

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2022

Davis Museum at Wellesley College to Present Four Exhibitions for Fall 2022

Captivating video installation, ancient Mediterranean jewelry, African American prints, and new acquisitions round out the season's special exhibitions

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College will present four thought-provoking exhibitions for the fall, including Lisa Reihana's extraordinary panoramic video installation, *In Pursuit of Venus [infected]*, and three special collections-based exhibitions *Gold, Glass, and Pearls: Ancient Mediterranean Jewelry*, *Freedom of Expression: African American Printmakers Abroad*, and *Telling Time: Recent Acquisitions*. The exhibitions will open on Thursday, September 15, and run through Sunday, December 18. The Davis Museum will hold an opening reception on Wednesday, September 14, from 5 – 8 p.m with welcome remarks from the director and curators at 6 p.m.

“This spectacular slate of exhibitions has been in the making for several years, on calendars interrupted by the pandemic,” says Lisa Fischman, the Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis Museum. “The staff and I are thrilled to bring them to fruition, and look forward to welcoming our communities into the galleries.”



Lisa Reihana: In Pursuit of Venus [infected]

Māori artist Lisa Reihana's visually stunning and conceptually provocative digital panorama, *In Pursuit of Venus [infected]*, is based on a fashionable early nineteenth-century French scenic wallpaper, *Les Sauvages de la Mer Pacifique*, that capitalized on popular fascination with the voyages of Captain James Cook and other European “explorers” to the South Pacific. Reihana destabilizes the dominant historical narrative of encounter, centering Indigenous people as agents rather than subjects, privileging Native realities, experiences, and points of view. The critique embedded in the work is political, aesthetic, technological, and historical—rendered through a decolonial lens.

Curated by Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis Museum, with research contributions from Annabel Brazaitis '22, Stephanie Fan '22, Chloe Pearce '21, and Isak Sjursen. The exhibition is generously supported by the Mildred Cooper Glimcher '61 Endowed Fund, the Davis World Cultures Fund, the Davis Museum Endowed Fund for International Cultural Programs, and Wellesley College Friends of Art at the Davis.

Gold, Glass, and Pearls: Ancient Mediterranean Jewelry

The many examples of jewelry that survive from the ancient Mediterranean suggest that it was an important means of self-expression for people of all social classes. Through a focus on craftsmanship and technology, *Gold, Glass, and Pearls* examines the journey from raw materials to objects of personal adornment. Overall, the Davis Museum's Greco-Roman jewelry tells the manifold stories of the people who created and wore it thousands of years ago.



This exhibition was curated by Nicole Berlin, Assistant Curator of Collections, with generous support from the Sandra Cohen Bakalar '55 Fund and Wellesley College Friends of Art at the Davis, with special thanks to Wellesley College Special Collections.

Freedom of Expression: African American Printmakers Abroad



Throughout the twentieth century, African American artists traveled or permanently relocated abroad for various—but often overlapping—reasons. They sought to escape systemic racial oppression in the United States, pursue specialized artistic training, collaborate with artists with shared political ideologies, and seek inspiration from new surroundings. This exhibition highlights the impact of overseas travel on the artistic practice of ten artists who journeyed to Europe, Africa, and Latin America. By focusing on printmaking, *Freedom of Expression* examines how artists embraced one particular medium as a vehicle for technical experimentation, personal expression, and social commentary.

This exhibition is curated by Heather Hughes, former Kemper Assistant Curator of Academic Affairs and Exhibitions at the Davis and current Kathy and Ted Fernberger Associate Curator of Prints at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, with the 2021 Davis Museum Interns—Chloe Pearce '21, Grey Devlin '22, Kay Bobb '23, and

Utkantha Sindhwani '22—with generous support from the Kemper Curator of Academic Programs Fund.

Telling Time: Recent Acquisitions

Over the last five years, the Davis has acquired thousands of artworks through gifts and purchases. At the same time, staff members have asked new questions about what the Davis can be, as an institution committed to stewarding and interpreting artworks from the past and of the present. These recent acquisitions contribute to shifting narratives at Wellesley and in the museum field writ large. “Recent” may imply “new,” but in these galleries—and those that surround it—we witness how objects come into the museum marked by their histories. Through the care, labor, and time of many, they become parts of ongoing human stories—at the Davis and around the world.

Curated by Amanda Gilvin, Sonja Novak Koerner '51 Senior Curator and Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs, Telling Time is supported by The Anonymous '70 Endowed Museum Program Fund.



ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical, and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College’s liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming—classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today’s leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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Image Credits:

Lisa Reihana, *In Pursuit of Venus [infected]*, 2015-17

Video still

Courtesy the artist

Roman, *Pair of Earrings*, 2nd–4th century C.E., Gold and glass

Anonymous gift 2002.0.128

Hale Aspacio Woodruff, *Sunday Promenade*, 1931-46 (printed 1996)

Linocut, sheet: 19 1/16 in. x 15 in. (48.4 cm x 38.1 cm); platemark: 9 5/8 in. x 7 11/16 in. (24.4 cm x 19.5 cm)

Gift of Isabel Carter Johnston Stewart (Class of 1961) in memory of Kathryn Hoffman (Class of 1983) 1999.9.8

© 2022 Estate of Hale Woodruff/Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY

Winifred Milius Lubell, *Newsboy*, 1935

Woodcut, Image: 8 1/4 in. x 5 1/4 in. (21 cm x 13.3 cm); sheet: 12 in. x 9 3/4 in. (30.5 cm x 24.8 cm),

Gift of Alaric Naiman in memory of Adeline Lubell and Mark Lewis Naiman 2019.1343

Courtesy of the artist's estate.

Media Contact: Mary Agnew

617-512-7489, Magnew@wellesley.edu

High-resolution images and interviews available upon request