

contemporaryartsmuseum houston

5216 Montrose Blvd Houston, TX 77006-6547
t (713) 284-8250 f (713) 284-8275 www.camh.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2010

MEDIA CONTACT
Connie McAllister
Communications and Marketing Manager
t (713) 284-8255 cmcallister@camh.org

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents paintings by Odili Donald Odita

Perspectives 169: Odili Donald Odita

Gallery walk-through with the artist: Thursday, February 11, 6:30pm

Opening reception: Thursday, February 11, 6:30-9pm

On view February 12-May 2, 2010



Odili Donald Odita, *Inside Out*, 2008. Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 30 inches. Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, NY

Houston, TX—Odili Donald Odita's paintings are meticulous abstractions set to pulsating hues. Though devoid of any discernible imagery, his works are narratives told in color, shape, and form. Odita's paintings explore the intersections of figuration and abstraction as well as the conceptual and perceptual understanding of space. For his solo exhibition, *Perspectives 169: Odili Donald Odita*, curated by CAMH Curator Valerie Cassel Oliver, the artist will present an installation that includes new large-scale paintings on canvas and on Plexiglas designed to dialogue with the architecture of the gallery.

Having worked in a variety of media, the artist returned to painting in the late 1990s, experimenting with color and geometric shapes upon the flat two-dimensional frame to alter the perception of space. The artist has created numerous site-specific projects in which he paints directly onto the walls of the space. For his debut exhibition at the CAMH, Odita has composed a series of paintings inspired by the architecture of the Museum's gallery and the vibrant community of Houston. The dynamic colors, forms, and patterns are metaphors on the

complexity of the city's rich cultural traditions as well as the artist's commentary on the larger global landscape in which we live.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Odili Donald Odita was born in Enugu, Nigeria in 1966 and raised in Columbus, Ohio. He currently lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he works as Associate Professor of Painting at Tyler School of Art, Temple University.

Odili Donald Odita received a BFA (with distinction) in painting from The Ohio State University, Columbus, and an MFA from Vermont's Bennington College in 1990. He has been included in many national and international group exhibitions, including *52nd Venice Biennale* (2007); *DAK'ART 2004*, Dakar Biennial of Contemporary African Art; *Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad*, Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis (2003); *Black President*, New Museum, New York (2003); and *2nd Johannesburg Biennale* (1997). Solo exhibition and project venues include Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2008); Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2007); Studio Museum in Harlem (2007); Hunch of Venison (Galerie Judin Belot), Zurich (2004); Matrix Art Project, Brussels (2003), among many others. Odita is represented by Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, and Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town.

PUBLICATION

Perspectives 169: Odili Donald Odita is accompanied by a catalogue, featuring an interview by Cassel Oliver, black-and-white reproductions of exhibited work, and the artist's biography.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

All events are free and open to the public, and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted. For complete listings and current information, please check www.camh.org.

Thursday, February 11, 6:30-9pm

Gallery walk-through and opening reception: *Perspectives 169: Odili Donald Odita*

Celebrate the opening reception of work by this Nigerian-born, Philadelphia-based artist. **Odili Donald Odita** will lead a gallery walk-through of his work at 6:30pm with the reception immediately following. Cash bar.

Saturday, April 17, 2pm

***Perspectives* Talk: Frances Colpitt**

Frances Colpitt, the Deedie Potter Rose Chair of Art History at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, and a corresponding editor for *Art in America*, leads a gallery walk-through of *Perspectives 169: Odili Donald Odita*. She is the author of *Abstract Art in the Late Twentieth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).

PERSPECTIVES EXHIBITIONS FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The *Perspectives* Series is made possible by major grants from Faye Sarofim; The Studio, the young professionals group of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; and by donors to the Museum's *Perspectives* Fund: Anonymous, Anonymous Fund at the Community Foundation of Abilene, Bright Star Productions Inc., Heidi and David Gerger, Leslie and Mark Hull, Anne and David Kirkland, Karol Kreymer and Robert J. Card, M.D., Kerry Inman and Denby Auble, Belinda Phelps and Randy Howard, Leslie and Shannon Sasser in Honor of Lynn Herbert, Sara

Dodd-Spickelmier and Keith Spickelmier, William F. Stern, 20K Group, LLC, and Laura and Rob Walls.

Perspectives catalogues are made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: Anonymous, Baker Botts L.L.P., Baker Hughes Foundation, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Ruth Dreessen, Louise D. Jamail, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Kinder Morgan Foundation, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Nordstrom, Inc., and 20K Group, LLC. Teen Council is supported by Baker Hughes Foundation and Baker Botts L.L.P.

GENERAL SUPPORT

The Museum's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, Inc., the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, National Endowment for the Arts, and Texas Commission on the Arts.

Continental Airlines is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

CAMH MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is an idea and a place shaped by the present moment. The Museum exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse. ALWAYS FRESH, ALWAYS FREE

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am to 5:00pm, Thursdays to 9:00pm, and Sundays noon to 5:00pm. Admission is always free. For more information, visit www.camh.org or call (713) 284-8250.