

Bill Hodges Gallery

CONTACT:

Navindren Hodges
(212) 333-2640
info@billhodgesgallery.com
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Masterworks of the African Diaspora

A Historic Selection of Works at the Hamptons Fine Art Fair

Booth #205
Hamptons Fine Art Fair
605 County Road 39
Southampton, NY 11968
13 July – 16 July 2023

SOUTHAMPTON, NY, Our gallery is pleased to participate in the 2023 Hamptons Fine Art Fair, exhibiting a selection of paintings, drawings, photographs, and sculptures produced by highly significant artists of the African Diaspora. These masterworks constitute a celebration of the historic accolades that these artists have accomplished throughout their careers, and are a commemoration of their continued contributions to the contemporary art genre – from paintings by Norman Lewis and Wifredo Lam to sculptures by Agustín Cárdenas, Elizabeth Catlett, and others, the careful vetting of works curated for this fair comprise the highest caliber of artistic achievement in the gallery's forty-year collection.

The show-stopping highlight of our exhibition space is Norman Lewis' titanic masterwork, *Exodus*. Lewis' exuberant, museum-scale painting, *Exodus*, immediately captures the viewer's gaze. One of the few heroically-scaled works Lewis composed in his lifetime; we are honored to exhibit it here in this venue. *Exodus* is a vibrantly dynamic, eye-catching example of the artist's ability to balance abstraction, storytelling, rhythm, and repetition in his large-scale works. Like a congregation united in motion, the abstracted figures in *Exodus* seem to buzz in harmony; with electric yellows activated against a hazy, charcoal grey background. Notice the silhouettes of a crowd, whose stomping, abstracted feet and painted gestures towards wide-open eyes energize the rhythm of this composition. Norman Lewis, a pioneer of Abstract Expressionist art, is known for his artistic agility across mediums and dimension. At the onset of his career, his work was largely characterized as influenced by social realism. Like his contemporaries, Lewis saw art as an opportunity to directly engage with civil rights discourse of the time. However, as early as 1945, Lewis' aesthetic became increasingly abstract, his proclivity towards referencing dynamics facing the Black community never waned, evidenced in the organizing spirit at the forefront of *Exodus*. Although he



Norman Lewis (1909 – 1979)

Exodus, 1972
Oil on Canvas
72 x 88 ½ in.
(182.9 x 224.8 cm)

Bill Hodges Gallery

passed in 1979, Lewis' life's work is only now beginning to receive proper recognition, celebrated for its lively, dynamic, and facile handling of space, color, and history.

Another important work showcased in the gallery's booth is Richard Hunt's highly significant *Winged Hybrid* (1973), pictured to the right. Richard Hunt's body of work stands as a celebration of abstracted form and figuration, with unique silhouettes that bend and capture light from all angles of viewing. His sculptures are renowned for their fine balance of delicate, outstretched scions, often welded to a dense, angular base. Many of Hunt's works contain parts derived from automobiles and assorted industrial elements; which imbue his compositions with a blend of organic and mechanical references; comprising triumphant shapes in space, finished with premier welding. Hunt's attention to fine art, material and texture is exemplified in *Winged Hybrid* (1973), a phenomenal work of sculptural genius assembled from automobile parts and welded into a luminous, curving silhouette. Produced fifty years ago, this museum-caliber work is a profound example of Hunt's insightful craftsmanship. From the smooth shine of light glinting off the edge of steel to the captivating gradation of color on chrome, Hunt's brilliance with regard to compositional balance with wrought metals remains unparalleled. Luminous from all angles, *Winged Hybrid* is a profound instance of sculptural virtuosity.



Richard Hunt (1935 –)
Winged Hybrid, 1973
Welded Chrome
28 x 16 x 12 ½ in.
(71.1 x 40.6 x 31.8 cm)

Richard Hunt remains a premier African American abstract sculptor, with over 150 public art commissions over the country located in over twenty-four states and Washington D.C. His canon of art spans decades, genres, disciplines, and institutions.

Our exhibition at the Hamptons Fine Art Fair contains twenty-six works of artistic vision. *Masterworks of the African Diaspora* crystallizes the diversity in perspective and practice displayed by artists in the gallery's collection. This profound selection of works stands as a testament to the gallery's ongoing advocacy on behalf of underrepresented artists of the Black art genre. In addition to the artists previously mentioned, this exhibition also features works by **Charles Alston (1907 – 1977)**, **Romare Bearden (1911 – 1988)**, **Agustín Cárdenas (1927 – 2001)**, **Elizabeth Catlett (1915 – 2012)**, **Eldzier Cortor (1916 – 2015)**, **Beauford Delaney (1901 – 1979)**, **Melvin Edwards (1937 –)**, **Richard Hunt (1935 –)**, **Wifredo Lam (1902 – 1982)**, **Jacob Lawrence (1917 – 2000)**, **Zanele Muholi (1972 –)**, **Howardena Pindell (1943 –)**, and **Stanley Whitney (1946 –)**.

Bill Hodges Gallery's participation in the Hamptons Fine Art Fair is accompanied by a full-color catalogue of the same name, which is available at our booth, #205.

Bill Hodges Gallery
