the co-curators of *Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror* to explore the making of this unprecedented retrospective of a singular artist staged simultaneously in New York City and Philadelphia. Scott Rothkopf, Senior Deputy Director and Nancy and Steve Crown Chief Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and Carlos Basualdo, Keith L. and Katherine Sachs Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, will be joined by Ann Temkin, Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art, for a conversation about the curatorial process, the show's mirrored structure, and how the project engages a long-standing methodology within Johns's practice itself.

New Voices: Artists on Jasper Johns

Thursday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Online, via Zoom

Register here:

https://philamuseum-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_J56jSkNvTc-lmh-3_A_AFO

This panel gathers a range of artists and professionals not only in visual art, but also poetry and dance to talk about how Jasper Johns has left an indelible mark on their own work. Panelists include artist R.H. Quaytman, poet Brian Teare, Kim Bears-Bailey, Artistic Director of PHILADANCO, and Patricia Lent, Licensing Director for the Merce Cunningham Trust. Moderated by Sarah Vogelmann, Exhibition Assistant for *Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror*.

Speakers:

Kim Bears-Bailey is the Artistic Director of The Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO), which she joined in 1981. She is a 1992 "Bessie" Award recipient, and represented PHILADANCO at the 1988 American Dance Festival as a soloist where she performed two works by Dr. Pearl Primus. Kim also appeared in the movie "Beloved." She is one of few artists granted permission to remount the works of many world-renowned choreographers including Talley Beatty, Pearl Primus, and Gene Hill Sagan. Kim travels the globe as a teaching artist, artist-in-residence and reconstructor, many times creating her own works. She was one of four women choreographers to premiere new work as part of the 2012 Dynamic Women of Dance showcase presented by the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble and is a member of the International Association of Blacks in Dance's Next Generation of Leaders.

Patricia Lent was a member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 1984 to 1993, dancing in over forty works including *Pictures*, *Fabrications*, *August Pace*, and *CRWDSPCR*. In recent years, she has staged Cunningham's work for numerous schools and companies, including *Fabrications* for MCDC and Ballet de Lorraine, *Scramble* for Repertory Dance Theater, *Duets* for American Ballet Theatre, *Channels/Inserts* and *Exchange* for Lyon Opera Ballet, *Beach Birds* and *Change of Address* for University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and *Roaratorio* for MCDC's Legacy Tour. In 2009, Lent was named a trustee of the Merce Cunningham Trust. She currently serves as the Trust's Director of Licensing in which capacity she is responsible for initiating and supervising staging projects for professional companies, museums, conservatories, and schools worldwide.

Brian Teare is the author of six critically acclaimed books, including *Companion Grasses* and *The Empty Form Goes All the Way to Heaven*. His most recent book, *Doomstead Days* (Nightboat, 2019), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle, Kingsley Tufts, and Lambda Literary Awards. His honors include the Four Quartets Prize, Lambda Literary and Publishing Triangle Awards, and fellowships from the Guggenheim and Pew Foundations, the NEA, the American Antiquarian Society, the Headlands Center for the Arts, the Vermont Studio Center, and the MacDowell Colony. After over a decade of teaching and writing in the San Francisco Bay Area, and eight years in Philadelphia, he's now an Associate Professor at the University of Virginia, and lives in Charlottesville, where he makes books by hand for his micropress, Albion Books.

R. H. Quaytman is an American artist best known for her painting practice that is organized into chapters, like an ongoing book, dating back to 2001. Her most recent

exhibition, *Modern Subjects, Chapter Zero*, opened at the WIELS contemporary art center in Brussels, Belgium. Her work is represented in the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; the Tate, London; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among many others.

Mirroring Practice: Poets Respond to Jasper Johns

Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Online, via Zoom

Registration here:

https://philamuseum-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6ozPXZpmSSaooMvKUssMWA

This poetry reading brings together Rick Barot, Khadijah Queen, Cole Swensen, and Brian Teare, poets whose work has long been engaged with painting and the visual arts. Their work has treated painting as subject matter, and it has also treated language as a material whose properties, like those of paint, need further investigation. Their poems have mirrored painting sometimes through traditional representational means – description, figuration – and at other times through radical abstracting tactics – processes of layering, cutting, and scraping. Each poet is writing new work that responds to Jasper Johns as a maker, highlighting the fact that poetry at its root – poiein – means to make. Marrying art historical research, the hands-on technique of collage, the critic’s visual acumen, and a gift for the gestural, the work of these poets carries ekphrastic art forward into the 21st century.

