



THE BARNES FOUNDATION

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Museum of Art

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The Fabric Workshop
and Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PHILADELPHIA CULTURAL PARTNERS ANNOUNCE ISAAC JULIEN FILM SCREENINGS & EXHIBITIONS

***Constellation of programming to celebrate Isaac Julien: Once Again . . .
(Statues Never Die), featuring newly commissioned immersive film
installation for Barnes Foundation centennial***

Philadelphia, PA, June 6, 2022—In celebration of [*Isaac Julien: Once Again . . . \(Statues Never Die\)*](#) at the Barnes Foundation—a new immersive film installation by artist and filmmaker Sir Isaac Julien, CBE RA, commissioned for the Barnes’s centennial—cultural partners across Philadelphia, including The Fabric Workshop and Museum; Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania & BlackStar Projects; and the Philadelphia Museum of Art are presenting film screenings and exhibitions of Isaac Julien’s work throughout the summer and beyond.

Programming kicks off **Monday, June 13, at 6 pm**, with a screening of Julien’s landmark 1989 film ***Looking for Langston***, presented by the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) as part of the programmatic series *Poetic Cinema: Isaac Julien and the Sankofa Film and Video Collective* that ICA has curated with Penn Live Arts at the Annenberg Center and BlackStar Projects. Taking place at the Harold Prince Theatre, Penn Live Arts, Annenberg Center, this free screening will be accompanied by a conversation with Isaac Julien and Kaja Silverman, Katherine Stein Sachs CW’69 and Keith L. Sachs W’67 Professor Emerita of Art History at the University of Pennsylvania, and Ja’Tovia Gary, artist and filmmaker. In Julien’s new installation *Once Again . . . (Statues Never Die)*, the artist revisits themes he approached in *Looking for Langston* and continues his exploration of the queer subculture of the Harlem Renaissance in his reflection on the relationship between philosopher Alain Locke and sculptor Richmond Barthé.

A full list of programming is below and on the [website](#).

The Barnes Foundation

[*Isaac Julien: Once Again . . . \(Statues Never Die\)*](#)

June 19–September 4, 2022

On view in the Roberts Gallery, *Isaac Julien: Once Again . . . (Statues Never Die)* features a five-screen installation that explores the relationship between Dr. Albert C. Barnes, Barnes Foundation founder and early US collector and exhibitor of African material culture, and the famed philosopher and cultural critic Alain Locke, known as the Father of the Harlem Renaissance. Drawing on Julien’s extensive research in the archives of the Barnes Foundation,

the film explores the reciprocal impact of Locke's political philosophy and cultural organizing activities, and Dr. Barnes's pioneering art collecting and democratic, inclusive educational enterprise.

The exhibition also examines the display and significance of African material culture in western art museums. Imagining his installation as a form of what he calls "poetic restitution," Julien also alludes to contemporary restitution debates, specifically as they relate to works looted in the Benin Expedition of 1897, in which British troops destroyed the centuries-old Kingdom of Benin. *Once Again . . . (Statues Never Die)* joins contemporary debates around colonialism and the display of African material culture in European museums with recourse to the 1953 film by Chris Marker and Alain Resnais, *Les statues meurent aussi (Statues Also Die)*, a groundbreaking work that was banned soon after its debut in France for its anti-colonial sentiment but raised important questions about the acquisition and display of African works in European museums. Combining an original script written by Isaac Julien and Martina Klich with recently discovered archival footage from the 1970 film *You Hide Me* by Nii Kwate Owoo, which drew attention to African material culture stored in the British Museum, *Once Again . . . (Statues Never Die)* engages with current restitution debates.

Once Again . . . (Statues Never Die) stars actor André Holland (*Moonlight* and *Passing*) as Alain Locke, Danny Huston (*Succession* and *Marlowe*) as Dr. Barnes, rising star Devon Terrell (Barack Obama in *Barry*) as sculptor Richmond Barthé, and Sharlene Whyte (*Small Axe* and *Lessons of the Hour*) as the Curator. It also features a special appearance by singer and songwriter Alice Smith.

Created and directed by Isaac Julien, and co-written with Martina Klich, *Once Again . . . (Statues Never Die)* is commissioned by the Barnes Foundation and the Ford Foundation, with additional support from the Sharjah Art Foundation, Linda Pace Foundation, Carol Weinbaum, and the University of California, Santa Cruz. This exhibition is presented at the Barnes Foundation and curated by Thom Collins, Neubauer Family Executive Director and President. Advisers to the project are Dan Hicks, Professor of Contemporary Archaeology at the University of Oxford and Curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum; Jeffrey C. Stewart, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke* and MacArthur Foundation Chair and Distinguished Professor of Black Studies at UC Santa Barbara; curator, filmmaker, and writer Mark Nash; and Chika Okeke-Agulu, a Nigerian-born artist and scholar based in Princeton, New Jersey. The work is executive produced by Mark Nash and produced by Andrew Fierberg and Angie Daniell.

