

## **Four Bronx-focused Exhibitions Highlight Museum's Ongoing Artist Explorations of the Borough's Neighborhoods and Landscapes**

**Bronx, New York—May 4, 2016**—Opening on April 6, The Bronx Museum of the Arts will present four concurrent exhibitions that highlight the diverse communities, cityscapes, and natural beauty of The Bronx. Two solo exhibitions by artists **Martine Fougeron** and **Valeri Larko** will present a series of works that document the industrial hubs and landscapes of the borough. Two additional exhibitions which draw from the Bronx Museum Permanent Collection include *Spotlight: John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres*, a series of sculptures produced between 1985 and 1998 that depict residents of the South Bronx. The other, *Beyond the Veil: Works from the Permanent Collection*, highlights works by contemporary artists examining issues of identity and culture that reflect our diverse communities.

### ***Martine Fougeron: The South Bronx Trades* April 6 to June 26, 2016**

*Martine Fougeron: The South Bronx Trades* features a series of photographs by French-born, New York-based photographer Martine Fougeron that explore the industries and manufacturing enterprises of the Port Morris and Hunts Point neighborhoods in the South Bronx. In 2011, Fougeron began documenting a wide range of industries for the series; from steel production and auto parts shops to artisanal bakers, printers, boat builders, and fishmongers. Together, the photographs celebrate the artistry and every-day heroics of these specialized businesses, revealing the unseen workers and often unheralded communities of the borough.

### ***Bronx Focus: Paintings by Valeri Larko* April 6 to June 26, 2016**

Since the 1980s, New York-based artist Valeri Larko has documented the decaying industrial landscapes in the tri-state region. Drawing inspiration from the collision between nature and man-made infrastructures evident in forgotten side streets, waterways, and derelict factories, *Bronx Focus* explores the industrial areas in The Bronx.

The works in *Bronx Focus* serve as a record of the vibrant graffiti culture displayed on structures throughout the borough. Other paintings showcase glimpses of the salt marshes and creeks that have managed to thrive within the urban landscape and remind viewers of a Bronx that coexists as both a city and nature reserve. This exhibition has been organized by Heather Reyes, Manager of Exhibitions and Collections at the Bronx Museum.

### ***Spotlight: John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres* April 6 to July 4, 2016**

This exhibition of sculptures brings together works produced by artists John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres between 1985 and 1998. The series conveys both artists' commitment to representing their local communities, beginning with the body and face casts that Ahearn created in the South Bronx of local residents at Fashion Moda, an alternative gallery that thrived in the South Bronx during the 1980s and early 1990s. It was during this period that the artists met, when Torres volunteered as a model and later became Ahearn's long-time collaborator.

All of the sculptures in the exhibition, both those produced by the artists individually and in collaboration, are drawn from the Bronx Museum Permanent Collection, and include a suite of busts recently donated by Krasdale Foods, Inc. that were originally exhibited at their Community Gallery in the early 1980s. Transforming the everyday man, woman, and child into monumental works of art, these casts demonstrate the trust and respect that both Ahearn and Torres established with South Bronx residents.

### ***Beyond the Veil: Works From the Permanent Collection* April 6 to June 26, 2016**

*Beyond The Veil*, a group exhibition that highlights artworks from the Bronx Museum Permanent Collection, brings together works from contemporary artists including **Huma Bhabha**, **Abraham Cruzvillegas**, **Leonardo Drew**, and **Jamel Shabazz**, and explores the nuanced histories at play in broader cultural debates on identity. The exhibition draws its title and inspiration from W.E.B. Du Bois's seminal text *Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil* (1920), which illuminates the discontent of ethnic and racial minorities within the context of American democracy and maintains a sense of urgency in our era. The works in the exhibition, largely by artists of African, Asian, and Latin-American descent, convey the complex mediation between the self and the other, with a focus one's allegiance to tradition and the appeal of globalism.

The exhibition also features a new series of paintings by Tim Rollins & K.O.S. made in collaboration with students from IS 218 in The Bronx and based on Du Bois' *Darkwater*.

### **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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