

MEDIA RELEASE

The Studio Museum in Harlem
144 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
studiomuseum.org/press

Contact:

Liz Gwinn, Public Relations and Publications Manager
egwinn@studiomuseum.org
646.214.2142

**STUDIO
MUSEUM
HARLEM**

Announcing the 2011 Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize Recipient: Leonardo Drew



George Wein and Leonardo Drew at The Studio Museum Gala 2011. Photo: Julie Skarratt

NEW YORK, NY, October 31, 2011—The Studio Museum in Harlem has awarded the sixth annual Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize to Leonardo Drew. The Wein Prize was established in 2006 by jazz impresario, musician and philanthropist George Wein to honor his late wife Joyce Alexander Wein, a longtime Trustee of the Studio Museum and a woman whose life embodied a commitment to the power and possibilities of art and culture. The \$50,000 award recognizes and honors the artistic achievements of an African-American artist who demonstrates great innovation, promise and creativity. Leonardo Drew, known for his large-scale sculptural installations, called the award “a profound honor.”

Inspired by his wife’s lifelong support of living artists, George Wein envisioned the Wein Prize as an extension of the Studio Museum’s mission to support experimentation and excellence in contemporary art. Director and Chief Curator Thelma Golden announced the award at the Museum’s Gala 2011 on October 24, to the acclaim of over 700 guests. Previous recipients include Leslie Hewitt (2010), Glenn Ligon (2009), Nadine Robinson (2008), Trenton Doyle Hancock (2007), and Lorna Simpson (2006).

Leonardo Drew is based in Brooklyn, New York and San Antonio, Texas. Using found materials ranging from wood, fabric, paper, cotton and rope to metal, rust, animal pelts and bones, feathers and everyday trash, Drew meticulously assembles, reassembles and manipulates human detritus to create order and unexpected beauty.

Working consistently and ambitiously in this alchemistic style since his 1988 breakthrough work *Number 8*, Drew brilliantly juxtaposes a host of seemingly contradictory concepts and influences. He creates pure abstraction out of materials seemingly imbued with past uses, producing works that are formally beautiful but loaded with material significance. While exhibiting influences from global art movements including Arte Povera, Dada, Abstract Expressionism and Minimalism, Drew's work is unmistakably American, simultaneously evoking the interconnected histories of the rural South and industrial North.

Born in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1961 and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Drew studied at the Parsons School of Design and the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, where he received his BFA in 1985. He was a 1990–91 artist in residence at The Studio Museum in Harlem, and has been featured in many group exhibitions and projects nationally and internationally, among them *30 Americans* (2008), organized by the Rubell Family Collection; *Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery* (2006), organized by former Studio Museum President Lowery Stokes Sims for the New-York Historical Society; *The Quiet in the Land: Everyday Life, Contemporary Art, and Projeto Axé* (1997–2000), in Salvador, Brazil; and *Passages: Contemporary Art in Transition* (1998) at The Studio Museum in Harlem. A mid-career survey, *Existed: Leonardo Drew* (2009), debuted at the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston and traveled internationally. Drew has also had solo exhibitions at Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York; Palazzo Delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea, Siena, Italy; The Fabric Workshop, Philadelphia; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; Bronx Museum of the Arts; Madison Art Center, Wisconsin; and Thread Waxing Space, New York, among others. Drew's work is included in many public and private collections worldwide, including the Detroit Institute of Arts; Linda Pace Foundation, San Antonio; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and The Studio Museum in Harlem.

About The Studio Museum in Harlem

Founded in 1968, The Studio Museum in Harlem is a contemporary art museum that focuses on the work of artists of African descent locally, nationally and globally, as well as work that has been inspired and influenced by African-American culture. The Museum is committed to serving as a unique resource in the local community, and in national and international arenas, by making artworks and exhibitions concrete and personal for each viewer.

Hours and Admission

The Studio Museum is open Thursday and Friday, noon-9pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-6pm. The museum is closed to the public on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid id) and seniors. Free for children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target.

The Studio Museum in Harlem is supported, in part, with public funds provided by the following government agencies and elected representatives: The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation; Assemblyman Keith L. T. Wright, 70th A.D.; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Institute of Museum and Library Services; the National Endowment for the Arts; Council Member Inez E. Dickens, 9th C.D. and Speaker Christine Quinn and the New York City Council.