RYAN
LEE

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RL Window
Emma Amos
Valued
September 17 - October 15, 2016

RYAN LEE is pleased to present *Valued*, an installation in RLWindow of Emma Amos' titular 1995 painting. *Valued* is a large scale, unstretched work that integrates acrylic, photo-transfer, Kente cloth, and printed fabric in a celebration of black masculinity and pride. Since 1982, Amos has increasingly incorporated linens, textiles, and her own weaving into her work as a nod to the traditions of women's craft and East African cloth. *Valued* also continues her practice of reframing images of blackness and investigating existing depictions of the black body. Alternately shown relaxed or with fists raised, Amos presents these four men alongside printed fabric American currency to pose questions about social value, capital, and power.

Amos was the youngest and only woman member of Spiral, the historic African American artist collective founded in 1963 by Romare Bearden, and a member of the important feminist collective Heresies. Intending to insert people of color into the art historical canon from which they had long been barred, Amos uses formal techniques from movements notably associated with her white male counterparts, such as Action Painting, Abstract Expressionism, and Color Field Painting. Her work's exploration of space and color is deeply tied to social, political, gender, and racial implications. It equally engages color theory, texture, perspective, and composition as it does where and how the black body has been allowed representation in art.

Emma Amos (b. 1938 Atlanta, GA) studied at Antioch College, the London Central School of Art, and New York University. She recently received Georgia Museum of Art's Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson prize, and in May 2016, the Studio Museum of Harlem honored Amos as an ICON alongside Faith Fainggold and Lorraine O'Grady. In the fall of 2016, her work will be included in *The Color Line: African-American Artists and Segregation,* curated by Daniel Soutif at Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, and *Inventing Downtown,* curated by Melissa Rachleff Burtt at Grey Art Gallery at New York University. The Brooklyn Museum and Tate Modern will include Amos' paintings in upcoming exhibitions in 2017, and the Georgia Museum of Art will mount a retrospective exhibition of Amos in 2018. Her work is included in prominent museum collections, and has been the subject of important solo and group exhibitions, including at Art in General, New York; Bronx Museum of Art, New York; Fowler Museum of Art, Los Angeles; James F. Byrnes Institut, Stuttgart, DE; Museo de las Artes, Guadalajara, MX; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, among others.

RLWindow is a dedicated exhibition space featuring video, installation, and performance art designed to engage High Line visitors, viewable from the elevated public park at 26th Street. Utilizing the gallery's position overlooking the High Line and its visibility to more than 5 million yearly visitors, RLWindow is a platform for innovative, experimental, and collaborative projects by international contemporary artists, including both invited and gallery-represented artists. RYAN LEE invites you to join the conversation by tagging #RLWindow and #ryanleegallery in social media posts. Find us on Instagram @ryanleegallery!

Concurrently on view is **Andrew Raftery**: *Autobiography of a Garden on Twelve Engraved Plates* (Sept 10-Nov 5, 2016) and **Mariam Ghani**: *The City & The City* (Sept 10-Nov 5, 2016). Forthcoming exhibitions include **Donald Sultan:** *New Paintings* (Nov 10-Dec 23, 2016) and **David Schorr**: *Flying Carpets* (Jan 5-Feb 18, 2017). **For press inquiries, please contact Bridget Casey at bridget@ryanleegallery.com or 212-397-0724.**