

National Gallery of Art

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Department of Communications

Updated September 28, 2026

Glenn Ligon: Subtext

March 13, 2027–January 17, 2028

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Exhibition Organization and Support:

Glenn Ligon: Subtext is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington. Major support for the exhibition has been provided by the Sam Gilliam Foundation. The exhibition is also made possible through the generosity of the Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation. Additional support for the exhibition has been provided by the Henry Luce Foundation and the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation.

Generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation.

Exhibition Curator(s):

Molly Donovan, curator of contemporary art and acting head of modern and contemporary art, in consultation with the artist.

Press Contact:

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phone: (202) 842-6355
e-mail: l-tylec@nga.gov

Object ID: 5909-002

Glenn Ligon

Untitled (I Am a Man), 1988

oil and enamel on canvas

overall: 101.6 x 63.5 cm (40 x 25 in.)

National Gallery of Art, Patrons' Permanent Fund and Gift of the Artist, 2012.109.1

© Glenn Ligon; courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas Dane Gallery

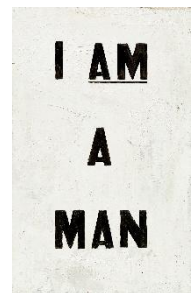


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Object ID: 5909-003

Glenn Ligon

Condition Report, 2000

inkjet print with silkscreen on two sheets of paper

sheet: 81.3 x 57.8 cm (32 x 22 3/4 in.)

National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Artist, 2013.9.1.a-b

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Object ID: 5909-005

Glenn Ligon

Double America, 2012

Edition of 3 and 2 APs

neon and paint

overall: 91.4 x 304.8 cm (36 x 120 in.)

National Gallery of Art, Gift of Agnes Gund, 2013.37.1

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Object ID: 5909-006

David Drake

Storage Jar, 1859

alkaline-glazed stoneware

overall (height by widest diameter): 55 x 49 cm (21 5/8 x 19 5/16 in.)

diameter (mouth): 36 cm (14 3/16 in.)

diameter (foot): 31 cm (12 3/16 in.)

National Gallery of Art, Anonymous Gift of Funds, 2023.2.1

Object ID: 5909-007

Glenn Ligon

Stranger (Full Text) #1, 2020–2021

oil stick, gesso and coal dust on canvas, two panels

overall: 304.8 x 1371.6 cm (120 x 540 in.)

weight: 800 - 900 lb.

Glenstone Museum

© Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas Dane Gallery

Photo: Jon Etter



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Object ID: 5909-008
Glenn Ligon
Stranger (Full Text) #2, 2020–2021
oil stick, gesso, acrylic, gouache, and coal dust on canvas, three panels
overall: 304.8 x 1371.6 x 3.8 cm (120 x 540 x 1 1/2 in.)
each panel: 304.8 x 457.2 cm (120 x 180 in.)
weight: 800 - 900 lb.
The George Economou Collection

Object ID: 5909-010
Beauford Delaney
Portrait of James Baldwin, 1965
oil on canvas
overall: 64.8 x 54 cm (25 1/2 x 21 1/4 in.)
framed: 81.9 x 71.8 x 7.6 cm (32 1/4 x 28 1/4 x 3 in.)
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA; Museum purchase 2015.28
© Estate of Beauford Delaney, by permission of Derek L. Spratley, Esquire, Court Appointed Administrator, Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York, NY

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Object ID: 5909-011
Glenn Ligon
Stranger (Full Text) #3 [working title], 2025–2026
oil stick and gesso on canvas, four panels
overall: 304.8 x 1371.6 cm (120 x 540 in.)
weight: 800 - 900 lb.
Private collection
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Object ID: 5909-013
Glenn Ligon
No. 291 (Language), 1988
oil, acrylic, oil stick, and graphite on paper
sheet: 76.2 x 56.5 cm (30 x 22 1/4 in.)
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Gift from the Emily Fisher Landau Collection 2024.173
© Glenn Ligon
Digital image Whitney Museum of American Art / Licensed by Scala

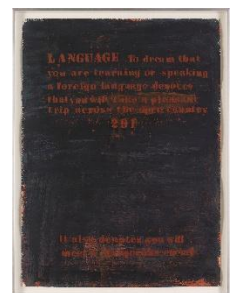


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Glenn Ligon: Subtext

Object ID: 5909-014

Glenn Ligon

No. 348 (Speechless), 1990

oil, acrylic, oil stick, and graphite on paper

sheet: 76.2 x 56.5 cm (30 x 22 1/4 in.)

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Gift from the Emily

Fisher Landau Collection 2024.175

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Object ID: 5909-015

Glenn Ligon

No. 752 (Colored People), 1990

oil, acrylic, oil stick, and graphite on paper

sheet: 76.2 x 56.5 cm (30 x 22 1/4 in.)