The Fabric Workshop and Museum

[In Focus: Isaac Julien](#)

August 16, 2022–April 23, 2023

On view in the First Floor Gallery, *In Focus: Isaac Julien* presents a selection of works from the museum's permanent collection displayed in conversation with Julien's *Paradise (Omeros) #2*, a photographic multiple created for The Fabric Workshop and Museum in 2002. Gifted by the artist in honor of our institution's 25th anniversary, this triptych of still images was pulled from Julien's three-channel video, *Paradise Omeros*. Loosely based on Derek Walcott's poem "Omeros" (1990), the film explores themes of diaspora and mixed identities between St. Lucia and London through the protagonist, Achilles.

In addition, *In Focus: Isaac Julien* examines the transformations of self and community through a selection of works by past artists-in-residence Nick Cave, Robert Pruitt, Betye Saar, and Alison Saar, expanding on themes such as folklore, spirituality, feminism, colonial violence, and Afrofuturism. Supporting these works is archival material from Keith Piper and Yinka Shonibare. Focusing on the voices of Black British and American artists, each work reflects a penetrating and sometimes visceral response informed by experiences living in Caribbean and African diasporic

communities. This exhibition is organized by the curatorial team of Christina Roberts, Christina Vassallo, and Francesca Zwang.

Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania

Poetic Cinema: Isaac Julien and the Sankofa Film and Video Collective

Curated by Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Live Arts at the Annenberg Center, and BlackStar Projects.

A programmatic series of three works, developed in concert with artist and filmmaker Isaac Julien, from the Sankofa Film and Video Collective screened in person at Penn Live Arts at the Annenberg Center. Each screening will be accompanied by a conversation between a scholar and artist or filmmaker providing context and building on the works presented.

[*Looking for Langston*](#) (1989, 46 min)

June 13, 2022, 6 pm

Harold Prince Theatre, Penn Live Arts, Annenberg Center

Guest speakers in conversation: Isaac Julien, artist and filmmaker; Kaja Silverman, Katherine Stein Sachs CW'69 and Keith L. Sachs W'67 Professor Emerita of Art History at the University of Pennsylvania; and Ja'Tovia Gary, artist and filmmaker.

[*Territories*](#) (1984, 26 min) and [*Who Killed Colin Roach*](#) (1983, 34 min)

July 11, 2022, 6 pm

Harold Prince Theatre, Penn Live Arts, Annenberg Center

Guest speakers in conversation: Maori Karmael Holmes, CEO & Artistic Director of BlackStar Projects, and Thomas Allen Harris, Senior Lecturer, African American Studies & Film and Media Studies, Yale University.

[*The Passion of Remembrance*](#) (1986, 1 hr 23 min), newly restored and premiering as a 4K version

August 3, 2022, 2 pm

In conjunction with the BlackStar Film Festival.

Harold L. Zellerbach Theatre, Penn Live Arts, Annenberg Center

Guest speakers in conversation: Karen Alexander, writer, educator, and freelance curator, and Louis Massiah, documentary filmmaker and founder/director of Scribe Video Center.

All screenings are free and open to the public. Registration is required.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art

Lina Bo Bardi—A Marvellous Entanglement (2019)

January 2023

A nine-screen video installation that explores the life, work, and legacy of the Italian-Brazilian modernist architect Lina Bo Bardi (1914–1992). Reimagined by Isaac Julien specifically for the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Williams Forum, *A Marvellous Entanglement* considers architecture, nonlinear histories, memory, and diaspora.

RELATED PROGRAMMING:

THE BARNES FOUNDATION

Public Programs:

[**Barnes on the Block**](#)

Sunday, June 19, 4–9 pm

Presented by PNC Arts Alive and in partnership with Mural Arts Philadelphia, Barnes on the Block returns for another round of outdoor fun for the entire family. This year's event coincides with Juneteenth, Father's Day, and the opening of *Isaac Julien: Once Again . . . (Statues Never Die)*. Meet us on the Parkway for visual art displays, live performances, food trucks, a beer garden, and more.

First Friday!

Friday, July 1, 6–9 pm

Enjoy an evening of art, live music, cocktails, and light fare at our monthly First Friday! mixer. Tonight's event features pianist and composer Guthrie Ramsey leading "The Renaissance, Refried," a multimedia performance revisiting Harlem Renaissance–era repertoire with a contemporary twist.

