

THE BROAD[®]

NEWS

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THE BROAD PRESENTS DYNAMIC SLATE OF PROGRAMS FOR *JASPER JOHNS: 'SOMETHING RESEMBLING TRUTH'* SPECIAL EXHIBITION

Interdisciplinary Programs Explore Influences on the Iconic Artist



Image credits: Adam Tendler in performance. Photo: © Steve Pisano. Joan La Barbara dancing in tape. Photo: © Hank O'Neal.

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—The Broad today announced a diverse slate of public programming to be presented in conjunction with the museum's new special exhibition, *Jasper Johns: 'Something Resembling Truth'*, the first full survey of Jasper Johns' six-decade career in Southern California in more than 50 years. Encompassing music, performance, dance, poetry and live discussion, the programs will explore the artists and art forms that inspired Johns and some of his most important works, providing a richer understanding of the iconic American artist who has inspired generations of artists practicing in Los Angeles and around the world.

"It is impossible to reflect on Johns' complex and enigmatic body of work without considering the impact of his deep and collaborative friendships with artists like composer John Cage, choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham, as well as his love of the writing of Hart Crane, Samuel Beckett and Frank O'Hara," said Ed Patuto, The Broad's director of audience engagement. "By presenting an interdisciplinary series of programs which highlight these artists, we hope to illuminate how they influenced and informed Johns' work. In addition, these programs will provide vital insights into his creative practice and his paintings."

The Broad will present a series of programs over the exhibition's 13-week run, beginning with a conversation with **Roberta Bernstein**, co-curator of the exhibition, and host curators **Joanne Heyler**, The Broad's founding director, and **Ed Schad**, associate curator at The Broad, on Feb. 10, the opening day of the exhibition. They will discuss such topics as Johns as one of the

most important artists to emerge in the last century and his essential influence on younger artists. The museum will host **Cross-Hatched**, a series consisting of three live performances of music, vocal performances and dance films programmed with live accompaniment and Fluxus performances. Co-curated and performed by pianist **Adam Tendler**, a recognized interpreter of modern American music who has performed the work of John Cage internationally, these programs explore the ongoing dialogue between Johns' paintings and the dance and music that inspired him and to which he directly contributed. The program series was developed by Tendler and Patuto with valuable input and permissions from the John Cage Trust and the Merce Cunningham Trust.

Word play is vital to Johns' creative practice, with literary references to his favorite authors abundant in his paintings and their titles. Johns' deployment of words, letters and numbers on the surface of his paintings evoke an ambiguity in their meaning in the same manner his representation of everyday objects, such as targets, maps and flags, calls into question their truthfulness as objects. To explore the centrality of authors and poets to Johns' work, The Broad and **The Library Foundation of Los Angeles' ALOUD** series will present the **Unfolding Language Literary Series**, two evenings of contemporary authors reading texts from Johns' literary muses, including Samuel Beckett, Ted Berrigan, Louis-Ferdinand Céline, Hart Crane, Frank O'Hara, and Herman Melville, in addition to reading from their own work.

The Broad and **Carol Muske-Dukes**, award-winning poet and professor of English at the University of Southern California, will present a one-night public reading for National Poetry Month in April. The reading will be the consummation of an ongoing collaborative process between image and word; the event will feature Muske-Dukes' current PhD students reading poems they have written that were inspired by works featured in the exhibition.

Jasper Johns: 'Something Resembling Truth', organized in collaboration with the Royal Academy, London, will feature more than 120 of the artist's most significant paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings. With loans from more than 50 public and private collections from around the world, including important works from the Broad collection, the exhibition will trace the evolution of the artist's six-decade career through a series of thematic chapters. The exhibition encompasses the full range of Johns' materials, motifs and techniques—including his unique use of encaustic (heated beeswax) and found-material collage in paintings—and the innovations he has achieved in sculpture and the graphic arts by expanding the possibilities of traditional media. Johns' use of accessible images will be thoroughly examined, seen continually transformed through the artist's engagement with a wide range of human experiences. In a departure from a retrospective approach, Johns' artistic achievements will be illuminated through the juxtaposition of early and late works throughout the exhibition.

Tickets and full program details, including artist and curator bios, for all *Jasper Johns: 'Something Resembling Truth'* special exhibition programs are available at www.thebroad.org/programs.

JASPER JOHNS: 'SOMETHING RESEMBLING TRUTH' PROGRAMMING FULL LISTINGS

The Un-Private Collection: Roberta Bernstein, Joanne Heyler and Ed Schad

Saturday, Feb. 10 | 2 p.m.