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Gift from the Emily

Fisher Landau Collection 2024.180

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Object ID: 5909-016

Glenn Ligon

No. 333 (History), 1990

oil, acrylic, oil stick, and graphite on paper

sheet: 76.2 x 56.5 cm (30 x 22 1/4 in.)

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Gift from the Emily

Fisher Landau Collection 2024.174

© Glenn Ligon

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Object ID: 5909-017

Glenn Ligon

Untitled (I Do Not Always Feel Colored), 1990

oil stick and gesso on wood

overall: 203.2 x 76.2 cm (80 x 30 in.)

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Gift of The Bohen Foundation in honor of Thomas N. Armstrong III 2001.275

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Object ID: 5909-018

Glenn Ligon

Untitled (I'm Turning Into a Specter Before Your Very Eyes and I'm Going to Haunt You), 1992

oil stick, gesso, and graphite on canvas

overall: 203.5 x 81.6 cm (80 1/8 x 32 1/8 in.)

Philadelphia Museum of Art: Purchased with the Adele Haas Turner and Beatrice Pastorius Turner Memorial Fund, 1992-101-1

© Glenn Ligon

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Object ID: 5909-019

Glenn Ligon

Untitled (I Am Somebody), 1990

oil stick, gesso, and graphite on wood

overall: 203.2 x 76.2 cm (80 x 30 in.)

Art Bridges

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Object ID: 5909-020

Glenn Ligon

Untitled (I Lost My Voice I Found My Voice), 1991

oil stick, gesso, and graphite on wood

overall: 203.2 x 76.2 cm (80 x 30 in.)

Private Collection, New York, courtesy of AGOPIAN art advisory

© Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas Dane Gallery.

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Glenn Ligon: Subtext

Object ID: 5909-021
Glenn Ligon
Warm Broad Glow, 2005
neon and paint
overall: 55.9 x 487.7 cm (22 x 192 in.)
The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Bequest of Janice H. Levin
(by exchange), 2021
© Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas
Dane Gallery.
Photo: Thomas Barrat

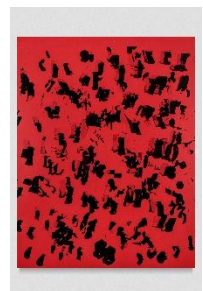
Object ID: 5909-022
Glenn Ligon
Sparse Shouts (for Julius Eastman), 2024
Edition of 5 and 2 APs
neon and paint
overall: 201.9 x 357.2 x 5.4 cm (79 1/2 x 140 5/8 x 2 1/8 in.)
Private collection
Courtesy: © Glenn Ligon. Courtesy the artist and 52 Walker, New
York. Photo by Kerry McFate

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Object ID: 5909-023
Glenn Ligon
Debris Field (Red) #2, 2018
etching ink and acrylic on canvas
overall: 289.6 x 223.5 cm (114 x 88 in.)
Private collection
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Dane Gallery.
Photo: Joshua White

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Object ID: 5909-024
Glenn Ligon
Debris Field (Red) #6, 2018
etching ink and acrylic on canvas
overall: 289.6 x 223.5 cm (114 x 88 in.)
Forman Family Collection
© Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas
Dane Gallery.
Photo: Joshua White



Object ID: 5909-026
Glenn Ligon
Untitled, 2015
oil paint on nine book pages
each unit: 13.3 x 20.3 x 1.3 cm (5 1/4 x 8 x 1/2 in.)
depth: .5 inches if all 9 pages were stacked
Private collection
© Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas
Dane Gallery.
Photo: Ron Amstutz

Object ID: 5909-027
Glenn Ligon
Untitled #2, 2023
carbon and graphite on kozo
overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)
framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)
Private Collection
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Dane Gallery.
Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-028
Glenn Ligon
Untitled #35, 2024
carbon and graphite on kozo paper
overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)
framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)
Private collection
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Dane Gallery.
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Object ID: 5909-029
Glenn Ligon
Untitled #40, 2024
carbon and graphite on kozo paper
overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)
framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)
Private collection
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Dane Gallery
Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-030

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #46, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-031

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #50, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-032

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #51, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-033

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #55, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Glenn Ligon: Subtext

Object ID: 5909-034
Glenn Ligon
Untitled #58, 2024
carbon and graphite on kozo paper
overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)
framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)
Private collection
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Dane Gallery.
Photo: Sarah Muehlbauer

Object ID: 5909-035
Glenn Ligon
Untitled #61, 2024
carbon and graphite on kozo paper
image: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)
mat: 52.1 x 36.8 cm (20 1/2 x 14 1/2 in.)
framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)
Nancy and Leonard Amoroso, PA
© Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas
Dane Gallery.
Photo: Sarah Muehlbauer

Object ID: 5909-036
Glenn Ligon
Untitled #68, 2024
carbon and graphite on kozo paper
overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)
framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)
Private collection
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Dane Gallery.
Photo: Sarah Muehlbauer