Speakers:

Rick Barot was born in the Philippines, grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, and attended Wesleyan University and The Writers’ Workshop at the University of Iowa. His first three books of poetry are *The Darker Fall*, *Want*, and *Chord*, which received the 2016 UNT Rilke Prize, the PEN Open Book Award, and the Publishing Triangle’s Thom Gunn Award. His fourth book of poems, *The Galleons* (Milkweed, 2020), was longlisted for the National Book Award. <https://www.rickbarot.com>

Khadijah Queen, PhD, is the author of six books, including *I’m So Fine: A List of Famous Men & What I Had On*, praised in *O Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Rain Taxi*, *Los Angeles Review*, and elsewhere as “quietly devastating,” and “a portrait of defiance that turns the male gaze inside out.” Earlier poetry collections include *Conduit*, *Black Peculiar*, and *Fearful Beloved*. <http://www.khadijahqueen.com>

Cole Swensen is the author of eighteen collections of poetry, most recently *Art in Time* (Nightboat, 2021), *On Walking On*, *Gave*, and *Landscapes on a Train*, as well as *Noise That Stays Noise*, a volume of critical essays. Her poetic collections turn around specific research projects, including ones on public parks, visual art, illuminated manuscripts, and ghosts. <https://www.coleswensen.com>

Brian Teare is the author of six critically acclaimed books, including *Companion Grasses* and *The Empty Form Goes All the Way to Heaven*. His most recent book, *Doomstead Days* (Nightboat, 2019), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle, Kingsley Tufts, and Lambda Literary Awards. <http://www.brianteare.net>

Additional programs in this virtual talk series to be announced. Please check our website for details.

Online Course

Making Sense of Jasper Johns

Tuesdays, November 2, 9, 16

3:00–4:00 p.m.

Online, on Zoom

Register here:

https://whitney.zoom.us/webinar/register/3316322500242/WN_ZaSjL1_ATVSEdZl01dzZmA

Does it mean anything? In a review of 1962, critic Leo Steinberg repeatedly asked this question of Jasper John's work. Across his almost 70-year career, John's work in painting, sculpture, and assemblage has often overwhelmed critics with ambiguity because his references are either so literal, so person, or simply rendered opaque. Yet his celebrated legacy has also pressed critics, artists, and viewers alike to imagine other ways of sensing the artwork's meaning and value. In this way, John's work resonates with contemporary artworks that get us to question and reframe taken-for-granted elements of our everyday life. This course will give participants a comprehensive look at Johns career, while placing his work in conversation with his contemporary artists who are both indebted and building upon John's ongoing legacy.

Instructor:

Josh Lubin-Levy is a Joan Tisch Senior Teaching Fellow at the Whitney and recently completed his Ph.D. in Performance Studies at NYU. For the past ten years, Lubin-Levy has worked as a dance dramaturg and performance curator. He currently teaches in the department of Visual Studies at the New School.

An open Q&A and discussion follows each session. Registrants can access on-demand course recordings for the duration of the course.

Free with registration.

Dance Performance

PHILADANCO Performs Events by Merce Cunningham

January 14–16, 2022

The Williams Forum

In addition to the more than 500 works presented across both venues as part of *Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror*, Jasper Johns is also known for his longstanding support of the performing arts, specifically dance. From 1967–80, Johns was the artistic advisor of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, during which time he designed many sets and costumes. Presented only at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in partnership with Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO!), visitors are invited to experience historical “Events”—consisting of snippets from dances in the company's repertory—choreographed by Merce Cunningham and featuring recreated costumes originally designed by Jasper Johns. The performance will comprise excerpts from Cunningham/Johns collaborations created during the period that Johns served as the artistic advisor of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. More details to be announced.

About PHILADANCO!

Founded in 1970 by Joan Meyers Brown, the Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO!), was created out a need to provide performance opportunities for Black dancers, who were then systematically denied entrance in many local dance schools and had even fewer professional performance outlets. PHILADANCO! has since grown into a professional dance company that is recognized across the nation and around the world for its artistic integrity, superbly trained dancers, and captivating performances. Established on principles of providing opportunity, inclusion, and hope, PHILADANCO! bridges cultural divides and consistently performs before sold-out audiences of people from diverse ethnicities and communities.

Family Programs

Sundays

November 14 & 21

Drop in and make art as a family in the South Vaulted Walkway. Artists of all ages welcome.

November them is “Count On It.” Explore balance, measuring tools and notable numbers in the galleries, with special highlights in the Jasper Johns exhibition.

Art Kids Studio 10:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Family tours are at 11:00 a.m. for ages 3–6 and 7–10 years.

Turkey Hangover

November 26, 27, 28 10:30–3:00 p.m.

Work off your Thanksgiving feast with a stroll through the galleries. The weekend after Thanksgiving, we count all the things we're grateful for as we explore notable numbers in the Jasper Johns exhibition. Explore iterations and repeating patterns using letterpress with guest printmakers from Soap Box.

Art Playdate at Home

November 8, 29 at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Get a closer look and spark your imagination with this live virtual program. Engage in playful discussions, sketching challenges and other fun activities. November's theme is "Red, Yellow, Blue!" Get back to basics as we discover primary colors and color mixing, featuring artworks by Jasper Johns.

Social Media

[Twitter/Facebook/Instagram/Tumblr/YouTube](#): @philamuseum

We are Philadelphia's art museum. A world-renowned collection. A landmark building. A place that welcomes everyone. We bring the arts to life, inspiring visitors—through scholarly study and creative play—to discover the spirit of imagination that lies in everyone. We connect people with the arts in rich and varied ways, making the experience of the Museum surprising, lively, and always memorable. We are committed to inviting visitors to see the world—and themselves—afresh through the beauty and expressive power of the arts.

For additional information, contact the Marketing and Communications Department of the Philadelphia Museum of Art phone at 215-684-7860 or pressroom@philamuseum.org.