



MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM

NEWS RELEASE

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**MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM PRESENTS SOLO EXHIBITION OF
ESTEEMED ARTIST JANET TAYLOR PICKETT**

**Exhibition focuses on the dialogue between her artwork
and that of renowned French artist Henri Matisse**

***Janet Taylor Pickett: The Matisse Series* on view September 10, 2016–June 18, 2017**

The intimacy of Mr. Matisse’s interiors touched me—like a poem affects each person differently at different points in your life.

—Janet Taylor Pickett

MONTCLAIR, NJ, August 17, 2016—Beginning September 10, 2016, Montclair Art Museum presents its second solo exhibition of esteemed artist Janet Taylor Pickett, ***Janet Taylor Pickett: The Matisse Series***. The exhibition explores the dialogue between Taylor Pickett’s artwork and that of renowned French artist Henri Matisse. Featuring more than 76 collages and four handmade books, it spotlights the ongoing creative conversation between the two artists and the profound impact of Matisse on Taylor Pickett’s art. It is on view through June 18, 2017.

Painter, mixed media, collage artist, and professor, Janet Taylor Pickett is known for using the dress form as an iconic template to respond to life’s profound changes. She says, “I’ve used it as a vessel to fill, to identify, and to express my journey as an African American woman, daughter, mother, and artist.” A highlight of the exhibition will be the installation of *Sixty Six Dresses: An Odyssey*, 2014-15. Referring to the artist’s age at the time of its creation, this work will be augmented by two additional collaged dresses to match her current age when the exhibition opens.

In many of her dresses, Taylor Pickett juxtaposes images of African sculpture, textiles, and cultural elements, with details from Matisse’s work, typically procured from exhibition catalogue reproductions. This multicultural dialogue is at the heart of her complex, archetypal creations, which often feature portraits of the artist herself. The artist’s interest in light, color, and multiple perspectives is also

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pervasive in some of her recent works, in which she combines elements of Matisse's work with tripartite spaces evoking medieval altarpieces, unifying past and present.

This is the second time the artist has been featured in a one-person show at MAM; the first, *More than One Way Home*, in 1997, was a 25-year mid-career survey. She currently resides in Pasadena, California.

Taylor Pickett earned her BFA and MFA from the University of Michigan, where she was the recipient of a Ford Foundation grant. She has received fellowships from the Brandywine Workshop (Philadelphia, PA), the Pilchuck Glass School (Stanwood, WA), and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. She has completed public art commissions for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Johnson and Johnson (Skillman, NJ), and Washington State Council on the Arts. MAM has several of her works in its permanent collection, which houses an impressive group of works by African American and women artists. Her work has been exhibited throughout the world, and is also in the permanent collections of the Studio Museum in Harlem, Newark Museum, and the Schomburg Center (NY, NY), as well as in many private and corporate collections.

Taylor Pickett will also be represented in two concurrent complementary exhibitions, *Matisse and American Art* and *Inspired by Matisse: Selected Works from the Collection*, opening February 2017.

Janet Taylor Pickett: The Matisse Series is co-organized by Kathy Imlay, independent curator and director of Imlay Gallery; and Gail Stavitsky, MAM chief curator.

RELATED EVENTS

30th Annual Julia Norton Babson Memorial Lecture

JANET TAYLOR PICKETT: THE MATISSE SERIES

A Private Conversation Made Public

Thursday, October 13, 2016, 7 p.m.

\$12 members, \$15 nonmembers

Artist Janet Taylor Pickett, MAM chief curator Gail Stavitsky, and independent curator Kathy Imlay of Imlay Gallery will discuss Janet's unique fusion of imagery, process, and inspiration in her current MAM exhibition, *Janet Taylor Pickett: The Matisse Series*.

Master Class: The Matisse Series with Janet Taylor Pickett

Sunday, October 16

10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Janet Taylor Pickett

\$150 members, \$180 nonmembers

Spend the day with artist Janet Taylor Pickett exploring her process in creating *The Matisse Series*. Learn about how the artwork of Henri Matisse became part of her artistic language throughout her life, and how the dialogue with Matisse and other artists has informed her work. Participants will view the exhibition, engage in a discussion with the artist, and work in the studio to create mixed media artwork, and develop their artistic voice. Thinking about artists that inspire them with the intent to create a dialogue with that artist, participants will create collages, mixed media objects, or a visual diary using items of personal meaning brought from home, sketchbooks, pastels, pencils, stamps, and materials provided by MAM. All levels welcome.

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RELATED EXHIBITIONS

February 5–June 18, 2017

*Inspired by Matisse: Selections from the Collection
Matisse and American Art*

EXHIBITION WEBSITE

The Museum will maintain a site dedicated to the exhibition for journalists seeking further information, including a checklist, images, and related events and programs. Please visit montclairartmuseum.org/press.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Janet Taylor Pickett: The Matisse Series is made possible with generous support from Rose Cali, Bob and Bobbie Constable, Adrian A. Shelby and Edward Bindel, and Margo and Frank Walter.

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum, a notable, community-based institution with an international reputation, boasts a renowned collection of American and Native American art that uniquely highlights art making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 12,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions.

The Vance Wall Art Education Center, launched in 2016, encompasses all the Museum's educational efforts, from the established Yard School of Art to newly minted MAM Art Truck. MAM programs serve a wide public of all ages and bring artists, performers, and scholars to the Museum on a regular basis. The Yard School of Art offers a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, teens, adults, seniors, and professional artists and has been recognized in the Discover Jersey Arts People's Choice Awards as the Favorite Adult Art Class and Favorite Art Camp two years in a row.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website, montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling 973-746-5555. MAM is open Wednesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and on the first Thursday night of the month (October–June), from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is \$12 for nonmember adults, \$10 for senior citizens and students with I.D., and free for members and children under 12. Free First Thursday Nights and Free First Fridays are free for everyone. The Store at MAM is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and has extended hours until 9 p.m. on Free First Thursday Nights.

All Museum programs are made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, Carol and Terry Wall / The Vance Wall Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Museum members.

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