Object ID: 5909-037
Glenn Ligon
Untitled #60, 2024
carbon and graphite on kozo paper
overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)
framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)
Private collection
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Dane Gallery.
Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-038

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #71, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-039

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #72, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ron Amstutz

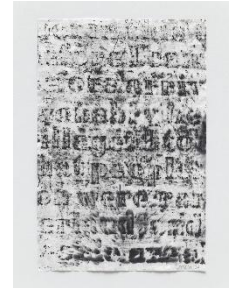


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Object ID: 5909-040

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #76, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ron Amstutz

Photo Restrictions: The Studio must approve all use of images and/or Artist name in all instances, prior to reproduction.

Object ID: 5909-041

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #77, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Collection of Gregg Bordowitz

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Photo: Ron Amstutz

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Glenn Ligon: Subtext

Object ID: 5909-042

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #83, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ronald Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-043

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #84, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ronald Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-044

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #85, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Photo: Ronald Amstutz

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Object ID: 5909-045

Glenn Ligon

Untitled #88, 2024

carbon and graphite on kozo paper

overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)

framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

Private collection

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Glenn Ligon: Subtext

Object ID: 5909-046
Glenn Ligon
Untitled #90, 2024
carbon and graphite on kozo paper
overall: 45.7 x 30.5 cm (18 x 12 in.)
framed: 52.7 x 37.5 x 3.8 cm (20 3/4 x 14 3/4 x 1 1/2 in.)
Private collection
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Object ID: 5909-049
David Hammons
Three Spades, 1971
body print
print: 105.4 x 78.7 cm (41 1/2 x 31 in.)
framed: 110.2 x 84.8 x 6.4 cm (43 3/8 x 33 3/8 x 2 1/2 in.)
Glenstone Museum
© 2026 David Hammons / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York
Photo: Alex Jamison

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Object ID: 5909-050
Felix Gonzalez-Torres
"Untitled" (Perfect Lovers), 1987/1990
wall clocks
edition of 3, 1 AP
each unit: 34.3 x 34.3 x 4.5 cm (13 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 1 3/4 in.)
overall: 34.3 x 69.9 x 4.5 cm (13 1/2 x 27 1/2 x 1 3/4 in.)
Glenstone Museum
© Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Courtesy of The Felix Gonzalez-Torres
Foundation
Photo: Ron Amstutz

Object ID: 5909-053
Bob Thompson
Untitled (Rivington St. Sketchbook: Sonny Rollins), c.1964–1965
black felt tip pen on paper
image: 35.6 x 27.9 cm (14 x 11 in.)
framed: 41.91 x 34.29 x 3.81 cm (16 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 1 1/2 in.)
Private collection
© Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York, NY, Courtesy of
Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York, NY
Photo: Ronald Amstutz

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Glenn Ligon: Subtext

Object ID: 5909-054
Glenn Ligon
Debris Field (Red) #11, 2020–2021
etching ink, acrylic and oil stick on canvas
overall: 289.6 x 223.5 cm (114 x 88 in.)
David Simkins and Michelle Simkins Rubell

Object ID: 5909-055
Jack Whitten
Birmingham 1964, 1964
Aluminum foil, newspaper, stocking, and oil on board
overall: 42.2 x 40.6 cm (16 5/8 x 16 in.)
Collection of Joel Wachs
© 2026 Jack Whitten Estate / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York
Photo: John Berens

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Object ID: 5909-056
Lorna Simpson
Double Negative, 1990–2022
gelatin silver print
overall: 115.6 x 92.7 x 3.8 cm (45 1/2 x 36 1/2 x 1 1/2 in.)
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
© Lorna Simpson. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Photo: James Wang

Object ID: 5909-057
Unknown
T-shirt ["We Out"]
mixed media
overall: 73.7 x 81.3 cm (29 x 32 in.)
Private collection
Photo: Ronald Amstutz

Object ID: 5909-058
Unknown
T-shirt "[Nah"]
mixed media
overall: 71.1 x 73.7 cm (28 x 29 in.)
Private collection
Photo: Ronald Amstutz

Object ID: 5909-060
Sesame Workshop
Richard Pryor's alphabet, 2009
video, 2:28 minutes
Sesame Street excerpts provided courtesy of Sesame Workshop,
New York, New York

Glenn Ligon: Subtext

Object ID: 5909-061
Sesame Workshop
Patti Labelle Sings The Alphabet, 2007
video, 1:08 minutes
Sesame Street excerpts provided courtesy of Sesame Workshop,
New York, New York

Object ID: 5909-064
Jean-Michel Basquiat
To Repel Ghosts, 1986
oil on canvas
image: 35.6 x 40.6 cm (14 x 16 in.)
framed: 45.56 x 55.56 x 4.45 cm (17 15/16 x 21 7/8 x 1 3/4 in.)
Collection George Condo, New York
© Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat. Licensed by Artestar, New York.

