

ARTHUR SIMMS – CHAIR WITH MY HAIR

February 10 to July 7, 2024

*The Kunstmuseum St. Gallen presents the most comprehensive solo exhibition by American artist Arthur Simms (*1961 in St. Andrews, Jamaica, lives and works in Staten Island, New York), featuring over sixty works spanning three decades of artistic creation. The artist explores his biography in colossal sculptures and monumental paper works. Despite participating in major exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale (2001, 2019), his work has yet to be showcased in museums. Kunstmuseum St. Gallen honors the artist's forty-year career with this solo exhibition.*



Arthur Simms, *Ruin*, 2023
Wood, wire, wheel, stones, rollerblade, screws, glue and snowboard
86.36 x 38.1 x 162.56 cm

© Arthur Simms. Courtesy of the artist, Karma, Martos Gallery, and Thomas Dane Gallery. Photographer: Stephen Probert

Exhibition dates

February 10 – July 7, 2024
LOK by Kunstmuseum St. Gallen

Press Conference

February 9, 2024
11:00 a.m.

Exhibition Opening

February 9, 2024
6:30 p.m.

Opening Hours

Mon – Sat: 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sun: 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Press Contact

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In his works, the New York artist articulates a distinctive language that he continues evolving. He intertwines elements of his Jamaican heritage, natural materials (such as hemp rope or human hair), and found objects in cocoon-like structures. Simms' work testifies to the potential of art to blend different realities into a new, unique unity, making the complexity of his migrant identity visible.

Arthur Simms grew up in Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to New York City with his family at seven. In his early childhood, Simms was fascinated by the improvised carts used by vendors to transport their goods to and from the market. The unintentional poetry of these makeshift constructions stayed with him, inspiring his art.

Objects like bottles, toys, or bicycle wheels shape Simms' artistic language. Often sourced from the streets of New York, these found items are integrated and artistically reinterpreted in his creations. Each piece tells its story and carries cultural significance beyond its original purpose. Through this process of appropriation and reinterpretation, Simms breathes new life into discarded objects. At the same time, he reflects on art history, from Marcel Duchamp's Ready-made to Robert Rauschenberg's Combined Paintings.

One of the most distinctive features of Simms' art is his unique use of hemp rope. With its rich texture and cultural resonance, the material becomes a symbolic thread connecting the artist to his Jamaican roots. Simms transforms the traditional raw material into a medium of expression, giving his works a tactile quality that evokes a connection to his homeland.

Arthur Simms' sculptures exude the aura of a mystical world. Through artistic refinement, he gives the objects an essential presence characterized by delicate details, whimsical forms, and meticulous craftsmanship. His works come to life with a magical energy, inviting viewers into a realm where reality and fantasy merge.

Essentially, Arthur Simms' art is a fusion of personal history, cultural identity, and environmental consciousness in the literal sense. Through the interplay of knotting, found objects, and the exploration of his identity as an

immigrant, Simms prompts us to engage in a profound discussion at the intersection of art, heritage, and sustainability.

The exhibition is curated by Gianni Jetzer, Director of Kunstmuseum St. Gallen.

For more information or images, please contact

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A monograph in collaboration with Karma New York and Martos Gallery New York will be released in June 2024.

<https://arthursimms.com/>

Factsheet

Arthur Simms / Chair with my Hair

Exhibition Dates	February 10 – July 7, 2024	
Exhibition Venue	LOK by Kunstmuseum St.Gallen, Grünbergstrasse 7, 9000 St. Gallen	
Press Conference	February 9, 2024, 11 a.m., LOK by Kunstmuseum St.Gallen	
Exhibition Opening	February 9, 2024, 6:30 p.m., LOK by Kunstmuseum St.Gallen	
Artist Talk	February 10, 2024, 11 a.m., LOK by Kunstmuseum St.Gallen	
Curator's Tour	February 12, 2024, 7 p.m., LOK by Kunstmuseum St.Gallen	
Curator	Gianni Jetzer	
Opening Hours	Mon – Sat: 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Sun: 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	
Admission	Adults	CHF 6.–
	Combined ticket for the LOK and the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen	CHF 16.–
	Group ticket (for groups of 8 or more)	CHF 14.–
	Members of the Kunstverein St. Gallen	Free
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Press Photos	kunstmuseumsg.ch/presse	