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Out from Under the Net

Featuring an evolution of Bernard Stanley Hoyes' Rag Series

On view April 25 – October 4, 2026

Riverside, CA – The Riverside Art Museum presents *Out from Under the Net*, an evolution of artist Bernard Stanley Hoyes' signature Rag Series of monoprints created with rags and ink in the 1970s. In this new iteration, Hoyes' artistic language has become more complex, incorporating collage, painting, and printmaking.

Documenting Hoye's journey to prominence as an artist, the Rag Series reflects the rituals of his Afro-Caribbean roots, and emphasizes the power of women in the realms of music, dance, and magic.

While the original Rag Series symbolized the evils of poverty, prejudice, material fixation, panic, and mental confusion, according to Hoyes, in the new work, the emotional and physical struggles of race, identity, assimilation, ancestry, and memory include coded messages of release and freedom.

"The Rag Series was the genesis of my art practice," says Hoyes. "It came out of the spirit of the time among my Southern California contemporaries like David Hammons, Noah Purifoy, John Outterbridge, and Betye Saar. It was the forerunner of contextual expression, utilizing found or used objects, not excluding any media but using it all as a form of expression. The Rag Series was the first work I did that was publicly accepted and written about and earned me invitations to show my art."

Over the years, Hoyes gained more recognition for the paintings of his Revival series, focusing on the spirituality of his native Jamaica, but he continued to work on the Rag Series, exploring its possibilities and broadening its expression. “This opportunity at Riverside Art Museum is to put the collection together and expose them in a cohesive way,” says Hoyes.

“When I saw these works, I just thought they were wonderful,” said curator Lisa Henry. “So evocative of the themes that Bernard works with: spirituality, community, and Caribbean identity, but also very lyrical.”

Painter, sculptor, and printmaker Bernard Hoyes has worked in Desert Hot Springs since establishing a studio there in 1991. Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1951, Hoyes lived with his aunt in the countryside and was deeply influenced by the revival cults, ceremonies, and rituals that he witnessed as a child, and that continue to influence his work today. He went to New York to study art at age 15, and received a residency at Vermont Academy from the Arts Student League, living with emerging New York City artists for two months. He then received a BFA from the California School of Arts and Crafts in Oakland.

He came to Los Angeles in the 1970s, and immersed himself in the lively artistic community there, exhibiting at the William Grant Still Community Arts Center, LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions) Artist for Economic Action, Artists Equity Association, California Confederation of the Arts, Studio Z, the Graphic Arts Guild and Self Help Graphics. In 1982, he founded the Caribbean Cultural Institute and Caribbean Arts, Inc., to promote wider awareness of Caribbean arts and publish and distribute his own work.

For decades, Hoyes has taught, worked, and exhibited nationally and internationally, returning frequently to Jamaica. His work has appeared in the Riverside Art Museum, California African American Museum, Watts Towers Arts Center, and other museums and galleries. He has received major public commissions around the world, and his work is held in many prominent private collections. In 2012 his “Se7en Paintings, a Story in Performance,” combining dance, pantomime, video, and visual arts, and rooted in Jamaica’s spiritual traditions, came to life on the Ford Theatre Stage in Los Angeles.

In 2013, he moved with his wife permanently to Desert Hot Springs, where is currently developing a three-acre sculpture garden on the site of his longtime studio.

Out from Under the Net reunites exhibition curator Henry and Hoyes, who worked together in 2016, along with artist Charles Bibbs, on *Visual Voice* at the Riverside Art Museum, highlighting self-validating Southern California artists like Hoyes and Bibbs, who used business principles to disseminate their art outside the gallery system.

“I’m really excited to show this body of work, which shows Bernard’s trajectory over four decades, and traces the development of his work and the longevity of his artistic journey,” says Henry.

Out from Under the Net is on view in the Art Alliance Gallery at the Riverside Art Museum through October 4, 2026.

AHF is proud to serve as the lead sponsor for Bernard Hoyes: *Out from Under the Net*

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ABOUT RIVERSIDE ART MUSEUM & THE CHEECH MARIN CENTER FOR CHICANO ART & CULTURE:

The Riverside Art Museum (RAM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving the greater Riverside community since 1959. Through its four pillar programs—the Riverside Art Museum at its historic Julia Morgan-designed building (opened 1967), The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture (opened 2022), art education offerings both on- and off-site, and artist residencies—RAM uplifts diverse cultural voices; cultivates inclusive exhibitions, collections and educational programming; and fosters strong community connections.

Riverside Art Museum inclusive of The Cheech is dedicated to ensuring accessibility for all through a range of free, reduced-cost, and general admission ticket options. More information on admission and visiting here.

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