

MEDIA CONTACT:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2008

Kori Newkirk: 1997-2007

June 1 - September 14, 2008

Pasadena, CA – Kori Newkirk’s artistic practice is startlingly diverse in media, subjects and themes, but it all shares his unique perspective on identity and African-American cultural politics. The Pasadena Museum of California Art is proud to present *Kori Newkirk: 1997–2007*, the first major retrospective of the Los Angeles-based artist’s work. This exhibition comprises more than thirty works completed since Newkirk received his MFA from the University of California, Irvine, and provides a unique opportunity to examine in detail how a talented, multifarious artist created such a coherent voice.



Kori Newkirk, *Void of Silence*, 2001, C-print mounted on plexiglass, 40 x 50 in., Collection of Eileen Harris Norton, Santa Monica

Using popular culture and personal experiences as a foundation, Newkirk’s oeuvre is both visually stunning and intellectually challenging. His early work focuses on themes of black masculinity,



Kori Newkirk, *Untitled (Modernist House)*, 2005, Plastic pony artificial hair, metal brackets, 91 x 60 in., Collection of artist

including basketball and cars, and the reality of a black man growing up in a largely white community in upstate New York. As he developed as an artist, his thought and art-making processes grew to encompass wider notions of gender, race and social geography. In particular, Newkirk has earned acclaim for a set of works—his pony-bead curtains that are part painting and part sculpture—that anchor this exhibition. The luminous, shimmering curtains are made from pony beads strung on synthetic hair extensions, signifiers of the black body used to create semi-abstracted images evocative of the disconnecting townscapes of

American suburbia. This exhibition also includes video, installation and site-specific works.

Born in the Bronx, Newkirk received a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1993 and an MFA from the University of California, Irvine in 1997, and studied at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. Over the last ten years, his work has been featured in over twenty solo exhibitions and dozens of group exhibitions.



Kori Newkirk, *Still from Bixel*, 2005, DVD Projection, TRT 05:00, Courtesy of artist and The Project, New York

Organized by Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator of the Studio Museum in Harlem, *Kori Newkirk 1997-2007* will be on display from June 1 - September 14, 2008. The catalogue accompanying this exhibition is the first major publication devoted to Newkirk's work, and includes essays by Huey Copeland, Dominic Molon, Deborah Willis and Thelma Golden. The exhibition and catalogue are mounted in conjunction with the Fellows of Contemporary Art, a group that supports California artists.

Kori Newkirk: 1997-2007 is initiated and sponsored by the Fellows of Contemporary Art, Peter Norton Family Foundation on behalf Eileen Harris Norton and the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

OPENING RECEPTION

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 7-9PM

Opening reception for *Kori Newkirk: 1997-2007* and *Tales from the Strip: Hot Rod Comics and Drag Racing Cartoons of Pete Millar*.

Free for Members. \$5 admission.

PMCA FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 3-5PM

Join us as we make fun art projects based on the artwork in our current exhibitions *Kori Newkirk* and *Tales from the Strip*. All ages are welcome. Snacks and drinks will be served.

Free for PMCA Members.

Free with museum admission, RSVP to 626-568-3665 x17

PANEL DISCUSSION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2PM

Information TBA

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About the PMCA:

The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is dedicated to the exhibition of California art, architecture, and design from 1850 to the present. Informed by the state's rich mixture of cultures and inspired by its impressive geography, California art has long been defined by a spirit of freedom and experimentation. PMCA exhibitions and educational programs explore the cultural dynamics and influences unique to California that have shaped and defined art in all media.

Hours:

Wednesday – Sunday, 12:00 - 5:00 pm.

The Museum is closed July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Admission:

\$7 for Adults, \$5 for Seniors (65+) and Students with valid ID; free to PMCA Members and children under 12. Access for people with disabilities is provided.

Location/Parking:

The Museum is located at 490 East Union Street. From the 210 Freeway, take the Lake Avenue exit. Go south and take a right on Union Street. From the 110 Freeway/Downtown Los Angeles, follow the freeway until its end, then take Arroyo Parkway and turn right at Colorado, then left at Oakland to get to Union Street. Parking is available at the Museum.

PMCA Tours:

At this time, the museum does not offer regularly scheduled docent tours of our special exhibitions. However, docent tours are available to private groups for a fee of \$75. A non-refundable deposit of \$40 is due two weeks prior to the scheduled date in order to guarantee a tour. We regret that we are unable to accommodate tours for groups smaller than 10 or larger than 50 people. Before requesting a tour, please check the exhibition calendar to see which exhibitions will be available during your visit.

A discounted group rate of \$3 per person is available for groups of 20 or more, and free admission is offered to school groups of K-12 public school students. Please call to notify us at least one week in advance for these special admission rates.

For any questions or to make reservations for a tour or group rate, please call Shirlae Cheng at 626-568-3665 x17.

PMCA Information:

For information, the please call 626-568-3665 or visit the website: www.pmcaonline.org