



Walton Arts Center

NEWS RELEASE

For More Information:

Jennifer Wilson

479.571.2762

jwilson@waltonartscenter.org

View the [Walton Arts Center Media Kit](#)

For Immediate Release

For downloadable photos visit the [Mirror, Mirror Dropbox](#).

Walton Arts Center Announces New Visual Arts Exhibit

Joy Pratt Markham Gallery to feature *Mirror, Mirror: The Prints of Alison Saar* from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation



© Alison Saar. Courtesy of L.A. Louver, Venice, CA.
Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS, April 18, 2019 — *Mirror, Mirror: The Prints of Alison Saar* from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation reflects the vast body of prints created by Alison Saar over the past 35 years. Addressing issues of race, gender and spirituality, her lithographs, etchings and woodblock prints are evocations of

her sculptures, for which she is renowned. The exhibition will be featured in the Joy Pratt Markham Gallery at [Walton Arts Center](#) from May 28 to October 4, 2019.

“Saar’s sculptures often depict powerful figures carved from wood or cast in bronze, that are articulated with found objects – material artifacts that enrich the work with a narrative all their own,” said exhibit curator Cynthia Norse Thompson. “As a practice maintained in connection to and in tandem with her sculpture making, Saar undertakes printmaking with the same tangible approach to unconventional materials and methods. Cast off objects like old chair backs and found ceiling tin become the foundations for etching or lithography plates. Carved wooden panels used for wood block prints echo similar techniques established in her hewn wooden forms.”

In addition to printing on paper, Saar also employs a variety of used fabrics like vintage handkerchiefs, old shop rags and antique sugar sacks that are layered, cut, sewn and collaged – empowering the content of the image while resisting the flat repetitive nature of the medium.

“Alison Saar’s art is breathtaking and captivating, and she captures the anguish of many in society who deal with the reality of inequality,” comments Jordan D. Schnitzer. “She is a master at using different materials to reinforce her themes. Once seen – never forgotten. We are honored to have helped organize this exhibition so that many can experience Alison Saar’s extraordinary art!”

As part of Walton Arts Center’s Artosphere festival, the exhibition expresses the festival’s themes through a conceptual lens, furthering broad and uncharted perspectives and dialogs— we have reimagined the celestial, its brightest mornings and darkest evening in the narratives of Saar’s work. Her work touches on issues of race, identity, history and mythology; as well as the contrasting tension between movement and stillness of the figure; and tragedies and their repercussions on the lands. Here, sustainability is in the protection and stewardship of personal histories addressing narratives of the African American experience and here exploration is in the awareness and discovery of oneself to the environment and its reflective landscapes.

Illuminated and more visible are the tragic stories of racism in our country, now reawakened by our current state of political unrest. Yet, Saar quietly creates art to inform each viewer of her stories— like a constellation of the universe—whose connected stars form figures and stories from past civilizations. Describing her work in her own words, Saar states “It tells so many stories, so many histories.”

About the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation

At age 14, Jordan D. Schnitzer bought his first work of art from his mother’s Portland, Oregon contemporary art gallery, evolving into a lifelong avocation as collector. He began collecting contemporary prints and multiples in earnest in 1988. Today, the collection exceeds 13,000 works and includes many of today’s most important contemporary artists. It has grown to be one of the country’s largest private print collections. He generously lends work from his collection to qualified institutions. The Foundation has organized over 110 exhibitions and has had art exhibited at over 150 museums. Mr. Schnitzer is also President of [Harsch Investment Properties](#), a privately owned real estate investment company based in Portland, Oregon, owning and managing office, multi-tenant industrial, multi-family and retail properties in six western states. For more information about the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, please visit jordanschnitzer.org.

Walton Arts Center is Arkansas' largest and busiest performing arts presenter. Each year more than 195,000 people from Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma and beyond attend more than 400 public events at Walton Arts Center, including performances, rehearsals, community gatherings, receptions, weddings and more. Approximately 45,000 students and teachers participate annually in arts learning programs at Walton Arts Center, and almost 200 volunteers donate 21,000 hours of time each year to its operations. Walton Arts Center presents entertainers and artists from around the world including Broadway musicals, renowned dance companies, international artists, up-and-coming jazz musicians and more. As a non-profit organization, Walton Arts Center enjoys the generous support of public sector funding, corporate sponsorship and private donors, allowing audience members to pay on average only 45% of the cost of programs offered. To learn more about Walton Arts Center, visit www.waltonartscenter.org.

###