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Lyman Allyn Art Museum

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LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM INSTALLS NEW WORK OF ART IN PERMANENT COLLECITON GALLERY

New London – Lyman Allyn Art Museum is pleased to announce the display and promised gift of *Blue Study No. 10*, 2024, a work of art by the prominent contemporary artist Hank Willis Thomas (American, b. 1976). The retroreflective work has been installed in the Museum's *American Perspectives* permanent collection gallery in celebration of Black History Month, where it will remain on view.



Hank Willis Thomas (American, b. 1976), *Blue Study No. 10*, 2024, silkscreen and UV Print on Retroreflective Vinyl mounted on Dibond, 17 3/4 x 13 3/4 inches. Private Collection. Image © Hank Willis Thomas. The image on the right displays the flash view.

A conceptual artist based in Brooklyn, NY, Hank Willis Thomas explores themes of perspective, identity, commodity, media, and popular culture in his art. Over the last ten years, he has explored the retroreflective medium, creating mixed media works that reveal two distinct scenes when viewed with ambient and flash lighting. Seen from one perspective, these artworks present bold figurations, abstractions, and landscapes in saturated colors; seen from another, fragmented archival scraps from Thomas's other projects over the last decade are revealed. As these elements converge and transform, they shed light on new layers of images, ideas, and meanings that are hidden in plain sight. The central figure in this composition (most visible with flash) is taken from a portrait by Seydou Keïta (Bamako, Mali, 1921–2001), the celebrated African photographer and portraitist.

Hank Willis Thomas's wide-ranging art practice includes large-scale public sculpture, notably *The Embrace*, a 20-foot-tall bronze sculpture in 2023, commissioned for Boston Common. That work depicts the arms of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King in a tender embrace after Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Another prominent large-scale commission is the 2019 bronze sculpture *Unity*, installed at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Thomas holds a B.F.A. from New York University, New York, NY (1998) and an M.A./M.F.A. from the California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA (2004). Thomas's work has been exhibited throughout the United States and abroad, including at the International Center of Photography, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Musée du quai Branly, Hong Kong Arts Centre and the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art. Thomas is a recipient of the Gordon Parks Foundation Fellowship (2019), The Guggenheim Fellowship (2018), AIMIA | AGO Photography Prize (2017), Soros Equality Fellowship (2017), and the Aperture West Book Prize (2008), among other awards.

For more information or to request images, please contact Rebecca Dawson by email at dawson@lymanallyn.org.

About Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Lyman Allyn Art Museum welcomes visitors from New London, southeastern Connecticut and all over the world. Established in 1926 with a gift from Harriet Allyn in memory of her seafaring father, the Museum opened the doors of its beautiful neoclassical building surrounded by 12 acres of green space in 1932. Today it presents several changing exhibitions each year and houses a fascinating collection of over 19,000 objects from ancient times to the present, including art from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe, with particularly strong collections of American paintings, decorative arts and Victorian toys and doll houses.

The museum is located at 625 Williams Street, New London, Connecticut, exit 83 off I-95. It is open **Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m.**, and closed on Mondays and major holidays. For more information call 860.443.2545, ext. 2129 or visit www.lymanallyn.org.