

# PLAINS ART MUSEUM

## Plains Art Museum to Open *Unseen Traces* in the Work of Ann Johnson

### Press Release

For Immediate Release (September 2022)

Fargo, North Dakota – Plains Art Museum is thrilled to host *Unseen Traces in the Work of Ann Johnson* through March 11, 2023 in the Ruth and Seymour Landfield Atrium.

Reflecting on her 2022 Lawndale Contemporary Art Center installation, *See Me*, Ann “Sole Sister” Johnson is matter-a-fact about the intent: “This is about being seen. Seeing the women in the shadows.” Incorporating experimental printmaking on found objects to produce “work that breathes conversation” and “question humanity,” Ann “Sole Sister” Johnson occupies that threshold between ancestral legacies and historical futures.

The artist, Ann Johnson, occupies a space—on, among, and with ancestral spirits—that is at once both “magical and distressing,” to bring forth artistic work that examines family, community, and Black Womanhood. Ann “Sole Sister” Johnson presents us with an intricate polymer intaglio process on cotton and infuses an assimilation of found objects with contemporary imagery. With other poignant processes, Johnson honors those women in the shadows and captures “layers and levels of womanhood” via a “transfer printmaking process on vintage and aged-metal ironing boards.” She discerns and embraces the intimacies of family portraits and personal stories by rendering them legible against the surfaces of objects that hold symbolic and historical significance.

Supporting programs for *Unseen Traces in the Work of Ann Johnson* include an Artist Residency from October 17-22, a free artist talk with Johnson on Thursday October 20, and the four-session youth workshop, *Writing the Self: Poetics and Portraits* with special guest, Ann “Sole Sister” Johnson and teaching artist, Stephanie Lemmer. Visit <https://plainsart.org/exhibitions/unseen-traces/> for additional date and time information.

Born in London, England, UK, and raised in Wyoming, USA, Ann Johnson received her MA in Humanities (University of Houston-Clear Lake) as well as her MFA from the Academy of Art University (San Francisco) with a concentration in printmaking. Her work has been exhibited at: The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; The Museum of Printing History, Houston, TX; Women and Their Work Gallery, Austin, TX; Project Row Houses, Houston, TX; Tisdale Beach Institute, Savannah, GA; Charles H. Wright Museum, Flint, MI; The Apex Museum, Atlanta, GA; and, at the California African American Art Museum located in Los Angeles, CA.

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Ann Johnson, *Time Won't Give Me Time*, 2021, intaglio on raw cotton, found objects



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