

THE BMA CELEBRATES JACK WHITTEN'S LEGACY WITH SPECIAL EVENTS

Odyssey: Jack Whitten Sculpture, 1963–2017 Celebrated with Free Opening Day on Sunday, April 22 and Jazz Concerts in June and July

BALTIMORE, MD (April 11, 2018)—This spring and summer, The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) hosts a series of events honoring the art, the legacy, and the music behind *Odyssey: Jack Whitten Sculpture, 1963 – 2017*, the first-ever exhibition devoted to renowned artist Jack Whitten's sculpture. The ticketed exhibition includes 40 works inspired by the materials and traditions of Africa and ancient Greece, plus Whitten's *Black Monolith* paintings honoring prominent African Americans such as Muhammad Ali, Maya Angelou, and James Baldwin.

Sunday April 22 **Odyssey Opening Celebration** **1–5 p.m. | Free**

The exhibition kicks off with free admission to *Odyssey*, along with an afternoon filled with artmaking, live performances, and free activities for all ages. Event highlights include:

- Storytelling with Maria Broom featuring music by Jali D
- Making a wood assemblage with Trisha Chason
- Creating a collaborative sculptural relief with artist Wesley Clark
- Watching a fascinating marble-carving demo with artist Sebastian Martorana
- Listening to Sarah Hughes perform Ornette Coleman tunes in the exhibition galleries
- Hearing Spyros Koliavasilis and his trio perform Cretan and Greek songs
- Meeting *Odyssey* Curator Katy Siegel and BMA African Curator, Kevin Tervalva in the gallery
- Enjoying a taste of Greek fare



Maria Broom storytelling at The Baltimore Museum of Art. Photo by Maximillian Franz.

Sunday, April 29 **Artist Conversation: Jack Whitten's Legacy** **2–3:30 p.m. | Free**

Acclaimed sculptor Melvin Edwards will join *Odyssey* curator Katy Siegel for a conversation on Jack Whitten's art. The two will reflect on Whitten's five decades-long career of creating innovative paintings and sculptures and his impact on social abstraction.



Melvin Edwards, 2012. Courtesy Alexander Gray Associates, New York

Friday, June 22 **Art After Hours: Afropolitanism** **8–11 p.m. | Tickets \$25 or \$20 BMA Members**

Baltimore's best art party is back and celebrating the *Odyssey* exhibition! Come dressed up or down, sip a signature cocktail, dance, make art, and enjoy pop-up activities throughout the museum. Tickets include evening access to the exhibition (a \$10 value) and selected galleries, entertainment, and a free food or drink ticket. Cash bars and light bites are available for purchase. *This event is for guests 21 and older.*

Saturdays – June 2, July 7, July 28

Jazz Odyssey Concerts

7–9 p.m.

To honor Jack Whitten’s passion for the art of jazz music, the BMA will present three “Jazz Odyssey” concerts in the Sculpture Garden featuring performances by Ravi Coltrane (June 2), The Sun Ra Arkestra (July 7), and Lafayette Gilchrist Quartet (July 28). General admission tickets are \$50 for a single concert or \$135 for the three-concert series and are available beginning Saturday, April 28. BMA Member tickets are \$35 for a single concert or \$90 for the three-concert series and are available beginning Wednesday, April 18. Tickets sell out quickly, so advance reservations are highly recommended. Each ticket includes evening access to the *Odyssey: Jack Whitten Sculpture, 1963-2017* exhibition from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Founded in 1914, The Baltimore Museum of Art is a major cultural destination recognized for engaging diverse audiences through dynamic exhibitions and innovative educational and community outreach programs. The BMA’s internationally renowned collection of 95,000 objects encompasses more than 1,000 works by Henri Matisse anchored by the famed Cone Collection of modern art, as well as one of the nation’s finest holdings of prints, drawings, and photographs. The galleries showcase an exceptional collection of art from Africa; important works by established and emerging contemporary artists; outstanding European and American paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts; significant artworks from China; ancient Antioch mosaics; and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000- square-foot museum is also distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of 20th-century sculpture. The BMA is located in Charles Village, three miles north of the Inner Harbor, and is adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year’s Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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