

LEXINGTON ART LEAGUE

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December 23, 2015

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LAL kicks off their 2016 season with the **Artist: Body, presented by QX.net:** *With help from curator Julien Robson, LAL reinvigorates their examination of the figure through the lens of self portraiture in contemporary art.*

Lexington, KY - The Lexington Art League (LAL) is set to launch into the new year with the exploration of a foundational and timeless subject - the figure - in the upcoming exhibition **Artist: Body**, presented by QX.net. For this exhibition LAL hired guest curator Julien Robson, former curator of Contemporary Art at The Speed Museum in Louisville. Robson, a native Brit who lives between Vienna and Louisville, has explored numerous private collections and galleries from London to Cincinnati to curate this exhibition, serving as a platform for Kentucky artists to be seen in an international framework.

Artist: Body takes the concept of a figure show and translates it through the lens of the self-portrait in contemporary art. A compelling survey of the artists' image of themselves, Robson states, "Throughout the ages, images of the human body have been used by artists, often to explore allegory, beauty and sexuality. Time has witnessed many shifts in the way the body is portrayed and in recent decades, influenced by contemporary thinking and the availability of different visual technologies, artists have increasingly employed themselves as both the subject and object of their works."

"The Lexington Art League understands the value that many have placed on our January exhibition dedicated to the study of the figure. It is important to note, however, that this first exhibition cycle of 2016 is not a return to The Nude. **Artist: Body** is an intense self-analysis. It is for both the local artist and local collector, but does not contain an abundance of work from either. This show is contemporary art as idea and not object. **Artist: Body** is pivotal as it elevates our discourse about the purpose contemporary art holds in our lives." Christine Huskisson, President of the Board of

Directors.

Much of the work in **Artist: Body** portrays the artists's sense of ownership of her or his body and, most importantly, how it is represented. While the themes explored within the exhibition are vast and multi-layered, one prominent connecting fiber is the vulnerability each artist shares as they expose viewers - and in many cases showcase - their most intimate selves in working with their own bodies. "In this context the image of the artists' body is open and vulnerable, subject to self analysis and intimate dissection, while at the same time resisting a comprehensive interpretation." Robson further added.

Among others, **Artist: Body** includes works by Louis Zoellar Bickett, John Coplans, Julius Deutschbauer, Bryce Hudson, Thaniel Ion Lee, Gabriel Martinez, Cynthia Norton, Cindy Sherman, Xaviera Simmons, Kiki Smith, Annie Sprinkle, Hannah Wilke, and Sam Taylor Wood.

"The examination of the figure has long been a foundational practice for LAL and we are thankful to Julien for lending a new perspective to this timeless subject. Through an extraordinary collection of self-portraits that illustrate the daring practice of depicting the self and its changing identities through art, Robson has curated an intense and thoughtful exhibition with the highest level of conceptual integrity" said Stephanie Harris, Executive Director LAL. " We are also thankful for the continued support of our longstanding partners at QX.net for their generous commitment through their sponsorship of this exhibition cycle." Harris further stated.

Kicking off the exhibition cycle for **Artist: Body**, LAL will host a warm-up event entitled **Fourth Friday: A Figure Study** on January 22nd from 6-9pm and set to include live figure drawing in the spacious galleries of the Loudoun House. Subsequent Fourth Friday events are scheduled for February 26th and March 25th from 6pm-9pm.

Artist: Body Opening Preview Party is February 19th from 6-10 pm at the Loudoun House. DJ LeeRoy will set this mood for this exclusive, cocktail-attire evening, with tickets available at \$40 per member/\$75 per member couple and \$55 non-member/\$100 non-member couple. LAL is proud to spotlight Belle Notte as the Official Catering Sponsor of the Opening Preview Party, featuring Santé Cellars and West Sixth Brewery. To purchase tickets and for additional information visit www.lexintonartleague.org. James Motor Company is the Official Host Sponsor of the **Artist: Body Opening Preview Party**. The **Artist: Body** is presented by QX.net.

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About Lexington Art League

Lexington Art League is a visual arts organization who envisions a world where art, artists and art-making are central to human inspiration, self-realization and meaning.

Their mission is to challenge, educate, and engage their community through visual art and the advancement of local artists. They present visual art exhibitions at the Loudoun House gallery in Castlewood Park. They are deeply invested in supporting their North Lexington neighbors by providing free and inclusive programming opportunities designed to remove barriers of access to visual art for all members of the community.

All Lexington Art League programs are made possible through the generous support of Lexarts. Lexarts allocation of \$50,000 represents the largest single donation to the operations of the Lexington Art League. The Kentucky Arts Council, a state arts agency, provides operating support for the Lexington Art League with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.