Location: Oculus Hall at The Broad

Tickets: \$35 (includes same-day admission to *Jasper Johns: 'Something Resembling Truth'*)

The next program in The Broad's *Un-Private Collection* series will present a conversation with Roberta Bernstein, co-curator of The Royal Academy and The Broad's special exhibition, *Jasper Johns: 'Something Resembling Truth'*, and host curators Joanne Heyler (Founding Director, The Broad) and Ed Schad (Associate Curator, The Broad). They will discuss Bernstein's book, *Jasper Johns: Redo an Eye*, and such topics as how Johns is among the most influential and important living artists to emerge in the 20th century and his essential influence on younger artists.

A book signing with Bernstein will follow the conversation. Copies of *Jasper Johns: Redo an Eye*, which is Volume I of *Jasper Johns: Catalogue Raisonné of Painting and Sculpture*, will be available for purchase onsite from The Shop at The Broad.

Cross-Hatched

Wednesday, Feb. 28 | Wednesday, Mar. 14 | Wednesday, Apr. 18 | 8 p.m.

Location: Lobby and Oculus Hall at The Broad

Tickets: \$25 (includes one-time return to *Jasper Johns: 'Something Resembling Truth'* anytime during regular museum hours)

"Of course, painters were a large and important part of Merce's audience. The music was one of the strong attractions for them. I thought of John as a sort of teacher/preacher/soldier. His curiosity seemed wide-ranging and athletic, and he was able to connect his work to other fields of thought—to nature, philosophy, science and whatnot. He was generous in his willingness to explain these connections and seemed happy to convince others of the usefulness of his ideas...I think many of us felt that ideas in one medium could trigger ideas in another medium—and that mediums could be mixed in new ways."—*Jasper Johns*, quoted in *"The Fabric of Friendship,"* from *John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Jasper Johns: Dancers on a Plane* by Susan Sontag

Inspired by Johns' collaborative and fruitful friendships with composer John Cage and choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham, The Broad will present three evenings of music, voice and dance films programmed with live accompaniment and Fluxus performances, demonstrating the close friendships between the three artists and the influence they played on each other's creative practice. Co-curated and performed by pianist Adam Tandler, the series will also feature legendary vocalist Joan La Barbara, renowned for developing a unique vocabulary of experimental and extended vocal techniques which have influenced generations of other composers and singers.

Wednesday, Feb. 28 | 8 p.m. | Incidents and Echoes: Jasper Johns and John Cage Performed by pianist Adam Tandler

In this program, each of the musical compositions by Cage shares the same title as a painting in *Jasper Johns: 'Something Resembling Truth'*, or has a close connection to Johns. These compositions are emblematic of the friendship between Johns and Cage, and how integral each one's artwork was to the other.

Program

- "Suite for Toy Piano" by John Cage
- "The Perilous Night" (prepared piano) by John Cage
- "Winter Music" by John Cage
- "Music for Piano 1, 2, 3" by John Cage (with Merce Cunningham dance video "Minutiae")
- "The Seasons" by John Cage
- "In a Landscape" by John Cage

Wednesday, Mar. 14 | 8 p.m. | Usuyuki: Johns in Japan Performed by pianist Adam Tandler

Japanese culture and philosophy is a significant influence on Johns' work. *Usuyuki* is the Japanese word for "light snow." It also suggests the idea that something disappears as it is made visible, just as a snowflake melts when it hits the ground. The fleeting nature of existence is a recurring theme in Johns' paintings, and one that Johns explored during his time in Japan. The works in this program are ones that reflect Japan's influence on Cage and Johns, and includes compositions and Fluxus performance pieces that were taking place in Japan when Johns visited the country.

Program

- "Seven Haiku" by John Cage
- "Music for Piano" by Toshi Ichianagi
- "Piano Distance" by Toru Takemitsu
- "Corona" by Toru Takemitsu

- Fluxus Performance Pieces
 - “Lighting Piece” Yoko Ono
 - “Distance for Piano” Takehisa Kosugi
 - “Dragging Suite” Nam June Paik
 - “Wall Piece for Orchestra to Yoko Ono” Yoko Ono
 - “Portrait Piece” Mieko Shiomi
 - “0’00” John Cage
- “Electronic Music for Piano” by John Cage
- “Cheap Imitation” by John Cage (with “Second Hand,” a video from the Merce Cunningham Dance Company)

Wednesday, Apr. 18 | 8 p.m. | Impresarios, Inc. Program
Performed by pianist Adam Tendler with vocalist Joan La Barbara

In 1958, with Emile de Antonio and Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns formed Impresarios, Inc., which sponsored two performances of new music and dance in New York. All of the works in this program reflect the close collaboration and inter-relationships of Johns with Cage and Cunningham, or were performed at the Impresarios, Inc. events, most notably at the now-legendary John Cage 25-Year Retrospective at Town Hall in New York City that took place on May 15, 1958.

