

News Release

Press Office

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New Paintings by Artist Eliza Douglas On View at the Jewish Museum Beginning May 4

New York, NY, April xx, 2018 - The Jewish Museum presents new paintings by artist Eliza Douglas on view in the Museum's Lobby from May 4 through October 21, 2018.

Eliza Douglas (b. 1984, New York) lives and works in Berlin and New York. She creates precariously balanced compositions that teeter between realism and abstraction, balletic grace and slapstick humor. The new works created for the Jewish Museum lobby, *Shadow and Light* and *Blood and Bones* (both 2018, oil on canvas), are part of a series begun in 2016, and titled with lines from the poems of Dorothea Lasky.

In each canvas, expertly rendered hands are connected by a network of outlandishly long, gesturally painted shirtsleeves. Douglas typically serves as the model for these body parts and clothing, creating an oblique form of self-portrait. Her slippery approach to depicting herself suggests that there is always a gap between how we envision ourselves and how we are perceived by others.

Douglas touches on the legacy of her great-grandmother Dorothy Wolff Douglas in these latest works. Alongside her own hands, the artist paints those of her aunt Carolyn, Wolff Douglas's granddaughter and Douglas's only link to her great-grandmother. From 1924 to 1951, Wolff Douglas was a professor in (and eventually the chair of) the Smith College economics department, where she was a mentor to the feminist author and activist Betty Friedan. She lived with her partner of 30 years, Katherine DuPre Lumpkin, a sociologist who examined race relations in the American South. The two women broke cultural and academic boundaries, influencing the progressive politics of the period. At the height of McCarthyism, the U.S. anti-communist panic in the early 1950s, Wolff Douglas was called to testify before the Un-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives. She lost her job, and both women were forced to suppress their scholarly contributions. In *Shadow and Light* and *Blood and Bones*, Douglas poetically restores this lost history.

The exhibition is organized by Kelly Taxter, Associate Curator, The Jewish Museum.

Support

The exhibition is made possible by the generous support of Wendy Fisher.

Press Viewing

Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. during the press preview for [Chaim Soutine: Flesh](#)

Program

Writers and Artists Respond: Reading by Dorothea Lasky followed by a conversation with Associate Curator Kelly Taxter

Thursday, May 10, 6:30 p.m.

Dorothea Lasky, Assistant Professor of Poetry at Columbia University, presents a reading in conjunction with the exhibition of new paintings by Eliza Douglas, followed by a conversation with Kelly Taxter, Associate Curator. [Free with Museum Admission, RSVP Recommended.](#)

The Jewish Museum
1109 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10128
TheJewishMuseum.org

Under the auspices of
The Jewish Theological Seminary

Jewish Museum

About the Jewish Museum

Located on New York City's famed Museum Mile, the Jewish Museum is a distinctive hub for art and Jewish culture for people of all backgrounds. Founded in 1904, the Museum was the first institution of its kind in the United States and is one of the oldest Jewish museums in the world. Devoted to exploring art and Jewish culture from ancient to contemporary, the Museum offers diverse exhibitions and programs, and maintains a unique collection of nearly 30,000 works of art, ceremonial objects, and media reflecting the global Jewish experience over more than 4,000 years.

Location: 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street, New York City
Hours: Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, 11am to 5:45pm;
Thursday, 11am to 8pm; and Friday, 11am to 4pm.
Admission: \$18.00 for adults, \$12.00 for senior citizens, \$8.00 for
students, free for visitors 18 and under and Jewish Museum
members. Pay What You Wish on Thursdays from 5pm to
8pm. Free on Saturdays and select Jewish holidays.
Information: The public may call 212.423.3200 or visit
TheJewishMuseum.org

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