



# The Golden Rule

Thelma Golden, director and chief curator of the Studio Museum in Harlem, is amplifying the voices of artists of African descent while preserving the legacy and future of a precious cultural jewel.

BY ALLISON BERG

Thelma Golden always had her sights set on becoming a curator. Honing her craft as an intern/fellow at The Studio Museum during and following her studies at Smith College, the visionary has become a global voice for advancing artists of African descent and maintaining a forum for the discourse they inspire for diverse audiences. The Studio Museum broadens these conversations by bringing African-American artists into dialogues with artists from Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and beyond.

Golden is continually re-thinking The Studio Museum's relationships with the community. Recently, its inHarlem initiative has placed site-specific artwork throughout Harlem. *Derrick Adams: Patrick Kelly, The Journey* is currently on view at New York Public Library's Cullen Cullen Library. "Derrick and I share many aesthetic and cultural interests. Patrick Kelly is one of them," Golden says. "Our first NYPL partnership mission was to create an exhibition based on the esteemed Schomburg Center for Black Culture archives." The exhibit explores American fashion designer Patrick Kelly's formal structure as it relates to Adams' interest in deconstructing surfaces. Kelly's vintage patterns, fabrics and shapes are evident in Adams' colorful collages.

Also about town during The Studio Museum's closure (preparations are in progress for the new 82,000-square-foot David Adjaye-designed building) is the Artist-In-Residence program, boasting alumni like David Hammons, Kerry James Marshall, Julie Mehretu and Mickalene Thomas, at 429 West 127th Street. "Since the Harlem Renaissance, Harlem has been a place that people have looked to as a vibrant cultural center," Golden says. "The Studio Museum's mission is to honor that legacy as we support artists working locally, nationally and internationally." *144 W. 125th St., 212.864.4500, studiomuseum.org*



Clockwise from top: Thelma Golden, director and chief curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem; a cross-section perspective of the renovated museum from Lenox Avenue; "Sunday's Best" (2017) by Derrick Adams.