

GUGGENHEIM

NEWS RELEASE

Artist Rashid Johnson Joins Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation Board of Trustees

(NEW YORK, NY – July 22, 2016) – William L. Mack, Chairman, and Jennifer Blei Stockman, President, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, announced that Rashid Johnson has been appointed to the Board of Trustees. Johnson is the first artist to serve on the Board since Hilla Rebay, the Guggenheim’s founding director and curator. “The Guggenheim Foundation is delighted to welcome Rashid Johnson to our Board,” said Mr. Mack and Ms. Stockman. “Widely celebrated for his compelling contributions to contemporary art, Rashid is a dynamic and accomplished practitioner whose work is represented in the Guggenheim collection. He is an expansive and independent thinker and we look forward to engaging with Rashid in this new leadership role.”

Working across the disciplines of painting, sculpture, photography, video, and performance, Johnson has created a nuanced iconography that connects literature, music, intellectual history, and the legacy of modernist abstraction, interweaving deeply personal references with pervasive cultural narratives. In 2015 the museum presented a selection of Johnson’s works in the exhibition *Storylines: Contemporary Art at the Guggenheim*, including *The Ritual* (2015), an installation of books, a vinyl record, a sculpture by the artist’s wife, and forms modeled from shea butter; and *Cosmic Slop “Bitter”* (2015), a monochrome rendered in unconventional materials—wax mixed with a black West African soap—and inscribed with dense markings. These wall pieces were accompanied by Johnson’s short film [The New Black Yoga \(2011\)](#), a work depicting an enigmatic scenario in which five African American men perform choreographed movements on a deserted beach. In 2012 he was short-listed for the Hugo Boss Prize, an award administered by the Guggenheim that recognizes significant achievement in contemporary art.

Johnson’s work has been featured in solo presentations at a number of institutions, including the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2016), The Drawing Center, New York (2015), Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, and Ballroom Marfa, Texas (2013–14), and South London Gallery, London (2012). His exhibition *Message to Our Folks* originated at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago in 2012, then traveled through 2013 to the Miami Art Museum; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; and the Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis.

In 2012 Johnson received the High Museum of Art's David C. Driskell Prize, which honors contributions in the field of African American art. He received his BA in photography from Columbia College in Chicago and attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2004–05. He currently lives and works in New York. Johnson's work will be the subject of a new exhibition at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri, beginning February 2017.

About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

Founded in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art, primarily of the modern and contemporary periods, through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. The Guggenheim network that began in the 1970s when the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, was joined by the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, has since expanded to include the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (opened 1997), and the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi (currently in development). Looking to the future, the Guggenheim Foundation continues to forge international collaborations that take contemporary art, architecture, and design beyond the walls of the museum. The foundation is also committed to fostering research, exhibitions, and collections in the field of global art through such programs as the Asian Art Initiative (founded in 2006), the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative (founded in 2013), and The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Chinese Art Initiative (founded in 2013). More information about the foundation can be found at guggenheim.org.

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