

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# CURTIS PATTERSON

## Untitled Art Booth C18

November 29 - December 3, 2022



Location: Ocean Drive and 12th Street, Miami Beach, Florida

VIP Preview: Mon, 28 Nov, 1pm – 8pm

Hours: Tues - Sat, 11am – 7pm

Artist Talk / Podcast: Fri, Dec 2, 2pm

Laney Contemporary presents a solo selection of works by Atlanta-based sculptor Curtis Patterson (American, b. 1944). Patterson's command of materials and process—primarily working in bronze and steel—and his dynamic, at times kinetic, compositions point toward an illustrious, decades-long career that has been highly active and yet under-recognized. Patterson's sculptures and multi-dimensional wall works emphasize a spectrum of African diasporic experiences, both personal and cultural, within the context of modern and contemporary art. His experience of growing up during the Civil Rights Movement informs the subject matter and the symbolism in his work.

On view will be *Nimba*, a large scale, mountain-like summit of a sculpture from the *Unbroken Connections* series, alongside a selection of Patterson's newest series entitled *Diasporic*

*Reflections*—intimate, mask-inspired wall reliefs that represent months of the year—as well as work from his ongoing *Rocker* series (2011 - present). The *Rockers* comprise slot-fitted, interlocking, geometric shapes that work in balance with one another, a tension that can foster movement and imply potential action.

We are honored to exhibit Patterson's dynamic sculptures and to share his lifetime of engagement in the studio with new generations of curators, scholars, and collectors.



### Untitled Art, Miami | Special Projects

#### **A Notable Journey: A Conversation with Curtis Patterson and Melissa Messina Artist Talk / Podcast: Fri, Dec 2, 2pm**

Join us for a conversation with Atlanta-based sculptor Curtis Patterson (b., Shreveport, LA, 1944) and nationally-recognized Independent Curator, Melissa Messina, formerly Patterson's student at the Atlanta College of Art in the 1990s. The talk will touch on his legendary impact as a professor—including on painters Radcliffe Bailey, Fahamu Pecou, and illustrator Thomas Blackshear—and the development of his artistic philosophies and influences since the mid-1970s. The discussion will also highlight Patterson's numerous public sculptures, including those in Atlanta, Dallas, Columbus, Shreveport, and St. Paul, and invite his thoughts on historic and contemporary monuments. Finally, as an important platform of visibility, this program will position Patterson in the pantheon of black sculptors including Richard Hunt, Melvin Edwards, and Martin Puryear, and serve as an introduction to his prolific studio practice highlighting recent sculptural series which have captured the attention of museums, collectors, and a new generation of artists for whom he is a formidable example of professional tenacity and boundless creativity.

## **Biographies:**

### **Curtis Patterson**

Born in Shreveport, LA, Curtis Patterson's upbringing fostered a deep affinity for working with his hands and instilled a strong sense of discipline, balance, and spirituality. Patterson earned his BA in Art Education from Grambling State University, an HBCU listed on the African American Heritage Trail, and his MFA from Georgia State University and was the first African American to receive an MFA in Sculpture from GSU in 1976. His practice has moved from painting, wood, and ceramics to cast iron and large-scale, bronze and fabricated corten steel sculpture. Patterson was a faculty member at The Atlanta College of Art from 1976 to 2007. His work entered the realm of large-scale, public sculpture with *Cometh the Sun* commissioned by the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Cultural Affairs in 1977. Since, Patterson has been commissioned for permanent public installations in prominent cities throughout the United States. His recent solo exhibition, *A Notable Journey*, at Laney Contemporary, Savannah, GA, was pivotal to bringing Patterson's sculpture to a broader audience. His work is currently the subject of a solo exhibition at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, VA, on view through January 8, 2023.

### **Melissa Messina**

Melissa Messina is an Independent Curator, Curatorial Advisor, and Curator of the Mildred Thompson Estate. For over 20 years, her exhibitions, site-responsive projects, and public programs have been presented in cultural institutions throughout the United States and abroad. She has recently guest curated solo exhibitions for Maya Lin at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Curtis Patterson at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, VA, and Mildred Thompson at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA, and the New Orleans Museum of Art, LA, and was the co-curator of the 2018 and 2020 Bermuda Biennials. In 2017, Messina co-curated "Magnetic Fields, Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today," an intergenerational exhibition celebrating abstraction by 21 Black female artists that toured from Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. She was formerly the Interim Executive Director and Senior Curator of the SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA; the National Program Director for ArtTable, NY; and a founding staff member and then guest curator at the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum. Her research has been funded by Creative Time | Warhol Foundation, the Stuart A. Rose Library at Emory University, and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

Image Credits:

Curtis Patterson, *In Retrospect*, 2011, *Rocker Series*, fabricated bronze, hot patina, 23 x 43 x 26 in

Curtis Patterson circa 2000 | Courtesy of the Artist

## **LANEY CONTEMPORARY**

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