

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art presents
*The Cultivators: Highlights from the Kinsey African American
Art and History Collection***



Saturday, January 15 – Sunday, March 27, 2022

Press Preview: Friday, January 14 at 11 AM

Pepperdine University's Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art presents the exhibition
The Cultivators: Highlights from the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection,

featuring masterful works of art, photographs, rare books, letters, and manuscripts that chronicle the achievements and contributions of African Americans over the last five centuries. Curated by Khalil Kinsey and Larry Earl, *The Cultivators* includes some of the collection's signature objects, which have traveled the globe to more than 30 venues over the last 15 years, along with works that have never before been shown publicly. Marking the first hometown presentation of the Kinsey Collection since 2007, *The Cultivators* will be on view at the Weisman Museum of Art from January 15 to March 27, 2022, and will be accompanied by a full slate of public programs, including an opening day celebration on February 19, 2022.

Representing the intersection between art and history, the exhibition covers the lives, accomplishments, and artistry of African Americans from the 16th century through the years of slavery and emancipation, to the Civil Rights Movement and up to the present day. Important objects include bills of sale, advertisements, letters, and legal papers documenting the slave trade; hand-colored tintypes from the Civil War era; art and literature from the Harlem Renaissance; and items spotlighting key moments in the Civil Rights Movement, which are linked in this presentation to the story of the 1963 student protests at Florida A&M University. Bernard and Shirley Kinsey began their journey together at Florida A&M before eventually settling in California, where they both earned graduate degrees from Pepperdine University and raised a son, Khalil, who now serves as chief operating officer and chief curator of the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection and Foundation.

"We are proud to be hosting the Kinsey Collection here at Pepperdine," said Pepperdine University president Jim Gash. "Bernard and Shirley Kinsey rank among our most prestigious alumni and are venerated for their leadership in both business and education. We look forward to how this exhibition will facilitate greater understanding and appreciation for African American contributions and achievements to our nation's history, as well as foster increased community between Pepperdine and the city of L.A."

The Kinseys' art collection reflects their journey of self-discovery, respective upbringings, and shared experiences. Discovering new places and ideas through travel has shaped their vision of themselves as cultural caretakers of Black history and culture, charged with sharing it with the world. *The Cultivators* charts a history of African American art through more than 30 exemplary works by celebrated figures, including Ernie Barnes, John Biggers, Bisa Butler, Elizabeth Catlett, Robert S. Duncanson, Sam Gilliam, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Augusta Savage, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Alma Thomas, Charles White, and many more.

The Kinseys believe their collection helps give a well-rounded look at the African American experience and the integral roles African Americans played in building this country, providing new perspectives on chapters of the nation's history which have been ignored—a phenomenon Bernard Kinsey calls “the myth of absence,” borrowing a phrase coined by scholar Lerone Bennett Jr. “We see ourselves as stewards and caretakers of this collection, and it is incumbent upon us to share these stories, this history—American history—with as many people as possible in as many places as possible,” Shirley Kinsey said. “Through our collection, we honor our ancestors who were lost, stolen, left behind, but not forgotten. The journey continues.”

PRESS PREVIEW

Friday, January 14, 11 AM – 1 PM

Advance registration is required; please contact Tyler Flynn (tyler.flynn@pepperdine.edu) for more information.

OPENING CELEBRATION

The public opening for *The Cultivators* will take place on Saturday, February 19, 2022, from noon to 5 PM, with exhibition tours, and outdoor food trucks, live music, and activities for children and families. The Kinsey family will lecture on “The Myth of Absence” in Elkins Auditorium at 3 PM. The day-long celebration is free of charge and open to the general public; [advance registration](#) is required.

CATALOG

A richly illustrated book with a foreword by Douglas A. Blackmon, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*, accompanies the exhibition and will be available for sale at the Weisman Museum front desk.

ORGANIZATION

The Cultivators: Highlights from the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection is organized by the Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Arts & Education and KBK Enterprises, Incorporated.

The Kinsey African American Art and History Collection and Foundation is one of the preeminent institutions dedicated to the research, interpretation, and presentation of the African American experience internationally. As a sought-after educational resource with nationwide institutional partnerships, kindergarten through college, the Kinsey Foundation assists academic and cultural institutions with increasing public awareness about African American history and culture. The foundation's work is executed via the

Kinsey African American Art and History Collection, a traveling exhibition that has been experienced by over 15 million people. The collection is composed of rare primary source historical objects and artifacts dating from 1595 to present day, and fine art created by canonical African Americans artists from 1865 forward.

With education as a goal, the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection has been on national tour since 2007. The collection has been exhibited at such notable institutions as the California African American Museum, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati), the DuSable Museum of African American History (Chicago), and the Norton Museum of Art (West Palm Beach), to name a few. It is the first privately held collection to show at both the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (Washington, DC), and EPCOT-Walt Disney World (Orlando, FL), where a portion of the collection was on view from 2013 to 2018. The exhibit made its international debut in Hong Kong at the University of Hong Kong Museum and Gallery in 2017. Celebrities and personalities such as Whoopi Goldberg, Morgan Freeman, Kerry Washington, Katie Couric, Diane Sawyer, Angela Bassett, Zendaya, and more have endorsed and lent support in the exposure of the collection.

The Kinsey Collection uniquely showcases the intersection of art and history, telling the often-untold stories of African American achievement and contribution through primary source historical objects starting from 1595, as well as two and three-dimensional artworks from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. The collection has been cited in three national awards, including the President's National Award for Museum and Library Services.

ABOUT THE BERNARD & SHIRLEY KINSEY FOUNDATION FOR ART AND EDUCATION, A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

The Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Art and Education assists educational/cultural institutions with educating underserved youth and increasing public awareness about African American history and ancestry, by exposing and bridging cultural and societal gaps while addressing stereotypes and social ills. Utilizing the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection, the foundation's programming is designed to address the large gaps in education in the areas of American history and the arts and highlight the significant accomplishments of African Americans in building this nation. The foundation's work is done through exhibitions, public programs, lectures, books, workshops and training seminars with schools and organizations.

Special programming includes an 18-page Newspaper in Education (NIE) study guide, developed presentations, a website, videos, catalogs, and an innovative delivery system

developed with Apple to reach students on iPads, iPods and iPhones. In 2009 an African American History curriculum based on the Kinsey Collection was developed and implemented by the Florida Department of Education for 3.2 million students in grades K–12 statewide.

IMAGE CAPTION

Hughie Lee-Smith, *Untitled*, 1951, oil on masonite, Kinsey African American Art and History Collection.

Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art

Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90263

The Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art at Pepperdine University was dedicated in September 1992, and since then, has showcased modern and contemporary art by internationally recognized artists, with a focus on the art of California. Past exhibitions include *Claes Oldenburg: Drawings* (2004), *Chihuly Los Angeles* (2005), *Jim Dine: Some Drawings* (2007), *Mercedes Matter: A Retrospective Exhibition* (2010), *Roy Lichtenstein: In Process* (2011), *Thiebaud: Works on Paper* (2014), *Andy Warhol: Life and Legends* (2016), *Larry Bell: Pacific Red* (2017), *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942–1955* (2019), and *Rodin and Women: Muses, Sirens, Lovers* (2020), in addition to numerous exhibitions drawn from the collection of the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation.

For more information, visit arts.pepperdine.edu/museum or call 310.506.4851. Admission is always free, but advance reservations are required. Book your visit and access information about Weisman Museum health and safety protocols at arts.pepperdine.edu/visit.

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