Object ID: 5909-065
Rosie Lee Tompkins
Untitled, 1978–1982
cotton, cotton polyester, corduroy, nylon flag, rayon, woven blanket,
acrylic yarn and cotton thread
overall: 200.7 x 162.6 cm (79 x 64 in.)
Private collection
Photo: Ronald Amstutz

Object ID: 5909-066
Adrian Piper
The Mythic Being: Typing, 1974
gelatin silver photograph
each: 25.2 x 20.3 cm (9 15/16 x 8 in.)
overall: 50.4 x 40.6 cm (19 13/16 x 16 in.)
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, DC, Joseph H. Hirshhorn Purchase Fund, 2009, 09.24
© Adrian Piper Research Archive
Lee Stalsworth. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Object ID: 5909-067
Adrian Piper
The Mythic Being: Loitering, 1974
gelatin silver photograph
each: 20.1 x 25.3 cm (7 15/16 x 9 15/16 in.)
overall: 40.2 x 50.6 cm (15 13/16 x 19 15/16 in.)
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, DC, Joseph H. Hirshhorn Purchase Fund, 2009, 09.23
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Lee Stalsworth. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

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Object ID: 5909-068
Glenn Ligon
Untitled (America) (for Toni Morrison), 2026
neon and metal support
edition of 3 and 1 AP
overall: 242.6 x 240 x 55.9 cm (95 1/2 x 94 1/2 x 22 in.)
Private collection
© Glenn Ligon. Courtesy the artist and 52 Walker, New York.
Photo: David Schulze

Object ID: 5909-071
Glenn Ligon
Give Us a Poem, 2007
neon and Sintra PVC
overall: 192.1 x 188.6 cm (75 5/8 x 74 1/4 in.)
Studio Museum in Harlem; gift of Glenn Ligon 2007.32a-b
Courtesy: © Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and
Thomas Dane Gallery.
Photo: Farzad Owrang



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Object ID: 5909-072
Bill Traylor
Man with Cane Grabbing Foot, 1939–1942
pencil and charcoal on cardboard
overall: 28.9 x 17.5 cm (11 3/8 x 6 7/8 in.)
framed: 45.7 x 34.3 x 3.2 cm (18 x 13 1/2 x 1 1/4 in.)
Private collection
Photo: Ronald Amstutz

Object ID: 5909-073
Byron Kim
Synecdoche, 1991–present
oil and wax on lauau plywood, birch plywood, and plywood
each panel (overall installed dimensions variable): 25.4 x 20.3 cm
(10 x 8 in.)
National Gallery of Art, Richard S. Zeisler Fund, 2009.39.1.1-560

Object ID: 5909-075

Glenn Ligon

Blue (for JB) #11, 2025

carbon ink and acrylic on torinoko paper

overall: 198.1 x 142.2 cm (78 x 56 in.)

framed: 209.2 x 153 x 7 cm (82 3/8 x 60 1/4 x 2 3/4 in.)

National Gallery of Art, Gift of the Collectors Committee, 2026.56.1

© Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas Dane Gallery.

Photo: Ronald Amstutz



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Object ID: 5909-076

Glenn Ligon

Blue (for JB) #18, 2025

carbon ink and acrylic on torinoko paper

overall: 198.1 x 142.2 cm (78 x 56 in.)

framed: 208.9 x 153 x 7 cm (82 1/4 x 60 1/4 x 2 3/4 in.)

Collection of Holly Peterson

© Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas Dane Gallery.

Photo: Ronald Amstutz

Object ID: 5909-077

Jennie C. Jones

Score for Sustained Blackness #2, 2014

acrylic paint, collage, and Nolograph 5-line staff pen on paper in 10 parts

set of 10, each: 50.8 x 40.6 cm (20 x 16 in.)

Private collection

© 2027 Jennie C. Jones

Object ID: 5909-078

House of Heydenryk

Period Frame, ca.1930–1940

Wormy chestnut wood with polychrome finish

framed: 81.9 x 71.8 cm (32 1/4 x 28 1/4 in.)

Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA; Museum purchase F2016.8

Object ID: 5909-079

Julius Eastman

Fugue No. 1, 1983

exhibition print

image: 57.8 x 78.1 cm (22 3/4 x 30 3/4 in.)

Private Collection

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Courtesy of the Lender

Object ID: 5909-080

Glenn Ligon

Blue (for JB) #14, 2025

carbon ink and acrylic on torinoko paper

overall: 198.1 x 142.2 cm (78 x 56 in.)

framed: 209.9 x 153 x 7 cm (82 5/8 x 60 1/4 x 2 3/4 in.)

Bridgitt and Bruce Evans

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Photo: Ronald Amstutz