

GUGGENHEIM

NEWS RELEASE

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum Presents *Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now*

Yearlong Exhibition in Two Parts Celebrates the Sustained Legacy of Robert Mapplethorpe and His Impact on Contemporary Photography

Exhibition: *Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now*
Venue: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Avenue, New York
Location: Tower Level 4 and Thannhauser 4 Galleries
Dates: January 25–July 10, 2019 and July 24, 2019–January 5, 2020

(NEW YORK, NY— January 24, 2019)—In 2019, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum presents a yearlong exhibition conceived in two sequential parts honoring the groundbreaking work and sustained legacy of Robert Mapplethorpe (1946–1989), one of the most critically acclaimed yet controversial American artists of the late twentieth century. *Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now* is on view in the museum’s Mapplethorpe Gallery on Tower Level 4 from January 25–July 10, 2019 and July 24, 2019–January 5, 2020. The exhibition is organized by Lauren Hinkson, Associate Curator, Collections, and Susan Thompson, Associate Curator, with Levi Prombaum, Curatorial Assistant, Collections.

The Guggenheim Museum holds one of the most comprehensive public repositories of the work of Robert Mapplethorpe in the world, having received a generous gift of approximately two hundred photographs and unique objects from the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation in 1993. This gift also catalyzed the development of the museum’s photography collection and inaugurated the Photography Council, an acquisitions committee dedicated to actively building and strengthening the Guggenheim’s collection of work in photography and new media by both established and emerging artists. Thirty years after the artist’s death, *Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now* celebrates the full range of Mapplethorpe’s extraordinary artistic contributions as well as the impact of the Mapplethorpe Foundation’s gift on the museum’s photography collection and exhibition program.

The first phase of the exhibition features an installation of highlights from the Guggenheim's rich collection of Mapplethorpe holdings, including selections from the artist's early Polaroids, collages, and mixed-media constructions; iconic, classicizing photographs of male and female nudes, flowers, and statuary; portraits of artists, celebrities, and acquaintances; explicit depictions of the S&M underground; and some of Mapplethorpe's best-known self-portraits.

The second phase will address the artist's resounding impact on the field of contemporary portraiture and self-representation and aims to reflect the many complex conversations surrounding Mapplethorpe's work that have arisen over the past three decades. In addition to a focused selection of Mapplethorpe photographs, the second phase will also feature contemporary artists from the Guggenheim's collection who either actively engage with and reference Mapplethorpe's work or whose approach to picturing the body and exploring identity through portraiture finds resonances with Mapplethorpe's formal and social strategies. These artists include Rotimi Fani-Kayode (b. 1955, Lagos, Nigeria; d. 1989, London), Lyle Ashton Harris (b. 1965, Bronx, NY), Glenn Ligon (b. 1960, Bronx, NY), Zanele Muholi (b. 1972, Umlazi, South Africa), Catherine Opie (b. 1961, Sandusky, OH), and Paul Mpagi Sepuya (b. 1982, San Bernardino, CA).

Education and Public Programs

The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive set of public programs, listed below and subject to change.

FILM

Documentary Program in conjunction with *Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now*

Tuesdays, February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 6 pm

A series of documentaries exploring the legacy of Robert Mapplethorpe, including *Black White + Grey: A Portrait of Sam Wagstaff and Robert Mapplethorpe* (2007) directed by James Crump; *ART/new york* program no. 61: "Robert Mapplethorpe" (2006) directed by Paul Tschinkel; and *Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures* (2016) directed by Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato are screened in conjunction with the Guggenheim's yearlong exhibition. Screenings take place in the New Media Theater, Level B, and are free with admission. For more information and schedule, visit guggenheim.org/films.

February 5: *Black White + Grey: A Portrait of Sam Wagstaff and Robert Mapplethorpe* (2007)

February 12: *ART/new york: "Robert Mapplethorpe"* (2006)

February 19: *Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures* (2016)

February 26: *Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures* (2016)

AFTER HOURS

Silent Nights

Tuesdays, February 5, March 5, and April 2, 7–8 pm

On the first Tuesday evening of each month, experience the Guggenheim's unforgettable space in a uniquely contemplative atmosphere. In homage to founding director Hilla Rebay's vision for a "temple

of spirit,” visitors are invited to enjoy the exhibitions on view in a meditative state of mind, aided by dimmed lights and a quiet rotunda.

Free with admission. For more information, visit guggenheim.org/calendar. Silent Nights are presented in conjunction with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum’s 60th anniversary celebration of radical art and architecture. Visit guggenheim.org/building to learn more about Frank Lloyd Wright’s iconic design and other anniversary programs.

Art After Dark

Friday, March 15, 9 pm–midnight; Exclusive Members’ Hour: 8–9 pm

An after-hours private viewing of current exhibitions, *Hilma af Klint: Paintings for the Future*, *R. H.*

Quaytman: + x, *Chapter 34*, and *Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now*, featuring a cash bar and DJ in the rotunda.

\$25, members free. Purchase tickets online in advance or become a member. Cash bar offers wine and beer. Guests will be asked for a photo ID. Limited general admission tickets will go on sale closer to the event date. No tickets are sold at the door. For more information, visit guggenheim.org/artafterdark.

Exhibition Support

Generous funding for *Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now* is provided by Stein Erik Hagen–The Canica Art Collection, the William Talbott Hillman Foundation, and LLWW Foundation.

The Leadership Committee is gratefully acknowledged for its support, with special thanks to Peter Marino; Baldwin Gallery, Aspen; Angelo K H Chan and Frederick Wertheim; Joseph M. Cohen Family Collection; Caryl Englander; Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris; William Georgis; Gladstone Gallery; Xavier Hufkens; Tian-Tzy Li and Julio Herrera; Alison Jacques Gallery; MAI 36 Galerie, Zurich; Lisa and John Miller; Ted Pappendick and Erica Gervais; Lauren and Scott Pinkus; Ann and Mel Schaffer; Patty and Howard Silverstein; The Evelyn Toll Family Foundation; and Cristina von Bargen and Jonathan McHardy.

Additional funding is provided by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum’s Photography Council.

About the Artist

Robert Mapplethorpe was born in 1946 in Floral Park, Queens, and earned a BFA from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, in 1970. His work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions including *Robert Mapplethorpe: Photographs*, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA (1978); *Robert Mapplethorpe*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1983); *Robert Mapplethorpe*, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY (1988); *Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (1988-89, traveled to Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, D.C.; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT; University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; and Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston); *Robert Mapplethorpe: Self-Portraits*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (1993); *Robert Mapplethorpe and the Classical Tradition: Photographs and Mannerist Prints*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2005); and *Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Medium*, J. Paul Getty Museum,

Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2016). Mapplethorpe died in 1989 due to complications from AIDS.

About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation was established in 1937 and is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of modern and contemporary art through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. The Guggenheim international constellation of museums includes the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice; the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; and the future Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. In 2019, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum celebrates 60 years as an architectural icon and “temple of spirit” where radical art and architecture meet. To learn more about the museum and the Guggenheim’s activities around the world, visit guggenheim.org.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission: Adults \$25, students/seniors (65+) \$18, members and children under 12 free. Starting January 7, open daily from 10 am to 5:30 pm; Tuesdays and Saturdays until 8 pm. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Saturdays from 5 to 8 pm.

For general information, call 212 423 3500 or visit the museum online at: guggenheim.org or guggenheim.org/social

For publicity images, visit guggenheim.org/pressimages
Password: presspass

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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