

## **BMA SHOWCASES WORKS BY AFRICAN-AMERICAN ARTISTS WITH GOOGLE ART PROJECT EXHIBITION AND OTHER NEW INITIATIVES**

### *Museum Partners with Google Cultural Institute to Present “Questioning the Canon” Online Exhibition*

BALTIMORE, MD (February 1, 2016)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) is honoring African-American History Month with several initiatives to increase awareness of works by African-American artists represented in its world-class collection. Beginning today, an online exhibition of 18 artworks by African-American artists in the BMA’s collection can be viewed by people around the world thanks to a new partnership between the Google Cultural Institute and more than 40 other organizations with African-American artworks and historical artifacts. The BMA is also hosting a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon for entries about African-American artists represented in the BMA’s collection, and offering a new self-guided tour of works by African-American artists whose works are currently on view in the galleries.



Nick Cave. *Soundsuit*. 2013

#### **Questioning the Canon**

Beginning Monday, February 1

A new partnership with the Google Cultural Institute has made it possible for the BMA to have a digital exhibition of 18 masterworks by African-American artists on its [website](#). Featuring works by Nick Cave, David Hammons, Faith Ringgold, Alison Saar, and Kara Walker, the objects assembled in this exhibition challenge the way African Americans have historically been seen, creating alternate narratives to the traditional Western art accounts from ancient Egypt and classical Greece, to the birth of modern painting, to postwar abstraction and conceptual practice.

#### **Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon: African-American Artists at the BMA**

Saturday, February 13, 2–5 p.m.

Join us for a lively afternoon of Wikipedia editing to increase the visibility of African-American visual artists online. Create, update, and improve entries pertaining to the lives and works of African-American artists at the BMA and around the world. Library resources, Internet connection, and light refreshments will be provided. Please bring your laptop and power cord. The event is free and open to everyone. No specialized knowledge of the subject or Wikipedia editing experience required. A brief overview of the basics of Wikipedia editing will be given at the start of the program led by Jennifer Ferretti, Digital Initiatives Librarian at Maryland Institute College of Art, and volunteers will be on hand for assistance throughout the event.

#### **Self-Guided Tour: African-American Artists on View at the BMA**

Beginning Sunday, February 7

Visitors to the BMA can pick up a new brochure identifying more than 25 artworks by African-American artists on view at the BMA in special exhibitions and collection galleries. Among the artists currently featured are Jacob Lawrence, Glenn Ligon, Horace Pippin, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Joyce J. Scott, and Alma W. Thomas.

### **GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE**

The Google Cultural Institute and its partners are putting the world's cultural treasures at the fingertips of Internet users and are building tools that allow the cultural sector to share more of its diverse heritage online. The Google Cultural Institute has partnered with more than 1,000 institutions giving a platform to over 250,000 thousand artworks and a total of 6 million photos, videos, manuscripts and other documents of art, culture, and history.

### **THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; prints and drawings from the 15th century to the present; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; and exceptional objects from Africa and Asia. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope. A \$28 million multi-year renovation that began in 2010 has transformed galleries for contemporary, American, African, and Asian art, and improved visitor amenities and essential infrastructure. Since 2006, the BMA has provided free general admission so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 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 at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

Connect with us: #ARTBMA • [Blog](#) • [Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#) • [YouTube](#)

###

**Image:** Nick Cave, *Soundsuit*, 2013. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Fanny B. Thalheimer Memorial Fund, and Ellen W. P. Wasserman Acquisitions Endowment. BMA 2013.325. © Nick Cave, Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York