PECO Free First Sunday Family Day

Sunday, July 3, 10 am–5 pm

It's the first Sunday of the month, which means free admission at the Barnes! This month, we're partnering with the [Blockson Afro-American Collection](#) at Temple University—highlighting their graphic novel and exhibition *BLAM! (Black Lives Always Mattered)*. Look between the lines and find hidden stories in our galleries and learn more with our fun family activities. Plus, see the collection in our main galleries and visit our special exhibition, [Isaac Julien: Once Again . . . \(Statues Never Die\)](#). PECO Free First Family Day is part of Wawa Welcome America's [Free Museum Days](#).

Education Initiatives:

Online Class: Understanding Video Art

Instructor: Matthew C. Feliz, Lecturer, Bryn Mawr College

Wednesdays, July 6–27, 6–8 pm

Explore key works of video art and learn about the theories behind them. This is a four-week class that takes place online.

Workshop: Isaac Julien In Focus

Instructor: TK Smith, curator and writer

Tuesday, August 2, 10 am–4 pm

This one-day workshop, at the Barnes, explores key works in Julien's oeuvre leading up to *Once Again . . . (Statues Never Die)*. Students will have access to the exhibition.

Community Engagement:

Barnes West

Barnes Presents! Harlem Renaissance in Review

August 18, 5:30 pm

Jazz performance at Saunders Park in West Philadelphia featuring classic Harlem Renaissance standards.

THE FABRIC WORKSHOP & MUSEUM

In Focus: Tour and Archive Visit

Friday, August 26, 5:30–6:30 pm

Unpack a selection of artist boxes that reveal the process, materials, and stories behind past collaborations with artists that expand upon themes present in the exhibition *In Focus: Isaac Julien*, including folklore, spirituality, feminism, colonial violence, and Afrofuturism. Space is limited. Reservations required.

First Friday: Halftone Prints

Friday, September 2, 4–6 pm

At FWM, we owe a lot to the photographic process. To screenprint in our studios, we use photo-emulsion that allows us to translate detailed digital, photographic, and hand-drawn imagery into prints. Join us in the studio to learn how the photographic halftone is made and screenprint your own with prepared imagery.

ABOUT ISAAC JULIEN

Sir [Isaac Julien](#), CBE RA (b. London, 1960), is a filmmaker and installation artist who currently lives and works between London and California. His multiscreen film installations and

photographs incorporate different artistic disciplines to create a poetic and unique visual language. His 1989 documentary-drama exploring author Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance, titled *Looking for Langston*, garnered Julien a cult following, while his 1991 debut feature, *Young Soul Rebels*, won the Semaine de la Critique prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Julien has participated in the Venice Biennale; the Gwangju Biennale, South Korea; Prospect 1, New Orleans; Performa 07, New York; and documenta 11, Kassel, Germany. His work is held in significant collections around the world. Julien has taught extensively, holding posts such as Chair of Global Art at University of the Arts London (2014–16) and Professor of Media Art at Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung, Karlsruhe, Germany (2008–16). He is the recipient of the James Robert Brudner '83 Memorial Prize and Lectures at Yale University (2016). He received the Charles Wollaston Award in 2017 for most distinguished work at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, and in 2018 he was made a Royal Academician. Julien was awarded the title Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's birthday honors, 2017. In 2022, he was awarded the prestigious Goslarer Kaiserring Award.

Isaac Julien is Distinguished Professor of the Arts at the **University of California, Santa Cruz, where he leads the Isaac Julien Lab together with critic and curator Mark Nash. The Isaac Julien Lab** was designed to mirror the Isaac Julien Studio in London and is a platform where students learn about the strategies behind the production of moving images, photographic works, exhibitions, and publications. The Lab aims to create innovative pedagogical methodologies, visual and sonic languages for production, exhibition, and installation while examining the various aspects that concern contemporary artists and curators working in the field of media art and moving image, in relationship to current modes of research, development, exhibition, production, and scenography of moving image artworks.

SPONSORS

This exhibition at the Barnes is sponsored by



This exhibition is made possible by Agnes Gund, Emily and Mike Cavanagh, Marjorie Ogilvie and Miller Parker, Brenda A. and Larry D. Thompson, Darrell and Melene Ford, and Ronald Blaylock.

Generous support for exhibitions comes from the Christine and Michael Angelakis Exhibition Fund, the Jill and Sheldon Bonovitz Exhibition Fund, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Christine and George Henisee Exhibition Fund, and Aileen and Brian Roberts.

In addition, support for all exhibitions comes from contributors to the Barnes Foundation Exhibition Fund:

Joan Carter and John Agliodoro, Julia and David Fleischner, Leigh and John Middleton, Jeanette and Joe Neubauer

John Alchin and Hal Marryatt, Jill and Sheldon Bonovitz, Lois and Julian Brodsky, N. Judith Broudy, Laura and Bill Buck, Elaine W. Camarda and A. Morris Williams, Jr., Eugene and Michelle Dubay, Penelope P. Harris, Jones & Wajahat Family, Lisa D. Kabnick and John H. McFadden, Marguerite Lenfest, Maribeth and Steven Lerner, Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Foundation, Hilarie and Mitchell Morgan, The Park Family, The Rittenhouse Hotel, Adele K. Schaeffer, Katie and Tony Schaeffer, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene E. Stark, Joan F. Thalheimer, Bruce and Robbi Toll, van Beuren Charitable Foundation, The Victory Foundation, Kirsten White, Anonymous.

