

**Exhibition of New Paintings by Angel Otero  
Inspired by the Work of Robert Motherwell on View at the  
Bronx Museum of the Arts This Fall**

**Bronx, New York—September 6, 2017—**This fall, The Bronx Museum of the Arts will present an exhibition of seven new large-scale paintings by Angel Otero. On view from October 25, 2017 through April 29, 2018, this tightly curated exhibition will highlight the core tenants of Otero’s practice, which mines and celebrates key works in art history to develop a compositional method that brings together and pulls apart disparate artistic influences, forming his own unique visual language. Through the works in *Angel Otero: Elegies*, guest curator Christian Viveros-Fauné invites us to consider Otero’s evolving process of formal innovation in relation to that of the artist Robert Motherwell.

The series of paintings on view were inspired by conversations between Otero and Viveros-Fauné on the influence of Motherwell and the notion of elegies in Otero’s work and process. Motherwell, a leading Abstract Expressionist and the author of over one hundred paintings titled *Elegy to the Spanish Republic* (completed between 1948 and 1967), created these mostly monochromatic canvases as a “lamentation or funeral song” on the subject of the Spanish Civil War. Invariably, these works have also served as illustrations of the power of abstract art to both take on the urgent themes of the artist’s time and modernity’s constant need for artistic innovation. The works Angel Otero has produced for the Bronx Museum are not elegies in the typical sense—i.e., paintings devoted to the idea of loss or deterioration. Instead, these works are celebrations of 21<sup>st</sup>-century painterly innovation and of the resilience of art during times of change.

**Support**

*Angel Otero: Elegies* is made possible by Lead Sponsors Dedalus Foundation, Lehmann Maupin, Kavi Gupta, and Jody and Gerald Lippes; Major Supporters Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Sam and Shanit Schwartz, and Carole Server and Oliver Frankel; and, the Director’s Circle, the Museum’s premier support group.

**About Angel Otero**

Angel Otero (b. 1981, Santurce, Puerto Rico) received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2009. Solo exhibitions of his work include *Angel Otero: Everything and Nothing*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2016); *Angel Otero: Painting From the Bottom Up*, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Gran Canaria, Spain (2015); *Material Discovery*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA and Hong Kong (2013); and *Angel Otero*, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC (2012); Select group exhibitions and biennials featuring his work have included *Surface Area*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY (2016); *Nexo/Nexus: Latin American Connections in the Midwest*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL (2016); *6th Prague Biennale*, Prague, Czech Republic (2013); *The [S] Files*; El Museo’s *6th Biennial*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY (2011); and *Queens International 2012: Three Points Make a Triangle*, Queens Museum, New York (2012), among others. Otero is the recipient of the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Visual Arts. His work can be found in collections at the Istanbul Modern Art Museum, DePaul University Museum, Chicago, IL; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS; and the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

### **About the Guest Curator**

Christian Viveros-Fauné is a New York-based art critic and curator. He was awarded a 2010 Creative Capital/Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant and named inaugural critic-in-residence at the Bronx Museum of the Arts for 2010/2011. He has taught at various universities round the world, among them Pratt Institute, the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, and Yale University, and has curated hundreds of gallery and museum exhibitions around the world. These include shows at, among other venues, the Museo de Bellas Artes, Santiago; the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago, Chile; the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Monterrey, Mexico; the Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City; the Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico; the Centro Atlantico de Arte Contemporaneo, Spain; The Royal Hibernian Society, Dublin, Ireland; and the National Gallery of Art, Dublin, Ireland.

### **About The Bronx Museum of the Arts**

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is an internationally recognized cultural destination that presents innovative contemporary art exhibitions and education programs and is committed to promoting cross-cultural dialogues for diverse audiences. Since its founding in 1971, the Museum has played a vital role in the Bronx by helping to make art accessible to the entire community and connecting with local schools, artists, teens, and families through its robust public programming and education initiatives. In celebration of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Museum implemented a universal free admission policy, supporting its mission to make arts experiences available to all audiences. The Museum's collection comprises over 1,000 modern and contemporary works of art in all media with a focus on works by artists of African, Asian, and Latin-American ancestry, as well as artists for whom the Bronx has been critical to their development. Located on the Grand Concourse, the Museum's home is a distinctive contemporary landmark designed by the internationally recognized firm Arquitectonica.

### **Press Contact:**

Christine Licata, Director of Community and Public Programs [clicata@bronxmuseum.org](mailto:clicata@bronxmuseum.org), 718-681-6000 ext 131

Ayesha Akhtar, Community Engagement and Marketing Associate [aakhtar@bronxmuseum.org](mailto:aakhtar@bronxmuseum.org) 718-681-6000 ext 111