

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**STUDIO  
MUSEUM  
HARLEM**



## **NATIONAL AWARD RECOGNIZES ARTS & MINDS AT THE STUDIO MUSEUM FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO ALZHEIMER'S FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS**

### **Five-Year Partnership Serving Diverse Communities Will Be Saluted March 22**



Arts & Minds Participant engaged in a Studio Museum workshop  
Photo courtesy Carolyn Halpin-Healy

**New York, NY, March 21, 2016**—The Studio Museum in Harlem is thrilled to announce that The Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) has awarded *Arts & Minds* at the Studio Museum the 2015 Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Award. *Arts & Minds* is a New-York based, non-profit organization committed to improving quality of life for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through engagement with art.

Awarded in the category of Diverse/Multicultural Communities for its exceptional five-year program at The Studio Museum in Harlem, *Arts & Minds* has strengthened and deepened the Museum's commitment to providing access and meaningful experiences to visitors of all ages. Weekly programs focus on close looking and dialogue with a work of art in the museum's current exhibition, and provide an opportunity for participants to explore the expressive possibilities of a specific medium or process.

Co-Founder and Executive Director of *Arts & Minds* Carolyn Halpin-Healy says, "The Studio Museum in Harlem is the ideal partner for *Arts & Minds*. The extraordinary exhibition program, and commitment to the exchange of ideas about art and society, consistently inspire all visitors including adults with cognitive impairment and their care partners."

“I am so honored to be a part of this groundbreaking program that creates a safe space for creativity to blossom,” says Shanta Lawson, Education Director, The Studio Museum in Harlem. “Whether the participants are making acrylic paintings, ink drawings on paper, found-object sculptures or mixed-media collage, the caregivers and teaching artists understand the importance of building an atmosphere that draws everyone together.”

The annual Awards, given by The Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) and The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, nationally recognize nonprofit programs that address the needs of caregivers for people with Alzheimer’s disease. Awards have been selected in three categories: Creative Expression, Policy and Advocacy, and Diverse/Multicultural Communities. The organizations will each receive \$20,000 and will be honored at a celebratory reception on March 22 during the annual “Aging in America” Conference scheduled for March 20-24 in Washington, DC.

### ***About Arts & Minds***

Our Mission: *Arts & Minds* is a non-profit organization committed to improving quality of life for people living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias through engagement with art. We partner with museums to provide meaningful art-centered activities that create positive emotional and cognitive experiences, enhance verbal and non-verbal communication, reduce isolation and build social networks. Our programs empower people with dementia, family members, professional caregivers and educators to strengthen social, emotional and spiritual bonds by engaging with art.

The ART side: Art has the power to inspire and transform. It opens our eyes and minds and enhances our interactions with others. The experience of looking closely allows us to appreciate beauty, exchange ideas, share memories or simply respond to the work in front of us. Art interpretation taps into cognition, emotion and memory to take us to the heart of what it means to be human. Making art in hands-on workshops allows us to express ourselves creatively with or without words. Through shared aesthetic experiences, care partners learn that, despite cognitive changes, they are able to interact with a greater sense of who they are.

The SCIENCE side: Alzheimer’s disease is one of the most common medical conditions associated with aging. Existing medications target memory loss, mood disorders, and behavioral disruptions, but there is not yet a cure. Caring for a person with dementia challenges the stamina, psychological wellbeing and general health of family, friends, and professional caregivers. The condition known as caregiver burnout is perhaps one of the more subtle problems accompanying Alzheimer’s disease. Non-drug interventions, including cognitively and emotionally stimulating arts activities, can benefit both patients and caregivers. *Arts & Minds* gives caregivers the tools—from brushes to positive experiences—to use in living well. Participants tell us that our programs create positive emotional connections with art and one another.

For more information visit [artsandminds.org](http://artsandminds.org)

### ***About The Studio Museum in Harlem***

Founded in 1968 by a diverse group of artists, community activists and philanthropists, The Studio Museum in Harlem is internationally known for its catalytic role in promoting the work of outstanding artists of African descent. Now approaching its 50th anniversary, the Studio Museum is preparing to construct a new home at its current location on Manhattan’s West 125th Street, designed by internationally renowned architect David Adjaye as the first building created expressly for the institution’s program. The new building will enable the

Studio Museum to better serve a growing and diverse audience, provide additional educational opportunities for people of all ages, expand its program of world-renowned exhibitions, effectively display its singular collection and strengthen its trailblazing *Artist-in-Residence* program.

The *Artist-in-Residence* program was one of the institution's founding initiatives and is the reason why "Studio" is in the name. The program has supported more than one hundred emerging artists of African or Latino descent, many of whom who have gone on to highly regarded careers. Alumni include Chakaia Booker, David Hammons, Kerry James Marshall, Julie Mehretu, Wangechi Mutu, Mickalene Thomas and Kehinde Wiley.

The collection includes over two thousand paintings, sculptures, works on paper, prints, photographs, mixed-media works and installations dating from the nineteenth century to the present. Artists represented include Romare Bearden, Robert Colescott, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Chris Ofili, Betye Saar, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker and Hale Woodruff, as well as many former artists in residence. The Studio Museum is the custodian of an extensive archive of the work of photographer James VanDerZee, the renowned chronicler of the Harlem community from 1906 to 1983.

The Studio Museum's exhibitions expand the personal, public and academic understanding of modern and contemporary work by artists of African descent. A wide variety of on- and off-site programs brings art alive for audiences of all ages—from toddlers to seniors—while serving as a bridge between artists of African descent and a broad and diverse public. A leader in scholarship about artists of African descent, the Studio Museum publishes Studio magazine twice a year and creates award-winning books, exhibition catalogues and brochures.

*Exhibitions at The Studio Museum in Harlem are made possible thanks to support from the following government agencies: The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew W. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Additional support is generously provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.*

### **Hours and Admission**

The Studio Museum is open Thursday and Friday, noon–9pm; Saturday, 10am–6pm; and Sunday, noon–6pm. The Museum is closed to the public but available for school and group tours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults, \$3 for students (with valid ID) and seniors. Free for children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information visit [studiomuseum.org](http://studiomuseum.org).

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