



STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

Case Study

Max Smyth

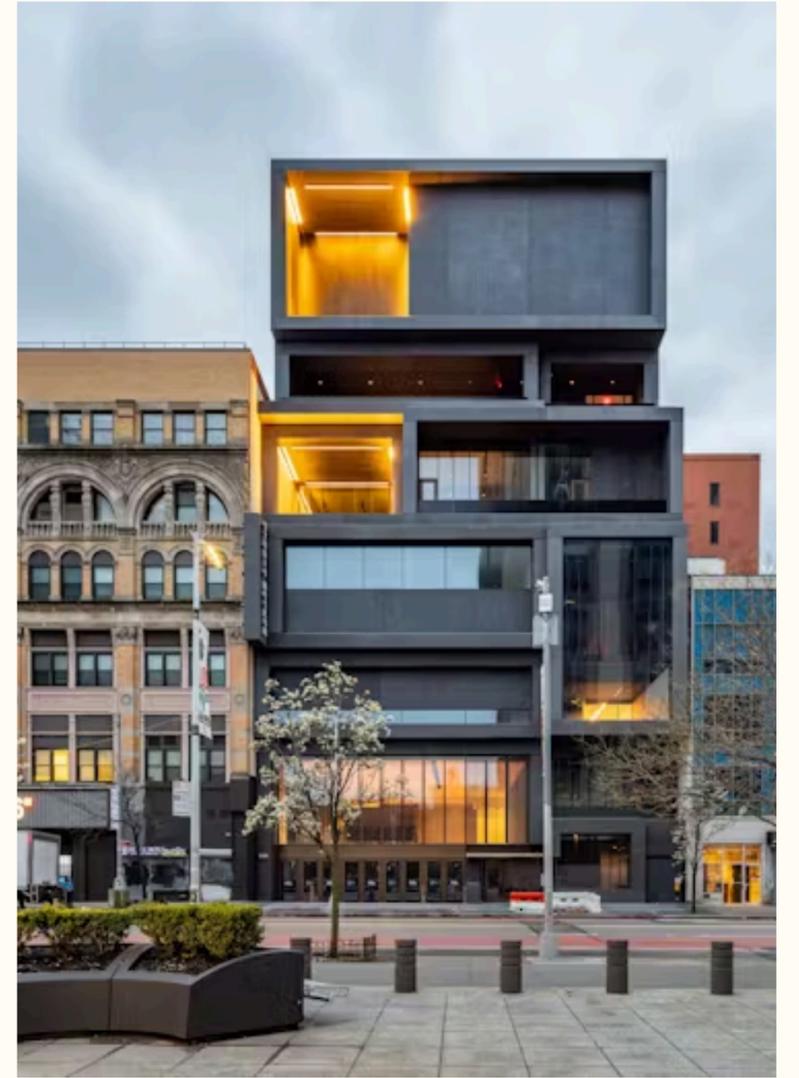




1968



2020



2025

**STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM
144 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027**

HISTORY

THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM IS THE NEXUS FOR ARTISTS OF AFRICAN DESCENT LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND INTERNATIONALLY, AND FOR WORK THAT HAS BEEN INSPIRED AND INFLUENCED BY BLACK CULTURE. IT IS A SITE FOR THE DYNAMIC EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ABOUT ART AND SOCIETY.

ORIGINALLY, THE MUSEUM WAS AT A LOFT ON 2033 FIFTH AVE IN 1968.

LATER IN 1985, AN ADJACENT LOT AT 142 WEST 125TH BEGAN WORK ON THE MUSEUM'S NEW LOCATION. ADDED SPACE, A THEATER, AND LOBBY SPACE WERE INCLUDED IN THE NEW BUILDING.

