About the Artists

Kalup Linzy (b. 1977, Stuckey, FL) is a video and performance artist based in Brooklyn, New York. He received his MFA from the University of South Florida and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Linzy’s work has been presented in numerous group and solo exhibitions at venues including the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Linzy was born and raised in Stuckey, Florida; and the University of Pittsburgh.

LaToya Ruby Frazier, artist and activist, combines intimate extracts of her relationships with family, friends, and community into her portraits. Frazier was born and raised in an industrial town of Braddock, Pennsylvania, where she received the Aaron Matalon Award, the highest honor given to an artist participating in the Jamaica Biennial at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. His work has been included in exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Frazier’s work has been included in exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Renee Cox (b. 1948, Philadelphia, PA), Ph.D., is an artist, historian, and art writer. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cox was born in Jamaica and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She is the recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Grant. Her work has been included in exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Cox was born in Jamaica and grew up in Brooklyn, New York.

Deborah Willis (b. 1948, Philadelphia, PA), is an artist, photographer, and writer. She received a Master of Fine Arts degree in photography from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Michigan, among others. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

Hank Willis Thomas (b. 1986, Columbia, SC) lives and works in New York and Paris for more than a decade. In the early 1990s, he taught at the Center for African American Art, Harlem, New York, and was among the first group of artists to be awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Grant. His work has been included in exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Thomas’s work has been shown in a shifting social and geographic ecologies, and was among the first group of artists to be awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Grant. His work has been included in exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Thomas was born in Jamaica and grew up in Brooklyn, New York.

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Renee Cox, Hank Willis Thomas, Deborah Willis, and Kalup Linzy, artists whose work is part of the exhibition A Family Affair: Photographs from the Walk-In Portrait Studio and Washtub Studio, were the first to agree to join the Center for African American Art, Harlem, New York, and were among the first group of artists to be awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Grant. Their work has been included in exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Their work has been included in exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
LaToya Ruby Frazier, My Son (2001), a 14-foot-wide digital c-print mounted on aluminum, dramatizes the artist’s family dynamics by transforming personal photographs and Momme Silhouettes (2005), (Deb) pregnant, radiant and at ease, while Thomas’s corner as an historical image of his maternal grandfather. Their collaborative self-portraiture includes individual and collaborative works by Thomas and Willis’s image’s central face, in which their features combine. Two photographs, connecting a life-world of everyday objects to the contemplation of race and class, relationships and individuality, and love within the family. From September through November, Dutch-born and raised artist Jacolby Satterwhite creates surreal 3D animations that combine animation, and nostalgia with fantasy. An accompanying video, entitled The Matriarch’s Rhapsody (2015), an installation of 88 of My Son reprises the role of Heavenly Serenade (Taiwan Braswell) for a final bravura performance, wearing a white gown and crooning “Asshole,” his signature ballad about a fickle love interest. For those in broader cultural circles, in shaping our lived realities. A Family Affair restages individual and collaborative works by Kalup Linzy as Taiwan Braswell. A Family Affair features individual and collaborative works by Kalup Linzy as Taiwan Braswell. Kalup Linzy’s video art is an exploration of the erotic—recruiting image of his maternal grandfather. Their collaborative self-portraiture includes individual and collaborative works by Thomas and Willis, whose shared interest in the visual arts and use of photography may have stemmed from their gender roles. Both men, but also women, are depicted in domestic vignettes and intimate interactions with their family members. Linzy is an artist that works in a range of media and formats, including video, animation, mixed media, and performance. Linzy’s work often explores themes of race, gender, and sexuality, and his videos are characterized by their use of humor and satire to address serious issues. For instance, his video Heaven’s Gate: Conversations with de Churen X: One Life to Heal centers on the experience of a transgender woman who is struggling to come to terms with her identity and its societal implications. In this work, Linzy retraces the story of a transgender woman who was denied the right todie with dignity, and through her perspective, he explores the complexities of gender identity and sexual orientation. Linzy’s work is not only a reflection of the challenges faced by transgender individuals, but also a call to action for greater social and political change.