

STORM KING ART CENTER

STORM KING ART CENTER TO PRESENT A SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION OF RASHID JOHNSON'S *THE CRISIS* ON VIEW FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE UNITED STATES

THE CRISIS

On view from April 7–November 8, 2021



Rashid Johnson, *The Crisis* (2019). Courtesy of the artist and Hauser & Wirth.
Photo: Stephanie Powell courtesy of Storm King Art Center.

Mountainville, NY, April 5, 2021—Storm King Art Center will present a site-specific installation of Rashid Johnson's 2019 sculptural work *The Crisis*, on view from April 7 to November 8, 2021.

The installation will mark the first US presentation of the artwork, which the artist has adapted to respond directly to Storm King's native landscape.

Rashid Johnson (b. 1977) draws inspiration from combining architectural and organic elements, intending for *The Crisis* to capture the tension of the moment in which nature has just begun to reclaim a human-made structure. Originally planned to be shown at Storm King in 2020, a year marked by an unprecedented global pandemic and sociopolitical unrest, *The Crisis* has taken on a striking new relevance in this time of reflection.

Nora Lawrence, Storm King Senior Curator, commented, "What I love most about working at Storm King is being able to present art in a way no other place can. I am looking forward to watching *The Crisis* change as the grasses grow up and into it and the seasons shift. In collaboration with Rashid, we were able to place *The Crisis* in a central location on-site where visitors can view it both from above and from a closer vantage point. These various physical approaches invite the multiplicity of interpretations that Rashid intends for this work and allow space for visitors to contemplate the striking new relevance that *The Crisis* has taken on in today's moment."

The title *The Crisis* is ambiguous, taking on different meaning based on the context in which the work is viewed, and the perspective of the viewer who witnesses it. *The Crisis* can speak to something deeply personal as well as a collective event and can invoke both historical and ongoing crises.

The work—a sixteen-foot-tall, yellow pyramidal steel structure—is set within a field of native grasses, which Storm King has worked to reintroduce to its landscape and cultivate over the last 25 years. Over the course of the presentation, these grasses will grow up within and around the geometric frame, integrating it into the very fabric of Storm King. The structure's shelves are populated with a range of smaller objects including blocks of shea butter, sculpted fiberglass busts, and hand-crafted, painted ceramic vessels planted with natural vegetation from the surrounding landscape. Johnson chose the color

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yellow for *The Crisis* to evoke multiple meanings. While the bright yellow frame and sculpted busts within it send out a warning, they are also the color of shea butter, a West African product known for its healing properties, which frequently occurs within Johnson's practice. *The Crisis* at once calls upon us to beware and also points to the regeneration that often follows trauma.

Johnson said: "The title *The Crisis* talks about the time we're living in. When I was making this work in 2019, there was so much talk about a 'crisis at the border'—but now, in 2021, there is even more at stake. The world has endured a year of struggle defined by the global pandemic, compounded by ongoing social unrest. My presentation at Storm King prompts us to reflect on how we move through our own daily lives as the world around us continues in crisis."

In the fall of 2021, *The Crisis* will be activated and accompanied by the performance of Johnson's 2019 ballet, *The Hikers*, conceived in partnership with choreographer Claudia Schreier. Johnson and Schreier will adapt *The Hikers* specifically for Storm King's vast setting. Further details and performance dates will be announced in the coming months.

The Crisis (2019) is on loan to Storm King for the 2021 season from the artist and Hauser & Wirth.

About Rashid Johnson

Born in Chicago in 1977, Rashid Johnson is among an influential cadre of contemporary American artists whose work employs a wide range of media to explore themes of art history, individual and shared cultural identities, personal narratives, literature, philosophy, materiality, and critical history. After studying in the photography department of the Art Institute of Chicago, Johnson's practice quickly expanded to embrace a wide range of media—including sculpture, painting, drawing, filmmaking, and installation—yielding a complex multidisciplinary practice that incorporates diverse materials rich with symbolism and personal history.

