

***Angel Otero: Elegies***  
**Featuring works made exclusively for the Bronx Museum**  
**On View October 25, 2017 — April 29, 2018**

**Bronx, New York—August 9, 2017—**The Bronx Museum of the Arts is proud to present an exhibition focusing on a series of new paintings by Angel Otero. On view at the Bronx Museum from October 25, 2017 through April 29, 2018, this exhibition will highlight Otero’s commitment to making paintings and sculptures that mine and celebrate key examples of the art of the past. *Angel Otero: Elegies* is organized by guest curator Christian Viveros-Fauné.

Since early on in his career Angel Otero has aligned his practice to the oldest and most revered painting tradition, which he endeavors to constantly reinvent it. Thus, Otero not only retains a commitment to making paintings and sculptures, but at key points in his career he has underscored that dedication with a personal mission to revisit key examples of the art of the past. Using a disciplined, thoroughgoing, empirical studio process, Otero has established a compositional method that brings together and pulls apart disparate artistic influences to develop his own unique visual language.

For *Angel Otero: Elegies*—featuring works made exclusively for exhibition at the Bronx Museum—guest curator Viveros-Fauné invites us to consider Otero’s own evolving process of formal innovation in relation to that of the artist Robert Motherwell. A leading Abstract Expressionist and the author of over one hundred paintings that he titled *Elegy to the Spanish Republic* (completed between 1948 and 1967), Motherwell created his mostly monochrome canvases as a “lamentation or funeral song” on the subject of the Spanish Civil War. Invariably, these works have also served as illustrations of the power of abstract art to take on both urgent themes and modernity’s constant need for artistic innovation.

“Every intelligent painter carries the whole culture of modern painting in his head,” Motherwell once said. “It is the real subject, of which everything he paints is both an homage and a critique, and everything he says is a gloss.” The work Angel Otero has produced for the Bronx Museum are not elegies in the typical sense—i.e., paintings devoted to the idea of loss or deterioration. Instead, these works are celebrations of twenty-first century painterly innovation and of the resilience of art during times of change.

**Support**

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## About Angel Otero

Angel Otero (b. 1981, Santurce, Puerto Rico) received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2009. Solo exhibitions of his work include *Angel Otero: Everything and Nothing*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2016); *Angel Otero: Painting From the Bottom Up*, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Gran Canaria,

Spain (2015); *Material Discovery*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA and Hong Kong (2013); and *Angel Otero*, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC (2012); Select group exhibitions and biennials featuring his work have included *Surface Area*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY (2016); *Nexo/Nexus: Latin American Connections in the Midwest*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL (2016); *6th Prague Biennale*, Prague, Czech Republic (2013); *The [S] Files*; El Museo's *6th Biennial*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY (2011); and *Queens International 2012: Three Points Make a Triangle*, Queens Museum, New York (2012), among others. Otero is the recipient of the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Visual Arts. His work can be found in collections at the Istanbul Modern Art Museum, DePaul University Museum, Chicago, IL; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS; and the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

## About the Guest Curator

Christian Viveros-Fauné is a New York-based art critic and curator. He was awarded a 2010 Creative Capital/Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant and named inaugural critic-in-residence at the Bronx Museum of the Arts for 2010/2011. He has taught at various universities round the world, among them Pratt Institute, the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, and Yale University, and has curated hundreds of gallery and museum exhibitions around the world. These include shows at, among other venues, the Museo de Bellas Artes, Santiago; the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Santiago, Chile; the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Mexico; the Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City; the Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico; the Centro Atlántico de Arte Contemporáneo, Spain; The Royal Hibernian Society, Dublin, Ireland; and the National Gallery of Art, Dublin, Ireland.

## About The Bronx Museum of the Arts

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is an internationally recognized cultural destination that presents innovative contemporary art exhibitions and education programs and is committed to promoting cross-cultural dialogues for diverse audiences. Since its founding in 1971, the Museum has played a vital role in the Bronx by helping to make art accessible to the entire community and connecting with local schools, artists, teens, and families through its robust public programming and education initiatives. In celebration of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Museum implemented a universal free admission policy, supporting its mission to make arts experiences available to all audiences. The Museum's collection comprises over 1,000 modern and contemporary works of art in all media with a focus on works by artists of African, Asian, and Latin-American ancestry, as well as artists for whom the Bronx has been critical to their development. Located on the Grand Concourse, the Museum's home is a distinctive contemporary landmark designed by the internationally recognized firm Arquitectonica.

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