

BILL HODGES GALLERY

CONTACT:

Navindren Hodges

(212) 333-2640

info@billhodgesgallery.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On The Wall

22 September – 8 October 2022

529 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011

NEW YORK, NY, September 22 – Bill Hodges Gallery is pleased to present *On The Wall*, a survey exhibition of striking works that exemplify the rich variety of artwork housed in the gallery's more than forty-year collection. From Romare Bearden's colorful and intimate portrait of domesticity, *The Family*, to Kara Walker's monochromatic silhouetted scene, *Chain of Events*, *On The Wall* encapsulates the dynamism of the modern and contemporary art genre, brimming with historical and political significance. With visually arresting works that feature varying levels of abstraction, realism, scale and dimension, *On The Wall* provides a compelling vignette of the important works produced by Black and Latinx artists.



Norman Lewis (1909-1979)
Exodus, 1972
Oil on Canvas
72 x 88 ½ in. (182.9 x 224.8 cm)

Upon entering the gallery, Norman Lewis' exuberant, large-scale behemoth, *Exodus*, immediately captures the viewer's gaze. The largest painting included in the exhibition, *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.

Adjacent to *Exodus* is Merton Simpson's nuanced and profound painting, *Confrontation*. *Confrontation* is an exceptional example of the artist's meditation on race relations in the late 1960s – emerging from the artist's *Confrontation* series. Simpson's *Confrontation* series can be characterized by paintings that depict black and white faces inter-meshed and gridlocked in a charged encounter. In the above work, the profile of two abstracted faces clash, both with bared teeth sharpened to a point. Though the facial features of the figures in this painting are softened by muted sepia tones, highlights accenting their tense brow lines and proud chins energize the work with streaks of crimson, viridian, and cobalt.



Merton D. Simpson (1928-2013)
Confrontation, 1974
Oil on Canvas
24 ½ x 19 ½ in.

With over twenty works of masterful artistic vision, *On The Wall* crystallizes the diversity in perspective and practice displayed by artists in the gallery's collection. In addition to the artists previously mentioned, *On The Wall* also features works by **Charles Alston (1907 – 1977)**, **Charles Sebree (1944 – 1985)**, **Melvin Edwards (1937 -)**, **Will Barnet (1911 – 2012)**, **Richard Hunt (1935 -)**,

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Milton Avery (1885 – 1965), Bernard Buffet (1928 – 1999), Eldzier Cortor (1916 – 2015), Lyle Ashton Harris (1965-), Miguel Covarrubias (1904 – 1957), Angel Botello (1913 – 1986), Willie Cole (1955 -), and Richard Dempsey (1909-1987).

Bill Hodges Gallery is located at 529 W. 20th Street, suite #10E, between 10th Avenue and 11th Avenue. Our closest subway stations are 14th St. & 8th Ave. (A-C-E) and 23rd St. & 8th Ave. (C-E). The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 11 AM – 6 PM. Saturday from 12:30 PM – 5:30 PM. For more information or to arrange a private viewing, please contact the gallery at (212) 333-2640 or at info@billhodgesgallery.com.