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New work by Laura Owens featured for latest Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Façade installation

On View: June 25, 2019–January 14, 2020



Laura Owens: Untitled, 2019. Digital print on vinyl, 36 x 16 ft. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston. Courtesy the artist; Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York, Rome; Sadie Coles HQ, London; and Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne. Photo: Clements Photography and Design

BOSTON, MA (June 2019) – On June 25, Los Angeles-based painter and 2000 Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Artist-in-Residence Laura Owens unveils her new work, *Untitled*, as the next installation featured on the Gardner Museum's Anne H. Fitzpatrick Façade. *Untitled* will be on view through Jan. 14, 2020.

Known for her evolving approach to painting, Owens draws upon multiple sources—from personal symbols to newsprint and computer manipulations—in order to challenge and dismantle traditional assumptions surrounding abstraction and figuration. In developing *Untitled*, Owens excised the composition from a recent ceiling painting created in Rome, transforming a fragment from this work through enlargement and relocation into a self-contained and monumental whole. The resulting design features a combination of gestural, graphic and grid-like motifs.

Owens gained a critical following in the late 1990s for paintings in which she playfully combined modernist abstractions with figurative elements and historical references. Since that time, she has repeatedly proven her versatility as a painter by creating ever-more complex compositions. Since the late 2000s, Owens has moved away from more figurative works to create large, abstract, layered canvases in bold colors and patterns.

In 2000, Owens spent a month living and working at the Gardner Museum as an Artist-in-Residence where she had the opportunity to closely examine works in the collection. She was particularly drawn to the Museum's collection of Japanese screens and textiles. These included several examples of cut velvet fabrics, embroideries, and a 19th-century Japanese silk kimono with a painting of a badger looking at the moon. Owens incorporated this scene into a large painting that was later shown in her 2001 exhibition *Laura Owens: New Work*.

Her work has been featured in numerous solo exhibitions, including a mid-career retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art (travelling subsequently to Dallas Museum of Art and MOCA Los Angeles). Owens's work has also been shown at the Centre Georges Pompidou; Carnegie Museum of Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Walker Art Center; CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco; Secession, Vienna; the Kunsthalle Basel; Tate Modern; and Inverleith House, Edinburgh.

The Gardner Museum's Anne H. Fitzpatrick Façade has previously featured works by artists including Joan Jonas, Elaine Reichek, Steve Locke, Rachel Perry, and Nari Ward.

The Artist-in-Residence Program is directed by Pieranna Cavalchini, Tom and Lisa Blumenthal Curator of Contemporary Art, and is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Barbara Lee Program Fund. Funding is also provided for site-specific installations of new work on the Anne H. Fitzpatrick Façade on Evans Way. The museum receives operating support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which receives support from the State of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum - a magical creation of one woman's daring vision - invites you to awaken your senses and be transported. Modeled after a Venetian palazzo, unforgettable galleries surround a luminous courtyard and are home to masters such as Rembrandt, Raphael, Titian, Michelangelo, Whistler, and Sargent. The Renzo Piano wing provides a platform for contemporary artists, musicians, and scholars, and serves as an innovative venue where creativity is celebrated in all of its forms.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum • 25 Evans Way Boston MA 02215 • Hours: Open Daily from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays until 9 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. • Admission: Adults \$15; Seniors \$12; Students \$5; Free for members, children under 18, everyone on his/her birthday, and all named "Isabella" • \$2 off admission with a same-day Museum of Fine Arts, Boston ticket • For information 617 566 1401 • Box Office 617 278 5156 • www.gardnermuseum.org

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