

For immediate release to the press (September 2017)

Willie Cole: Made in Newark

The College of Architecture and Design (CoAD) at NJIT is honored to present an exhibition of Newark native Willie Cole's most recent artistic creations.... "Made in Newark". This body of new work, completed over the summer, is a continuation of the artists' exploration of recycled water bottles as primary building material in large-scale sculptural pieces. As he has done throughout his acclaimed career, Cole creatively repurposes the common object; encouraging viewers to think outside the box while raising social awareness to issues such as consumerism and ecology. Earlier works by Cole, completed in different mediums and dealing with different social issues, will complement the new works and provide reference to the artists' design trajectory.

"Willie Cole: Made in Newark" will open to the public on **Thursday, October 12** from 6-9 p.m with a reception for the artist, live entertainment, food and drinks. The exhibition will close on Monday, November 20, 2017 with a lecture by the artist starting at 5:30 p.m. CoAD Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with additional times by appointment only. CoAD Gallery is located on the second floor of Weston Hall, NJIT campus (on the corner of MLK Blvd. and Warren St., Newark). For more information about the exhibition, please contact CoAD Gallery curator, M. Gosser at: smatt_nj@yahoo.com.

Background of the artist:

Willie Cole grew up in Newark, NJ; in the neighborhood that would eventually become NJIT campus. He received his BFA degree from the School of Visual Arts in New York in 1976, and continued his studies at the Art Students League of New York from 1976 to 1979. Early in his career, Cole explored abandoned factories in Newark, finding inspiration in the objects left behind.

"Cole is best known for assembling and transforming ordinary domestic and used objects such as irons, ironing boards, high-heeled shoes, hair dryers, bicycle parts, wooden matches, lawn jockeys, and other discarded appliances and hardware, into imaginative and powerful works of art and installations.

Cole's work is generally discussed in the context of postmodern eclecticism, combining references and appropriation ranging from African and African-American imagery, to Dada's readymades and Surrealism's transformed objects. www.williecole.com

Willie Cole is the recipient of many awards, including the 2006 David C. Driskell Prize, the first national award to honor and celebrate contributions to the field of African-American art and art history, established by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia. His work is in the public collections of many institutions including the Baltimore Museum, Bronx Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Newark Museum, Yale University, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art (NY), New York Public Library, Whitney Museum, Philadelphia Museum and The National Gallery of Art. Cole is represented by Alexander and Bonin Gallery in New York; and by Maus Contemporary in Birmingham, AL." -(from Wikipedia)

About The College of Architecture and Design (CoAD):

The College of Architecture and Design (CoAD) is comprised of School of Architecture and School of Art + Design. The College offers undergraduate degrees in architecture, digital design, industrial design and interior design as well as graduate degrees in architecture, infrastructure planning, and urban systems. The College of Architecture and Design is a comprehensive Design School located in a comprehensive research university. By studying design here, you will have ample opportunities for cross-pollination of ideas and interdisciplinary interaction. www.njit.edu