

Victoria Miro

Isaac Julien: *Once Again... (Statues Never Die)*

The Armory Show

Booth 229, 5–8 September 2024



Isaac Julien
Diasporic Dream Space Diptych (Once Again... Statues Never Die), 2022
Inkjet print on Ilford Gold Fibre Gloss
Two panels. Each 130 x 140 cm, 51 1/8 x 55 1/8 in
© Isaac Julien
Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro

Victoria Miro is delighted to participate in The Armory Show (Booth 229) with a solo presentation of Isaac Julien's *Once Again... (Statues Never Die)*. A two-screen installation of Julien's highly acclaimed film is accompanied by associated photographic works including *Diasporic Dream Space Diptych*, on view in the US for the first time. The artist will take part in the keynote discussion of the seventh annual Curatorial Leadership Summit, chaired by Lauren Cornell, on Friday 6 September.

This presentation follows the recent inclusion of the five-screen installation of *Once Again... (Statues Never Die)* in the Whitney Biennial 2024 and celebrates two works by Julien – *Lessons of the Hour* and *Looking for Langston* – currently on view at MoMA, New York.

Once Again... (Statues Never Die) explores the relationship between Dr. Albert C. Barnes, who was an 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'. The work examines the significant and often neglected place of African objects in numerous collections of western art museums. Utilising poetic reparation and historical archives – 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 organising activities on Dr. Barnes's pioneering art collecting and his democratic, inclusive educational enterprise.

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 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. *Once Again... (Statues Never Die)* was commissioned by and premiered at the Barnes Foundation in 2022.

Aspects of the film are expanded upon in Julien's photographic works, which honour Locke's contribution to the arts while also inviting critical conversations around the African material culture that influenced the Black cultural movement.

‘This project explores Dr. Barnes and Alain Locke’s storied relationship, its mutually formative critical dialogue, and its significant impact on their work as cultural critics, educators, organisers, and activists on behalf of various African American causes.’ – Isaac Julien.

Additionally, the gallery will have works available to view by Yayoi Kusama, including new paintings which have never been seen before.

About Isaac Julien

Born in 1960, Isaac Julien lives and works in London and Santa Cruz, California. Recent international solo and group exhibitions include: Isaac Julien: *Lessons of the Hour*, MoMA, New York, USA (on view until 28 September 2024); Isaac Julien: *Once Again... (Statues Never Die)*, Whitney Biennale, Whitney Museum of American Art, USA; Isaac Julien: *Ten Thousand Waves*, Espace Louis Vuitton Osaka, Japan; *Entangled Pasts, 1768–now*, Royal Academy, London, UK; Isaac Julien: *Lessons of the Hour - Frederick Douglass*, Tang Teaching Museum, New York, USA; *A Model*, Mudam – The Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg; *Soulsapes*, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, UK (all 2024); Isaac Julien: *What Freedom Is To Me*, Tate Britain, London, UK; touring to K21, Germany; Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, Netherlands (2023–2024); Isaac Julien: *Lessons of the Hour - Frederick Douglass*, National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. USA; Isaac Julien: *Lessons of the Hour - Frederick Douglass*, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Oregon, USA; *I Am Seen... Therefore, I Am: Isaac Julien and Frederick Douglass*, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Connecticut, USA; Isaac Julien: *PLAYTIME*, PalaisPopulaire, Germany; Isaac Julien: *Lina Bo Bardi – A Marvellous Entanglement*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA; Isaac Julien: *Lina Bo Bardi – A Marvellous Entanglement*, Yale School of Architecture, Connecticut, USA (all 2023); Isaac Julien: *Once Again... (Statues Never Die)*, Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, USA; Isaac Julien: *Lessons of the Hour - Frederick Douglass*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, USA; Isaac Julien, *Goslar Kaiserring*, Mönchehaus Museum, Goslar, Germany; *Details of Regeneration: Black Cinema 1898 – 1971*, Academy Museum, Los Angeles, USA; *Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 1950s-Now*, Tate Britain, London, UK, touring to the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada (2022–2023).

In 2024, Julien was elected as a Fellow of The British Academy.

In 2023, Julien was ranked fifth in the Art Review ‘Power 100’ list.

In 2022, Julien received a Knighthood in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for the Platinum Jubilee year and was honoured with the esteemed Kaiserring Goslar Award.

In 2019, Julien was appointed to the faculty of the University of California, Santa Cruz. Julien and independent curator and writer Mark Nash, the former head of contemporary art at the Royal College of Art in London, developed the Isaac Julien Lab at the UC Santa Cruz campus, which provides students with the opportunity to assist Julien and Nash with project research and the production of moving image and photographic works in California and London.

In 2017, Julien was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the Arts in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List and was the recipient of The Royal Academy of Arts Charles Wollaston Award.

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