

Contact: Sara Palmer, Director of Public Affairs  
Steven Henry, Public Affairs Assistant

SERIES ON CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN-AMERICAN AESTHETICS TO BE HELD AT NEW MUSEUM

The New Museum of Contemporary Art will present a three-program series on consecutive Tuesdays in March exploring issues of racial identity. "Black to the Future: A Series on Contemporary African-American Aesthetics" is being presented in conjunction with The New Museum's exhibition "Robert Colescott: A Retrospective." The series was organized by Kellie Jones, Visual Arts Director at the Jamaica Arts Center and Commissioner for the United States Pavilion at the 1989 Biennale in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"Black to the Future" will examine many of the controversial issues found in the work of Robert Colescott. Referring to his experiences as an African-American artist, Robert Colescott has developed a scathingly satirical and provocative painting style, which forces the viewer to confront racial and sexual stereotypes. The New Museum's series on contemporary African-American culture will serve as a forum for the presentation of alternative approaches to these same issues by younger African-American artists.

The series opens on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. with a lecture entitled "The Unedited Robert Colescott" by Lowery Sims, author of one of the exhibition catalogue essays and Associate Curator of Twentieth-Century Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Ms. Sims will highlight works that have not received critical attention and will discuss Colescott's commentary on racial and sexual politics.

The series continues on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. with "Alva Rogers in Performance." Composer/performance artist Alva Rogers will present a program of

Black to the Future

2-2-2

songs and monologues co-written and directed by Lisa Jones, with Charles Burnham on violin and Brandon Ross on guitar. Ms. Rogers' work explore will issues such as race, gender and popular culture. The performance will include excerpts from "American Top 40," which examines racial polarization within the American music industry.

The series concludes on Tuesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. with a panel discussion entitled "African-American Aesthetics: Links to the Past, Directions for the Future." The panelists will be Lisa Jones, who, in addition to working with Alva Rogers, is a writer and filmmaker who has collaborated with Spike Lee on his films, "She's Gotta Have It" and "School Daze;" Judith Wilson, critic and professor of art history at Syracuse University; Nelson George, music critic for Billboard Magazine; and George C. Wolfe, playwright, who is best known for the internationally acclaimed "The Colored Museum." Kellie Jones, the program's organizer, will moderate.

"Black to the Future: A Series on Contemporary African-American Aesthetics" will be presented in the Main Gallery of The New Museum of Contemporary Art. Admission for each program is \$4.00 for members and \$6.00 for general. Tickets may be purchased at The New Museum on the night of the event. Reservations may be made by phoning the Museum at 212/219-1222.

"Black to the Future: A Series on Contemporary African-American Aesthetics" is funded, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts. "Alva Rogers in Performance" is funded, in part, by Artists and Audiences, a public service program of the New York Foundation for the Arts. Ms. Rogers is a 1988 Artists' Fellowship recipient of the Foundation.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$2.50 general; \$1.50 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12 admitted free.

Recorded information concerning New Museum exhibitions and programs can be obtained by phoning 212/219-1222.