



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM of ART

Quick Facts

Contact: Jordan Hays, 405-744-2783 or jordan.griffis@okstate.edu

QUICK FACTS

KIKI SMITH AND PAPER: THE BODY, THE MUSE, AND THE SPIRIT

Aug. 8 – Dec. 2, 2017

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Heralded as one of the most distinctive voices of her generation, Kiki Smith has been crafting captivating, challenging art for more than 35 years. Birth, death, and regeneration are recurring themes – the human condition from its most vulnerable to its most enduring. Although Smith has ventured into an array of mediums, the one material she has most consistently engaged is paper, manipulating it for drawings, prints, and even sculpture.

This exhibition highlights the artist's passion for paper, exploring Smith's perspective on the human body (particularly the female form), a theme that has remained the foundation of her art.

EXHIBITION CURATOR

Guest Curator Wendy Weitman

LINK TO HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/osumuseumofart/albums/72157683632753206>

WEBSITE/MORE INFORMATION

museum.okstate.edu/kikismith

HOW TO VISIT

All exhibitions are free and open to the public. The OSU Museum of Art is located at 720 South Husband Street in downtown Stillwater. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm.

Major support for this exhibition, visiting artists, and catalogue is provided by Jim Vallion, Bill Goldston, Malinda and Dick Fischer, Ken and Mary Ann Ferguson, OSU Museum of Art Founding Patrons and Charter Members, OSU Museum of Art Advocates, and the OSU/A&M Board of Regents.





OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

MUSEUM of ART

News Release | For Immediate Release

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**OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART
PRESENTS *KIKI SMITH AND PAPER***

(STILLWATER, Okla., Aug. 8, 2017) — Heralded as one of the most innovative and distinctive voices of her generation, Kiki Smith has spent almost 40 years addressing the joys and perils of humanity through her artwork. This fall, a selection of her drawings, prints, and sculptures is on display at the OSU Museum of Art from Aug. 8 through Dec. 2.

Kiki Smith and Paper: The Body, the Muse, and the Spirit explores Smith's fascination with the human body – and the female body in particular – alongside themes of birth, death, and regeneration, through a selection of objects that represent the one medium with which Smith has consistently engaged: paper.

A multi-disciplinary artist, Smith is well known as a printmaker, having worked extensively in etching, lithography, screenprint, rubber stamp, tattoos, and other techniques since the late 1980s. Drawing has also been fundamental to her printmaking, as well as a prolific expressive tool on its own.

However, it is her paper sculptures that project the pathos and fragility of the human spirit most poignantly, according to Wendy Weitman, exhibition curator. Though Smith has crafted sculptures from many materials, Weitman said the humble status of paper, and its rare use in the medium of sculpture, is something Smith relishes.

Throughout her career, across a variety of media, much of Smith's work has addressed the realms of human anatomy, the human condition in relationship to nature, and the

cycle of life and spirituality. However, the female figure in particular is something that has preoccupied Smith since the early 1980s.

“She has considered it from every possible perspective – physically, culturally, historically, and personally,” said Weitman.

“This exhibition looks at some of these perspectives—fragments of the female anatomy, studies of celebrated allegorical women, and finally, ghosts and surrogates of the female figure.”

The exhibition is organized by the Oklahoma State University Museum of Art. It is curated by Wendy Weitman, who served as Curator in the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books at The Museum of Modern Art in New York from 1980 – 2007.

Kiki Smith and Paper is the third in the New York Project, an exhibition series bringing the work of high-profile New York artists to Oklahoma. It follows *James Rosenquist: Illustrious Works on Paper, Illuminating Paintings* (2014-2015) and *Richard Tuttle: A Print Retrospective* (2016). When the exhibition closes, it will travel to Syracuse University Art Galleries where it will be on view from Jan. 15 – March 18, 2018.

About the OSU Museum of Art

For more information about the OSU Museum of Art, visit museum.okstate.edu or call 405-744-2780. All exhibitions are free and open to the public. The museum is located at 720 S. Husband Street in downtown Stillwater. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm.

Oklahoma State University is a modern land-grant university that prepares students for success. OSU is America's Brightest Orange. Through leadership and service, OSU is preparing students for a bright future and building a brighter world for all. As Oklahoma's only university with a statewide presence, OSU improves the lives of people in Oklahoma, the nation, and the world through integrated, high-quality teaching, research, and outreach. As America's Healthiest Campus, OSU is committed to the health and well-being of its students, employees and the community. OSU has more than 36,000 students across its five-campus system and more than 25,000 on its combined Stillwater and Tulsa campuses, with students from all 50 states and around 120 nations. Established in 1890, OSU has graduated around 255,000 students to serve the state of Oklahoma, the nation and the world.





OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM of ART

Programming List

Contact: Jordan Hays, 405-744-2783 or jordan.griffis@okstate.edu

RELATED PROGRAMS: KIKI SMITH AND PAPER: THE BODY, THE MUSE, AND THE SPIRIT

Free Community Workshop (Alternative Printmaking)

Sept. 8 | Participants will begin at the museum with a tour of "Kiki Smith and Paper" before heading to the OSU Insect Adventure to draw from the collection. Afterwards, we'll move to the Stillwater Center for the Arts to explore a variety of alternative printmaking processes. 9 am to 6 pm.

2nd Saturday

Sept. 9 | On the second Saturday of every month, the museum provides free, hands-on art activities for visitors of all ages and abilities. 11 am to 3 pm. THIS MONTH: visiting artist [Tori Tasch](#) will help visitors create paper bowls inspired by Kiki Smith's use of handmade paper.

Reception

Sept. 21 | 5 to 7 pm

An Afternoon with Kiki Smith

Sept. 22 | Internationally known artist Kiki Smith makes a special appearance in Oklahoma to participate in a panel discussion about her body of work and emphasis on the female form. 3 pm. SPECIAL LOCATION: Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art (Norman)

Unfamiliar Butterfly

Sept. 23 | Visiting artist Wendy Jehlen will perform an interpretive dance inspired by the work of Kiki Smith. SPECIAL LOCATION: 21c Museum Hotel in Oklahoma City.

Lilith

Sept. 27 | Visiting artist Wendy Jehlen will perform an interpretive dance inspired by the work of Kiki Smith. SPECIAL LOCATION: Stillwater Community Center, Houston Theater, 315 W 8th Ave, Stillwater, OK. 7:30 pm.

drawingLAB

Sept. 28 | Explore the use of the body as vehicle for drawing in space. Led by visiting artist Wendy Jehlen. SPECIAL LOCATION: Stillwater Center for the Arts. 6 pm.

Lunch + Learn: Cristina Gonzalez

Oct. 26 | Cristina Gonzalez will discuss the relationship between "The Blue Feet" by Kiki Smith and the work of Sister Juana Inéz de la Cruz. 12:45 pm.

Lunch + Learn: Students from Gender and Visual Culture

Nov. 10 | University students will discuss the works of "Femfolio" and "Kiki Smith and Paper." 12 pm.

Find more at museum.okstate.edu/kikismith

