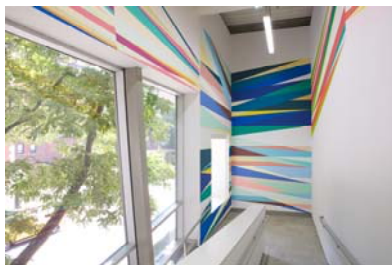




INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
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NEWS RELEASE



top and bottom: Odili Donald Odita, "Odili Donald Odita: Third Space," 2008, acrylic latex wall paint on wall, dimensions vary. Installation view, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania (Sept. 5, 2008-Dec. 9 2009). Photo: Aaron Igler

ODILI DONALD ODITA: THIRD SPACE

SEPTEMBER 5, 2008–DECEMBER 9, 2009

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 6-8PM

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH ARTIST ODILI DONALD ODITA AND WHITNEY-LAUDER CURATORIAL FELLOW STAMATINA GREGORY: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 5PM, *ICA MEMBERS ONLY*

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Odili Donald Odita's large-scale, abstract wall paintings operate at the intersection of Western modernism and African culture. Borrowing strategies of destabilized perception from Op art—a tradition condemned by formalist criticism—and adding narrative and multicultural inflection, Odita both embraces and critiques the modernist tradition. His vast, animated expanses of fractured, rhythmic planes, equally informed by television test band patterns, African textiles, post-colonial discourse, sensory overload, and digital technology, speak to a contemporary experience of dislocation and decenteredness. This is the 16th commission in ICA's Ramp Project Series and will be on view September 5, 2008-December 9, 2009.

Third Space, a symphony of irregularly shaped, fractured planes in 115 shades of housepaint, takes full advantage of the Ramp's soaring, sloping architecture.

Born in Nigeria and raised in Ohio, Odili Donald Odita (b. 1966, Enugu, Nigeria; lives Philadelphia and New York) has been developing this body of work for 10 years, at which time he was engaged, along with critic Olu Oguibe and curator Okwui Enwezor, in bringing African and diasporic art practices to critical attention through the publication *NKA*, Journal of Contemporary African Art.

Odita has had numerous exhibitions around the world, and was included in the 52nd Venice Biennale in 2007. He has had solo exhibitions at the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Jack Shaiman Gallery, New York, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. His work will also be on view this fall at The Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town and this spring at the Center for Contemporary Art in Turin. He is an Associate Professor of Fine Art at Tyler School of Art at Temple University.

This exhibition is organized by Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow Stamatina Gregory, and will be accompanied by a brochure publication.

CONTACT

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THE RAMP PROJECT SERIES

Every season ICA commissions an artist to create a new site-specific temporary work for the ramp that links the first and second floor galleries. A transitional space, the ramp is

*checklist and images available upon request.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:
118 South 36th Street at the
University of Pennsylvania

ICA is open to the public, except during
installation, from 12pm to 8pm on
Wednesday through Friday and from
11am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is FREE everyday.
*Free admission to the Institute of
Contemporary Art at the University of
Pennsylvania for the public is sponsored
by Glenn R. Fuhrman (W87/WG88) Fund.*

For more information,
call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit
www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of
Contemporary Art at the University of
Pennsylvania is a leader in the
presentation and documentation of
contemporary art. Through exhibitions,
commissions, educational programs,
and publications, ICA invites the public to
share in the experience, interpretation
and understanding of the work of
established and emerging artists.

52-foot long and is visible from the street through architecturally-scaled picture windows on the building's façade. Especially when it is illuminated at night, each of the commissioned works transforms the ramp into a window on ICA's innovative program on contemporary art. Since the series began in 2000, the ramp has been a site for a diverse range of creative approaches, including wall paintings by Ingrid Calame, Arturo Herrera and Amy Sillman; environmental installations by Virgil Marti, Judy Pfaff and Luca Buvoli; a light and sound piece by Nadine Robinson; an ongoing conceptual project by Alexandra Mir; street photography by Zoe Strauss, a terrarium/aquarium by Phoebe Washburn, and, most recently, a black-lighted wallpapered ramp by Trenton Doyle Hancock exploring the mythic tale of the Mounds and the Vegans.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

Whenever Wednesday, October 29, 7pm
Conversation: Odili Donald Odita/Roald Nasgaard

ICA acknowledges primary sponsorship of the William Penn Foundation for this project. Additional funding has been provided by: The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; The Dietrich Foundation, Inc.; the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art; friends and members of ICA; and the University of Pennsylvania. ICA is also grateful for in-kind support from Jack Shainman Gallery.

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE, WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG, FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH "ODILI DONALD ODITA: THIRD SPACE."