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Inside Art

By ROBIN POGREBIN JUNE 23, 2016

Affirming Ties to Harlem

Before deciding to renovate its building on 125th Street, the Studio Museum in Harlem considered moving to other sites, but ultimately determined that the “in Harlem” was integral to its identity. So in figuring out how to commemorate 50 years of existence — an anniversary coming up in 2018 — the museum has chosen to highlight that connection to the neighborhood.



Simone Leigh's "Cupboard IV" (2016). Credit Simone Leigh, Luhring Augustine, New York

Beginning this summer, the Studio Museum will start a series of “inHarlem initiatives,” which will include commissioned sculptural works for public spaces: one by Kevin Beasley in Morningside Park; Simone Leigh in Marcus Garvey Park; Kori Newkirk in St. Nicholas Park; and Rudy Shepherd in Jackie Robinson Park.

“We wanted artists for whom Harlem had a role in their work,” said Thelma Golden, the museum’s director and chief curator.

In partnership with the New York Public Library, the museum will also present activities at the George Bruce branch in Harlem, including a Books, Authors & Kids program and Studio Salon, a series of talks, book clubs and writing workshops for adults.

“We are the Studio Museum in Harlem,” Ms. Golden said, “and this makes that literal.”