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**The Katonah Museum of Art Announces  
*Constant Carnival: The Haas Brothers in Context***

*Exhibition Pairs Artists' Creations with Historical and Contemporary Masterworks*

**Katonah, NY, January 20, 2021**– The Katonah Museum of Art is pleased to present *Constant Carnival: The Haas Brothers in Context* which explores the work of contemporary artists Simon and Nikolai Haas (b. 1984) within the art historical tradition of the carnivalesque. On view March 13–June 26, 2022, the exhibition is the first to pair the Haas Brothers' sculptures and drawings with historical, modern, and contemporary masterworks.

In medieval Europe, the festival of Carnival—like modern-day Mardi Gras—was a time of liberation and inversion. Carnival leveled social hierarchies, encouraged free expression, and celebrated behaviors that were usually prohibited. Although the Carnival tradition eventually went into decline, its transgressive spirit survives in artworks that use humor or grotesquery to challenge social norms and destabilize power structures.

This spirit of the carnivalesque, which transcends cultures and time periods, animates the Haas Brothers' innovative artworks. Their bright, beaded beasts, which balance playfulness and gleeful carnality, are the modern-day ancestors of Hieronymus Bosch's fantastical creatures and Mike Kelley's scatological assemblages. By merging the realms of craft, design, and contemporary art, the Haas Brothers also demonstrate just how arbitrary the boundaries and hierarchies of the art world truly are.

The exhibition, which traces the history of the carnivalesque from the fifteenth century to the present, is loosely organized around two themes: *The World Turned Upside Down* and *Celebrating the Profane*. Each section will put historical and contemporary works in conversation with each other and with the Haas Brothers' designs. Other artists represented in the exhibition include Leonora Carrington, Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró, Niki de Saint Phalle, and Kiki Smith. *Constant Carnival* also marks the debut of *Jungle Fool*, a new, large-scale work by the Haas Brothers. Perched outside the KMA, the sculpture's glowing eyes will guide visitors up the Museum's drive. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue.

*Constant Carnival* opens with a *1st Look* on March 12, followed by a Member Preview and Public Opening on March 13. In conjunction with the exhibition, there will be a full calendar of adult and family programs, including a virtual talk by the Haas Brothers (May 12, 7:30-8:30 PM), adult art workshops that explore clay and textiles (April 18 and June 9, 5:30-7:30 PM), and a Family Day (May 14, 11:30 AM-4:00 PM).

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### **About the Haas Brothers:**



Since founding the Haas Brothers in 2010, twin brothers Nikolai and Simon (b.1984; Austin, TX) have spurned arbitrary artistic boundaries and hierarchies, creating a playful and provocative world that merges art, fashion, film, music, and design. Their work explores aesthetic themes related to nature, science fiction, sexuality, and psychedelia in materials that range from brass, porcelain, and fur to highly technical resins and polyurethane.

Their first solo museum show opened in Miami Beach at The Bass Museum of Art in 2018 and their work is held in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. In 2019, they were the recipients of the Arison Award given by the YoungArts Foundation. They live and work in Los Angeles.

## About the Katonah Museum of Art:

The Katonah Museum of Art promotes the understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts for diverse audiences. The Museum presents exhibitions that explore ideas about art, culture, and society – past and present – through innovative exhibition and education programs.

Timed-entry tickets and reservations are recommended and should be purchased in advance. Museum hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM–5 PM, Sunday from 12 PM–5 PM, closed Monday. General admission: \$12 adults, \$6 seniors and students. Members and children under the age of 12 always enter free. For more information, please call (914) 232-9555 or visit [www.katonahmuseum.org](http://www.katonahmuseum.org).

The KMA is committed to keeping its visitors healthy and safe. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination (ages 5+) and masks (ages 2+) are required for all visitors. Advance timed tickets are recommended.

Credit: The Haas Brothers, *Wavy Jones* (detail), 2018, Sheepskin, cast bronze, ebony, 48 x 13 x 13 inches (121.9 x 33 x 33 cm), Holleman Family Collection, Courtesy of the artists and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Aspen ©The Haas Brothers



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