About the Barnes Foundation

The Barnes Foundation is a nonprofit cultural and educational institution that shares its unparalleled art collection with the public, organizes special exhibitions, and presents programming that fosters new ways of thinking about human creativity. The Barnes collection is displayed in ensembles that integrate art and objects from across cultures and time periods, overturning traditional hierarchies and revealing universal elements of human expression. Home to one of the world’s finest collections of impressionist, post-impressionist, and modern paintings—including the largest groups of paintings by Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Cézanne in existence—the Barnes brings together renowned canvases by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Amedeo Modigliani, and Vincent van Gogh, alongside African, Asian, ancient, medieval, and Native American art as well as metalwork, furniture, and decorative art.

The Barnes Foundation was established by Dr. Albert C. Barnes in 1922 to “promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture.” A visionary collector and pioneering educator, Dr. Barnes was also a fierce advocate for the civil rights of African Americans, women, and the economically marginalized. Committed to racial equality and social justice, he established a scholarship program to support young Black artists, writers, and musicians who wanted to further their education. Dr. Barnes was deeply interested in African American culture and became actively involved in the Harlem Renaissance, during which he collaborated with philosopher Alain Locke and Charles S. Johnson, the scholar and activist, to promote awareness of the artistic value of African art.

Since moving to Philadelphia in 2012, the Barnes Foundation has expanded its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and social justice, teaching visual literacy in groundbreaking ways; investing in original scholarship relating to its collection; and enhancing accessibility throughout every facet of its programs.

The Barnes Foundation is situated in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape people. *Read our [Land Acknowledgment](#).*

Hours and ticket prices are listed on our [website](#).

About BlackStar Projects

BlackStar Projects is the producer of the BlackStar Film Festival, an annual celebration of the visual and storytelling traditions of the African diaspora and global communities of color—showcasing films by Black, Brown, and Indigenous people from around the world. In addition to the acclaimed festival, BlackStar presents a myriad of programming across film and visual culture year-round, including the twice-annual journal *Seen*, the podcast *Many Lumens*, and the Philadelphia Filmmaker Lab, among other initiatives.

About The Fabric Workshop and Museum

The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art museum devoted to the creation, presentation, and preservation of innovative works of art. Its mission—“Collaborating with artists, revealing new possibilities”—embodies a 45-year

commitment to helping artists experiment with the expressive possibilities of a broad spectrum of new materials and techniques. Through its renowned artist-in-residence program, FWM provides artists at all stages of their careers with the opportunity to collaborate with its studio staff and take their work in fresh and often unexpected directions. FWM presents large-scale exhibitions, installations, and performative work, utilizing innovative fiber and other media including sculpture, installation, video, painting, photography, ceramics, and architecture. Founded in 1977, FWM brings this spirit of creative investigation and discovery to an eager audience, broadening access to art and advancing its role as a catalyst for innovation and social connection.

About the Institute of Contemporary Art | University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania (ICA) was founded to champion new and underrecognized artists and ideas. That same spirit of experimentation and possibility continues to guide our work today. ICA has for almost 60 years been the region's premier hub of contemporary art. We develop projects at the intersection of interdisciplinary artistic practice that encourage an exchange of ideas on art and society. Through exhibitions, commissions, events, publications, and special projects, we support international and local artists across disciplines in making ambitious projects and furthering new directions in their practices and in the field. We are committed to our audiences having access to impactful experiences and supporting meaningful connections with art and artists. Issues of equity, inclusion, and social justice are core to our mission, and we advocate for artists, research, and dialogues that contextualize and resonate with the sociopolitical conditions of our time. Located within the University of Pennsylvania, we share the university's history and commitment to experimental research and discovery and believe in supporting the next generation of imaginative and creative thinkers through student-led projects, career development opportunities, and collaborations across fields of inquiry at Penn and beyond. We care about building relationships with our community that contribute to and strengthen the cultural life of the University of Pennsylvania and our city.

About the Philadelphia Museum of Art

We are Philadelphia's art museum. A world-renowned collection. A landmark building. A place that welcomes everyone. We bring the arts to life, inspiring visitors—through scholarly study and creative play—to discover the spirit of imagination that lies in everyone. We connect people with the arts in rich and varied ways, making the experience of the Museum surprising, lively, and always memorable. We are committed to inviting visitors to see the world—and themselves—afresh through the beauty and expressive power of the arts.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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