



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

# MUSEUM of ART

## Quick Facts

Contact: Jordan Hays, 405-744-2783 or [jordan.griffis@okstate.edu](mailto: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](http://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.*





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Programming List

Contact: Jordan Hays, 405-744-2783 or [jordan.griffis@okstate.edu](mailto: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](http://museum.okstate.edu/kikismith)





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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](http://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.

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## **INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN ARTIST KIKI SMITH TO MAKE A SPECIAL APPEARANCE IN OKLAHOMA ON SEPT. 21, 22**

**(STILLWATER, Okla., Sept. 5)** — In association with *Kiki Smith and Paper: The Body, the Muse, and the Spirit*, the Oklahoma State University Museum of Art is pleased to announce a reception and panel discussion featuring the artist.

Heralded as one of the most distinctive voices of her generation, Kiki Smith has spent almost 40 years addressing the joys and perils of humanity through her artwork. *Kiki Smith and Paper*, on view from Aug. 8 – Dec. 2, 2017, explores the artist's fascination with the human body – and the female body in particular – alongside themes of birth, death, and regeneration. The exhibition showcases a selection of objects that represent the one medium with which Smith has consistently engaged: paper.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the OSU Museum of Art is proud to present the following events featuring Kiki Smith:

**Reception: Thursday, Sept. 21, 5 to 7 pm**

**OSU Museum of Art, Stillwater**

Kiki Smith will attend the exhibition reception on Thursday, Sept. 21, from 5 to 7 pm.

The reception is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.

**An Afternoon with Kiki Smith: Friday, Sept. 22, 3 pm**

**Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman**

As part of a special appearance in Oklahoma, the artist will participate in a panel discussion about her body of work and emphasis on the female form. The discussion

will be held in the Sandy Bell Gallery at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Speakers include Kiki Smith; Jennifer Borland, associate professor of art history at Oklahoma State University; and Wendy Weitman, exhibition curator. The panel is moderated by Mark White, the Wylodean and Bill Saxon Director at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.

The event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. To guarantee a seat in the gallery, register online at: [museum.okstate.edu/afternoonwithkiki](http://museum.okstate.edu/afternoonwithkiki). Those who do not register online are welcome to attend and will be seated on a first come, first served basis.

The OSU Museum of Art is offering free bus transportation to registered attendees. The bus trip will include a visit to [Artspace] at Untitled in Oklahoma City where attendees can view *Fluvial Terra*, a current exhibition featuring paper and installation work by Megan Singleton. Accompanying *Fluvial Terra* is a display of three pieces of artwork by Kiki Smith, who Singleton tributes as an influence on her own work. Food will be provided by [Artspace] at Untitled.

*Kiki Smith and Paper: The Body, the Muse, and the Spirit* 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.

The exhibition is the third in the New York Project, an exhibition series bringing the work of high-profile New York artists to Oklahoma. *Kiki Smith and Paper* 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 Galleries where it will be on view from Jan. 15 – March 18, 2018.

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**VISITING ARTIST WENDY JEHLLEN TO PRESENT DANCE  
PERFORMANCES ALONGSIDE *KIKI SMITH AND PAPER***

**(STILLWATER, Okla., Sept. 5, 2017)** — To accompany *Kiki Smith and Paper: The Body, the Muse, and the Spirit*, the OSU Museum of Art is pleased to announce a series of programs featuring visiting artist Wendy Jehlen.

Jehlen, founder and artistic director of ANIKAYA Dance Theater in Somerville, Massachusetts, is a choreographer and storyteller, communicating through movement and space. Her performances weave together music, dance, and storytelling, secular and sacred, aural and visual. Under the direction of Wendy Jehlen, ANIKAYA's mission is to break down the perceived boundaries between people, cultures, and art forms.

*Kiki Smith and Paper: The Body, the Muse, and the Spirit* is on view from Aug. 8 – Dec. 2, 2017, at the OSU Museum of Art. Programs featuring visiting artist Wendy Jehlen are listed below.

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**Unfamiliar Butterfly**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23, 7 pm**  
**Presented by [Artspace] at Untitled**  
**LOCATION: 21c Museum Hotel in Oklahoma City**

Beginning in darkness, percussive sound builds slowly, revealing an initially imperceptible rhythm. Thin beams of light from above, from below, from all sides, illuminate her body one part at a time, revealing more of her. She is quivering, breaking. This is a study of vulnerability, an embodiment of constant change and travel. Loosely based on the life cycle of a butterfly, the performance is intended to change in each rendition.



In addition to this performance, [Artspace] at Untitled is presenting a special display of Kiki Smith's artwork, showcasing three pieces in their Library. The pieces will be on view alongside *Fluvial Terra*, an exhibition of paper and installation work by Megan Singleton, who credits Kiki Smith as an influence on her own artwork. During the *Unfamiliar Butterfly* performance at 21c Museum Hotel, viewers can explore a continuation of Singleton's installation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor gallery. Her work is featured in their ongoing *Elevate* program, an exhibition highlighting regional artists. Read more about Megan Singleton and [Artspace] at Untitled:

<https://www.1ne3.org/>

This event is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.

### **Lilith**

**Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 pm**

**LOCATION: Stillwater Community Center (Houston Theater)**

Inspired by a Kiki Smith sculpture of the same name, *Lilith* is a study of the story of the first woman, created as Adam's equal, who rebelled against Adam and fled Eden. In this performance, the character is explored as a figure from ancient texts who has been re-envisioned and reclaimed in modern feminist thought.

The performance views Lilith as an observer of history, dwelling outside of linear time, who constantly relives her own creation, her fall/escape from Adam and Eden, her punishment (to have one hundred of her children die every day), and the injustice that led to it.

She appears as a creatrix, a serpent, and a winged creature, embodying the many ways that literature and art has viewed her through the ages, but reinterpreting these images into one whole, complex being.

This event is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.

### **drawingLAB**

**Thursday, Sept. 28, 6 pm**

**LOCATION: Stillwater Center for the Arts**

A recurring program at the OSU Museum of Art, drawingLAB is an evening of art making and conversation. In this drawingLAB led by Wendy Jehlen at the Stillwater Center for the Arts, participants will explore the use of the body as a vehicle for drawing.

drawingLAB is welcoming to visitors of all ages and abilities. The only thing needed is a willingness to participate. Free and open to the public. No RSVP required.

To learn more about the exhibition and other related programs, visit our website:

[museum.okstate.edu/kikismith](http://museum.okstate.edu/kikismith).

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