Recent solo exhibitions include 'Rashid Johnson: The Hikers', Hauser & Wirth, New York, NY (2019), 'Rashid Johnson. Anxious Audience', The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada (2019), 'Rashid Johnson. Los Senderistas', Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico (2019), 'Rashid Johnson: The Hikers', Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO (2019), 'Rashid Johnson. It Never Entered My Mind', Hauser & Wirth, St. Moritz, Switzerland (2019), 'Provocations. Rashid Johnson', Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA (2018), 'Rashid Johnson. No More Water', Lismore Castle Arts, Lismore, Ireland (2018), and 'The Rainbow Sign', David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2018).

Johnson's artwork is in the permanent collections of many public institutions, including: the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway; Brooklyn Art Museum, Brooklyn, NY; Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC; Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY. Johnson lives and works in New York City.

About Storm King Art Center

Storm King Art Center is a 500-acre outdoor museum located in New York's Hudson Valley, where visitors experience large-scale sculpture and site-specific commissions under open sky. Since 1960, Storm King has been dedicated to stewarding the hills, meadows, and forests of its site and surrounding landscape. Building on the visionary thinking of its founders, Storm King supports artists and some of their most ambitious works. Changing exhibitions, programming, and seasons offer discoveries with every visit.

Website: stormking.org

Instagram: [@stormkingartcenter](https://www.instagram.com/stormkingartcenter) | **Facebook:** [StormKingArtCenter](https://www.facebook.com/StormKingArtCenter) | **Twitter:** [@StormKingArtCtr](https://twitter.com/StormKingArtCtr)

2021 Season

April 7, 2021–December 12, 2021

Opening Hours

Wednesday–Monday (closed Tuesdays)

10AM–5:30PM

Member Mornings: Sundays 9AM–10AM

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Ticketing: stormking.org/visit

Advance tickets are required for all visitors (including Members). All ticket reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis and entry will not be permitted without an advance reservation.

General Admission Pricing:

Per-vehicle pricing is in effect. Visitors may reserve tickets for up to 6 people per vehicle (children under 5 do not need to be counted in total).

- Car (1 person) \$20.00
- Car (2 people) \$40.00
- Car (3 people) \$48.00
- Car (4 people) \$68.00
- Car (5 people) \$76.00
- Car (6 people) \$84.00

Discounted Admission

Storm King is pleased to offer discounted admission for the 2021 season to the following visitors. Discounts and admission pricing are per vehicle. Please call 845.534.3115 to reserve tickets using these discounts.

\$40 off Vehicle Admission:

- Frontline healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, hospital staff, EMTs, paramedics)
- Modern and Contemporary Reciprocal Membership Program (Mod/Co)
- American Association of Museum (AAM) Members
- International Committee of Museums (ICOM)
- Staff of other museums

\$84 off Vehicle Admission:

- Active military and their family via the Blue Star Program (May 15–September 6 only)
- SNAP participants/EBT cardholders via Museums for All
- Storm King Partner School students, families, and educators

Library Memberships

Storm King's Library Membership program provides access to the Art Center for local residents via a pass for free admission. Visitors must contact their library to check out the pass before reserving tickets by phone.

Getting to Storm King

By Car

Storm King is located at 1 Museum Road, New Windsor, NY.

By Bus – Coach USA

Visitors from NYC can book a ticket package which includes admission to Storm King and round-trip bus transportation from Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan.

By Train – Weekend Shuttle Service

Visitors arriving via Metro-North can book a ticket package which includes admission to Storm King and round-trip shuttle transportation from Beacon Station. Advance purchase is required, and tickets are limited. See stormking.org/visit for details and to book. *Saturdays and Sundays only. Metro-North tickets must be purchased separately.*

Membership:

Members receive early access to reserve timed-entry tickets in advance of the public, as well as special Member-only visiting hours. Members also receive invitations to virtual events, discounts at the Outdoor Café, at the Museum Store, and at local businesses through the Member Discount Program. Visit stormking.org/membership to join or renew.

Media Contacts:

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