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*High-resolution images available upon request.*

## ***Complex Uncertainties: New Traveling Exhibition*** **Explores Artists in Postwar America**

**Washington, DC** (October 13, 2020) — International Arts & Artists (IA&A) is pleased to announce a new traveling exhibition, *Complex Uncertainties: Artists in Postwar America*, organized by Telfair Museums, Savannah, Georgia.

Through nearly 100 artworks representing 85 artists, *Complex Uncertainties* reveals the fault lines underlying American national identity and explores how a diverse set of artists have responded to key historical events and social upheaval since 1945.

After World War II, the United States emerged as a new world superpower. Though economically buoyed by wartime success, the country remained fragmented by poverty, racial segregation, limited rights for women, and numerous inequities in education and employment. Minorities and the socioeconomically disadvantaged, all but invisible in the postwar economy, staked out tentative claims on the margins of the newly dominant culture, where they found a troubling disconnect between the real and imagined narratives of the American experience.

*Complex Uncertainties* offers a pluralistic understanding of American identity and culture: one that includes the mainstream and the subversive, the celebrated and the marginalized. The exhibition covers a diverse set of artmakers, from notable names to self-taught practitioners, while illuminating an inclusive outlook on “American identity.” Not every artist in the exhibition was born in the United States or remained in the country, but each had a decisive influence on the nation’s cultural landscape through their creative explorations of, within, and about the country.

Primarily drawn from the permanent collection of Telfair Museums, *Complex Uncertainties* encompasses modern and contemporary art paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, and sculptures. The exhibition includes works by landmark artists— e.g. Bruce Davidson, Elaine de Kooning, Sam Gilliam, Ethel Schwabacher, Radcliffe Bailey, and Carrie Mae Weems, as well as lesser-known figures—that uniquely

capture the essence of the artists' individual styles, while enriching our understanding of American art history beyond the canonical timeline.

"We are thrilled to be working with International Arts & Artists to tour *Complex Uncertainties*," says Courtney McNeil, Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs, Telfair Museums. "The exhibition does not offer any resolution or antidote for rupture or conflict. Rather, it is a catalyst for audiences to think about the past, present, and future—with seminal American artworks as a guide. By observing how past and living artists negotiated the contradictions of their own historical moments, visitors will have a unique glimpse into our current social and political situation."

*Complex Uncertainties* is a dynamic arrangement of groundbreaking works—historical and present-day—conversing with each other in provocative ways, amidst the modern age's precarious landscape of crisis and discontinuity. Through these spellbinding examples of modern and contemporary art (abstract expressionism, color field painting, pop art, photography, and mixed media), audiences will be able to trace the extraordinary progression of American art alongside a narrative of American history as interpreted by artists.

"IA&A is honored to tour this exhibition in partnership with Telfair Museums," says Lise Dubé-Scherr, Executive Director of IA&A. "The exhibition, with its eclectic themes and genres, offers multiple points of interest for any visitor, regardless of age or background. The opportunity to learn from one another—inside and outside the gallery—makes *Complex Uncertainties* uniquely interactive and participatory. Visitors will empathize with the artists' enduring sentiment of uncertainty within an ever-changing society, but also revel in the responsive power of art and the impact of their work for future generations."

*Complex Uncertainties* will tour both nationally from fall 2022 through winter 2025. The exhibition will be complemented by an illustrated companion publication of the same title published by Telfair Museums and International Arts & Artists, in partnership with Scala Art Publishers. The exhibition also includes an interactive app that features content to enhance and deepen the visitor experience on-site as well as pre- and post-visit.

The exhibition is curated by Rachel Reese, Director and Curator of the ICA at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and former Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at Telfair Museums.

*Complex Uncertainties: Artists in Postwar America* is organized by the Telfair Museums, Savannah, Georgia, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC. For more information, visit [ArtsandArtists.org](https://ArtsandArtists.org)

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## ABOUT TELFAIR MUSEUMS

[telfair.org](http://telfair.org)

Started in 1886 as the first public art museum in the South and the first U.S. museum founded by a woman, Telfair Museums presents compelling art and historical programming across its three unique sites in downtown Savannah, Georgia: the Telfair Academy, the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters, and the Jepson Center for the Arts. Two National Historic Landmarks—the Telfair Academy and the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters—showcase the complicated history of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Americans, free and enslaved, who lived and toiled in Savannah. The Jepson Center houses the museum’s more than 7,000-work permanent collection, including important works of American Impressionism and the Ashcan School; the largest collection of Kahlil Gibran’s visual art in the United States; seminal twentieth-century photography by Walker Evans, Helen Levitt, and Bruce Davidson; and essential works by contemporary artists in the museum’s Kirk Varnedoe Collection.

## ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ARTS & ARTISTS

[artsandartists.org](http://artsandartists.org)

International Arts & Artists (IA&A) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. Since 1995, IA&A has fulfilled its mission by providing programs and services to artists, arts institutions, cultural organizations, and the public—reaching over 2.1 million people.

IA&A’s **Traveling Exhibition Service** develops and circulates a broad range of premiere visual arts exhibitions in the US and abroad. With more than 100 unique exhibitions and over 730 presentations, IA&A’s exhibitions have toured all 50 US states as well as 24 countries, helping organizations to engage their community, increase public awareness, develop meaningful programming, and foster enhanced support.

IA&A’s **Cultural Exchange Programs** support the next generation of creative leaders by providing exchange opportunities and visa assistance for students, professionals, artists, and researchers from around the world participating in programs across the US. IA&A has connected over 1,850 exchange visitors from more than 95 countries to over 650 host organizations.

**IA&A at Hillyer** is a contemporary art center based in Washington, DC. Committed to serving the public and supporting artists at all stages of their careers, Hillyer has presented over 300 exhibitions featuring local, regional, and international artists, reaching over 97,000 visitors.

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