



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

**CONTACT: Chene Koppitz, Communications Coordinator**

**Flint Institute of Arts**

**P: 810.237.7387**

**E: [ckoppitz@flintarts.org](mailto:ckoppitz@flintarts.org)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Through Voting, New Art Enters The FIA Visitors select Stephen Town's Gift of Lineage from Community exhibition**

Flint, MI – A new work will join the collection of the Flint Institute of Arts, in part because visitors selected it from three options included in the current exhibition, Community, on view through April 19, 2020.

Along with two other artworks, Stephen Town's Gift of Lineage was on loan to the FIA for the run of Community, which highlights works in various mediums by some of the most important African American artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. Through Sunday, March 8, 2020, visitors were encouraged to "vote" for the work they most wanted to see added to the collection. The work which received the largest number of votes would then be purchased by the FIA. The voting process and purchase emphasized not only the importance of civic participation, it reinforced the idea that the objects in the museum's collection belong to the public while affirming the collection's capacity for change and future growth.

Announced live on Facebook and FOX66 the morning before the Michigan Primary by Community Gala Co-Chair Dr. Brenda Rogers-Grays, Gift of Lineage will be purchased using funds raised by the Community Gala and matched by FIA acquisition funds. FIA Executive Director John Henry thanked not only the Community Gala Committee but the Greater Flint community as well, noting, "All of our collection is here because of our community."

Henry continued, "It's a reflection of the taste, interests, and intellect of the people who have lived here for the past 90 years. Gift of Lineage is the newest edition and we're proud to have it."

For more information on the selection process, Community, or the FIA, please contact Chene Koppitz, FIA Communications Coordinator, via email at [ckoppitz@flintarts.org](mailto:ckoppitz@flintarts.org) or by phone at 810.237.7387.

### **ABOUT STEPHEN TOWNS**

Stephen Towns is an American painter working primarily in oil, acrylic, and fibers. His work explores how American history influences contemporary society. Born in Linconville, South Carolina in 1980, Towns received his BFA from the University of South Carolina. He lives and works in Baltimore, from which he has exhibited locally and nationally. Towns work is held in both private and public collections, including the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City, Missouri.

### **ABOUT THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

The Flint Institute of Arts is Michigan's second largest art museum and one of the largest museum art schools in the nation. The FIA's mission is to advance the understanding and appreciation of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.

The FIA is located at 1120 East Kearsley Street in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Mon–Sat 10 AM–5 PM and Sun 1–5 PM. Gallery admission is free for all Genesee County residents, FIA members, and children under 12; Adults are \$10; Senior Citizens and Students with I.D. are \$8. Saturdays are free for all visitors thanks to Huntington Bank.

For more information, please visit [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org)