Program

- “RainForest” by David Tudor
- “Sonatas and Interludes (Parts 1 & 2)” by John Cage
- “For Piano 1” by Christian Wolff
- “Three Pieces for Piano” by Morton Feldman
- “Telephones and Birds” by John Cage, accompanied by vocalist Joan La Barbara
- “Concert for piano + Aria + Fontana Mix” by John Cage, accompanied by vocalist Joan La Barbara
- “Dream” by John Cage

Unfolding Language Literary Series

Thursday, Mar. 22 and Thursday, Apr. 12 | 7:30 p.m.

Location: Oculus Hall at The Broad

Tickets: \$15 (reading only); \$30 (includes admission to reading and one-time return to Jasper Johns: ‘Something Resembling Truth’ anytime during regular museum hours)

Co-presented by ALOUD

The Broad and The Library Foundation of Los Angeles’ ALOUD will explore the centrality of authors and poets to Johns’ creative practice by presenting two evenings of readings by contemporary authors, who will present verses from Johns’ literary muses, including Samuel Beckett, Ted Berrigan, Louis-Ferdinand Céline, Hart Crane, Frank O’Hara, and Herman Melville, as well as read from their own work, inspired by the writers who are vital to Johns’ artwork.

Thursday, Mar. 22 | 7:30 p.m.

- Featuring Rigoberto González, Chris Kraus and Douglas Kearney. Gonzalez will read from and respond to poet Hart Crane; Kraus will read from and respond to writer Louis-Ferdinand Céline; and Kearney will read from and respond to writer Samuel Beckett.

Thursday, Apr. 12 | 7:30 p.m.

- Featuring Hanif Abdurraqib, Brendan Constantine and Amy Gerstler. Abdurraqib will read from and respond to poet Frank O’Hara; Constantine will read from and respond to writer Herman Melville; and Amy Gerstler will read from and respond to poet Ted Berrigan.

USC Poetry Reading – Jasper Johns: A Tour of the Imagination

Wednesday, Apr. 4 | 8:30 p.m.

Location: The Broad galleries

Tickets: \$10

In partnership with USC

Organized by award-winning poet Carol Muske-Dukes, professor of English at the University of Southern California, this special one-night public reading is The Broad's contribution to National Poetry Month. As part of a USC graduate course entitled "A Tour of the Imagination," each of Muske-Dukes' current PhD students will read poetry that they have crafted. The reading will be the consummation of an ongoing collaborative process between image and word; these poets will have earlier chosen one work of art from *Jasper Johns: 'Something Resembling Truth'*, then spent hours "in conversation" with their artwork selection to compose their poems. The evening's final reading will be an ensemble effort in the form of a "crown of sonnets" in response to one of Johns' works on view.

Student Participants:

- Sara Fetherolf
- Stephanie Horvath
- Katharine Ogle
- Catherine Pond
- Essy Stone
- Katrin Tschirgi
- Vanessa Villarreal

About the Artist

Jasper Johns was born in Augusta, Georgia in 1930 and raised in South Carolina. He moved to New York in 1948 and returned in 1953 after two years of service in the U.S. Army. Johns' works became widely known after his first solo exhibition at the Leo Castelli Gallery in 1958. Over the course of his career, he has collaborated with an array of other artists, including visual artists Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg, playwright Samuel Beckett and choreographer Merce Cunningham, serving as artistic advisor to the Merce Cunningham Dance Company for over a decade. The artist currently lives and works in Sharon, Conn.

Johns has held solo exhibitions throughout the world at institutions including the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Kunstmuseum Basel; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Johns won the Grand Prize for Painting at the Venice Biennale in 1988, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011.

About The Broad

The Broad is a contemporary art museum founded by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad on Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles. Designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with Gensler, the museum offers free general admission. The Broad is home to the 2,000 works of art in the Broad collection, which is among the most prominent holdings of postwar and contemporary art worldwide, and presents an active program of rotating temporary exhibitions and innovative audience engagement. The 120,000-square-foot building features two floors of gallery space and is the headquarters of The Broad Art Foundation's worldwide lending library, which has actively loaned collection works to museums around the world since 1984. Since opening in September 2015, The Broad has welcomed more than 1.7 million visitors.

For more information on The Broad and to sign up for updates, please visit thebroad.org.

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