UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

The information below was updated October 2019 and is subject to change. All exhibitions are organized by The Phillips Collection, unless otherwise noted.

Moira Dryer: Back in Business
January 25–April 19, 2020
Featuring approximately 27 of her richly textured and color saturated paintings and sculptures, this is the first comprehensive museum exhibition to consider the early work of Moira Dryer (c. 1957, Toronto, Canada; d. 1992, New York City). From her beginnings in the early 1980s until her death, Dryer pursued a line of work in dialogue with modernist painting and abstraction while in consideration of more contemporary themes. Before devoting herself full-time to painting, Dryer worked for years as a set designer for the avant-garde theater company Mabou Mines, an experience that influenced her painting and the way she spoke about her work. This exhibition considers Dryer’s development as her work progresses from recognizable theater references such as curtains and spatial representations to abstract portraits that begin to move toward sculpture. Dryer infused her works with a level of pathos that allowed her to play with stillness and animation, reference and abstraction, and real and represented space. The exhibition also includes a collection of notes, drawings, and photographs from the artist’s archive that provide a historical context firmly placing Dryer at the center of the conversation regarding painting in the 1980s and 90s.

Riffs and Relations: African American Artists and the European Modernist Tradition
February 29–May 24, 2020
Riffs and Relations: African American Artists and the European Modernist Tradition presents works by African American artists of the 20th and 21st centuries together with examples by the early-20th-century European artists with whom they engaged. This exhibition explores the connections and frictions around modernism in the work of artists such as Romare Bearden, Robert Colescott, Renee Cox, Wassily Kandinsky, Norman Lewis, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Faith Ringgold, Hank Willis Thomas, and Carrie Mae Weems, among others. European modernist art has been an important, yet complicated influence on black artists for more than a century. The powerful push and pull of this relationship constitutes a distinct tradition for many African American artists who have mined the narratives of art history, whether to find inspiration, mount a critique, or claim their own space. Riffs and Relations examines these cross-cultural conversations and presents the divergent works that reflect these complex dialogues.

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