



Reggie Burrows Hodges, Turning a Big Ship Features New Suite of Works

Solo Exhibition on View at the Addison Gallery of American Art Beginning September 1



Reggie Burrows Hodges, *Sloop: Eldaz Crossing*, 2022, acrylic and pastel on canvas © Reggie Burrows Hodges.

Courtesy the artist and Karma

Andover, MA (July 25, 2023) – *Hayes Prize 2023: Reggie Burrows Hodges, Turning a Big Ship*—the artist’s first solo exhibition at a collecting museum—will present a new suite of nearly two-dozen paintings completed in 2022 and 2023, ranging from the monumental to the intimately scaled. This new body of work centers around the motifs of the sloop and the sea captain, engaging with and expanding the tradition of maritime painting. Masts and sails morph into female forms, stewarding and navigating

vessels through uncertain waters. Here, using his distinctive formal approach, the artist contemplates the notion of turning a big ship, of marshalling collective will and labor to resist a powerful current.

In earlier work, Hodges has captured glimpses into intimate, personal histories, rendering quiet scenes of community or solitude in soft focus, as if filtered through the hazy lens of memory. With this new subject, the artist casts his gaze on a broader narrative: as the poet Derek Walcott writes, “the sea is History.” This history—one of both exploration and exploitation—forms yet another ground for the paintings, surfacing as clearly as his signature black underpainting. At the same time, the paintings are oriented toward the future: to redirect the ship requires the collective embrace of possibility and change. Sponsored by the Addison Artist Council and AAC Founders Alison Beaumont Hoeven '83; Nicholas '94 and Sasha Olney; and Sarah '83 and Nathanael '83 Worley, the exhibition will be on view from September 1 to December 31, 2023. Additional support has been provided by the Winton Family Fund and the Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence Fund.

Hodges is the inaugural recipient of the Addison Artist Council’s **Bartlett H. Hayes, Jr. Prize** and his exhibition is the first in what will be an ongoing series. The Addison Artist Council builds on the Addison’s nearly century-long commitment to supporting living artists. The museum’s storied history includes many “firsts” with exhibitions, acquisitions, or residencies by artists including Josef Albers, Ruth Asawa, Dawoud Bey, Sheila Hicks, Hans Hofmann, Andy Warhol, and Francesca Woodman. The Bartlett H. Hayes, Jr. Prize continues this extraordinary tradition by providing an artist their first ever solo show at a collecting museum, along with a publication, acquisition of their work for the museum’s collection, and an artist’s residency on campus.

“Reggie Burrows Hodges’ upcoming exhibition unveils a profound body of work that speaks to our current moment while simultaneously entering into a provocative dialogue with the Addison’s treasured collection,” said **Allison Kemmerer, the Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director of the Addison Gallery of American Art**. “Reggie’s artistry serves as a powerful testament to the enduring relevance of American art, encapsulating the spirit of the Hayes Prize and the museum’s dedication to supporting American artists.”

“The support the Addison Artist Council provides through the Bartlett H. Hayes, Jr. Prize opens a relationship that extends beyond the run of a single exhibition,” said **Reggie Burrows Hodges**.

“Working with the Addison to map out this solo exhibition, plan a publication and acquisition, and especially to interact with young people through the residency program, is sustaining and energizing.”

Also on View at the Addison this Fall

Sea Change

To complement *Hayes Prize 2023: Reggie Burrows Hodges, Turning a Big Ship*, the Addison is presenting *Sea Change*, curated by Gordon Wilkins, the Addison’s Robert M. Walker Curator of American Art, and Rachel Vogel, Assistant Curator at the Addison. Opening on September 1, this exhibition features notable works from the Addison’s rich collection of seascapes, maritime art, and historic model ships, including masterworks like Winslow Homer’s *Eight Bells* along with paintings, photographs, and sculptures by Milton Avery, José Bedia, Katherine Bradford, Willie Cole, Stuart Davis, Robert Frank, Marsden Hartley, John Marin, Fitz Henry Lane, Yinka Shonibare, among other artists. The exhibition spans five galleries and examines the sea and its shores as sites of labor, leisure, passage, and danger. *Sea Change* is generously supported by the Sidney R. Knafel Fund and is on view through December 31, 2023.

Free Association: New Acquisitions in Context

This exhibition, curated by Allison Kemmerer, the Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director; Gordon Wilkins, Robert M. Walker Curator of American Art; and Rachel Vogel, Assistant Curator, demonstrates how recently acquired works complement the Addison’s current holdings, drawing out new narratives, juxtapositions, and conversations across time and media. The entire second floor is given over to nine thematic galleries anchored by new acquisitions: the American West, interiors, the street, light, the body and nature, queer modernism, classical mythology, Bauhaus legacies, and the grid. Artists whose works are included in *Free Association* include Laura Aguilar, Patty Chang, Laddie John Dill, Nicholas Galanin, Steve Locke, Sue McNally, Mickalene Thomas, Stanley Whitney, and many others. On view through February 11, 2024, the exhibition is supported by the Elizabeth and Anthony Enders Exhibition Fund and the Mollie Bennett Lupe and Garland M. Lasater Exhibition Fund.

About Reggie Burrows Hodges

Reggie Burrows Hodges (b. 1965, Compton, CA) is a painter currently based in Maine and the Bay Area. Hodges studied theatre and film at the University of Kansas. In 2021, Hodges received a Jacob Lawrence Award in Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Hodges’ work is in collections of the

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas; Tate Modern, London; and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others.

About the Addison Gallery of American Art

Devoted exclusively to American art, the Addison opened in 1931 and holds one of the most important American art collections in the country. Its collection includes more than 25,000 works by artists such as John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, George Bellows, Georgia O’Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, Jennifer Bartlett, Kara Walker, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Kerry James Marshall, and Mark Bradford, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Simmons, Sally Mann, Dawoud Bey, Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems, and many others. The Addison Gallery, located in a stand-alone building on the campus of Phillips Academy—a residential school of grades 9 through 12 in Andover, Massachusetts—offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public. For more information on the Addison, visit www.addisongallery.org.

Press Contacts

Rebecca Mongeon
Addison Gallery of American Art
978-749-4342
rmongeon@andover.edu

Caroline Farrell
Resnicow and Associates
212-671-5157
cfarrell@resnicow.com