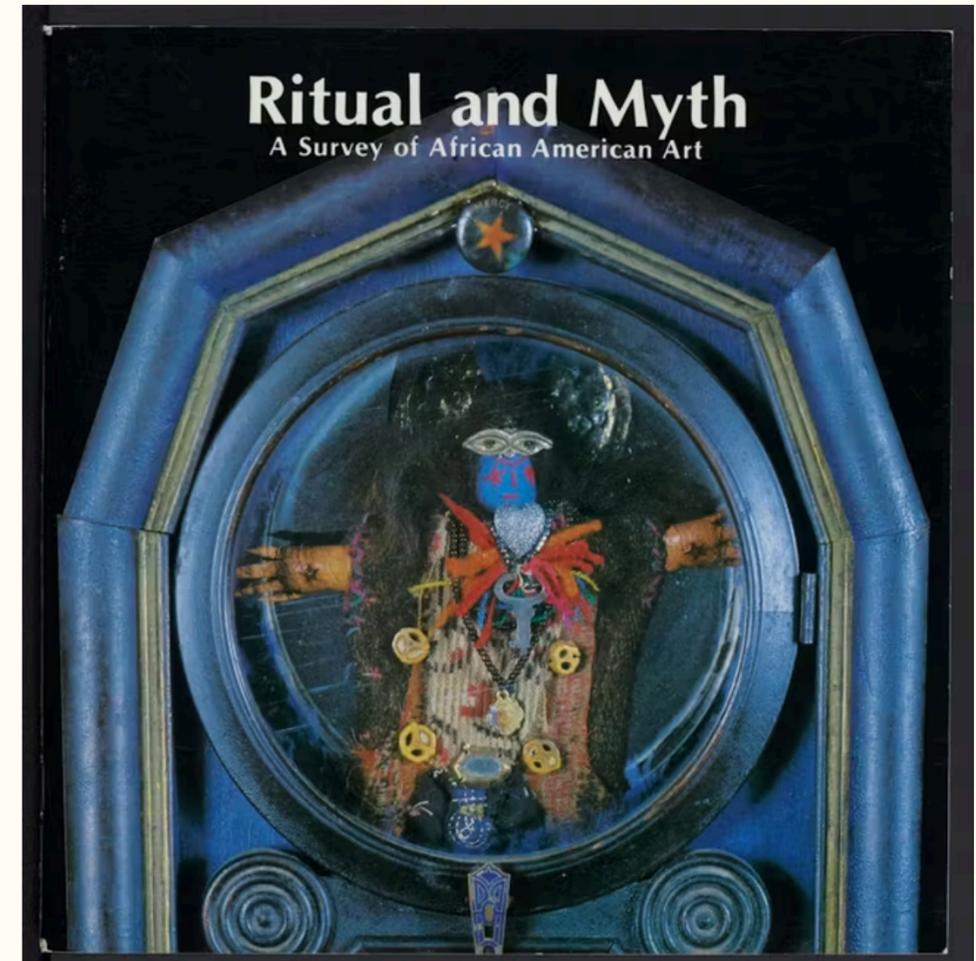
NEW BUILDING PROJECT BEGINS IN THE FALL OF 2018. DESIGNED TO FIT THE NEEDS OF THE INSTITUTION AND ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

WHAT IS AT STAKE

THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM IS NOT ONLY A CULTURAL LANDMARK, BUT IT ALSO REPRESENTS GENERATIONS OF BLACK ARTISTS WORK. WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE MUSEUM, A LOT OF EMERGING ARTISTS WOULD STRUGGLE TO GET THEIR WORK OUT. IT IS A MUSEUM EMBEDDED IN HARLEM'S COMMUNITY OFFERING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INTERNSHIPS, AND PUBLIC EVENTS THAT NURTURE LOCAL PRIDE AND CREATIVITY.



TITUS KAPHAR, LOST IN SHADOWS, 2014. OIL ON CANVAS. STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM; BEQUEST OF PEGGY COOPER CAFRITZ (1947-2018), WASHINGTON, D.C. COLLECTOR, EDUCATOR, AND ACTIVIST 2018.40.145



COVER OF RITUAL AND MYTH: A SURVEY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART BROCHURE

Black Refractions



BLACK REFRACTIONS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM (INSTALLATION VIEW) AT THE UTAH MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, SALT LAKE CITY, UT, JANUARY 23, 2021–APRIL 10, 2021. ORGANIZED BY THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS AND THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE UTAH MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS.

RADICALLY PRESERVING

RADICALLY PRESERVING THIS MUSEUM MEANS MORE THAN JUST KEEPING THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM STANDING.

THE ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK THAT WENT THROUGH THIS SPACE SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY ARCHIVED AND PRESERVED NOT ONLY ITS ARCHITECTURE BUT ALSO ITS EXHIBITIONS, ARTISTS, AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

RATHER THAN TYING ITS MEANING TO ONE BUILDING, SPREAD ITS PRESENCE THROUGHOUT HARLEM. MURALS, POPUP GALLERIES.

IN ESSENCE, TO RADICALLY PRESERVE THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM MEANS PRESERVING NOT JUST A BUILDING, BUT A MOVEMENT—A LIVING INSTITUTION THAT CARRIES FORWARD BLACK ART, HARLEM'S VOICE, AND THE MUSEUM'S ROLE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND CULTURE.