

Current Exhibition Brings Together Creative Minds in Upcoming Fireside Chat at Martin Museum

**Narrative as Reality: A Fireside Chat is scheduled for September 12 with
Curator Dr. Valerie Gillespie and artists Dominic Chambers and Abi Salami**

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WACO, Texas (August 21, 2023) – The Martin Museum of Art at Baylor University offers an informal conversation with guest curator Dr. Valerie Gillespie. Artists Dominic Chambers and Abi Salami will join Dr. Gillespie in a discussion regarding their artistic process and specific works that are currently on view at the Martin Museum of Art in an exhibition titled *Narrative as Reality: Constructing an Identity*.

The exhibition features selections from the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection and is the second in their *Narrative as Reality* series. Jessica, a Baylor University alumna (B. A.' 11), and Kelvin, who plays for the NFL, were both adamant that students and visitors have access to education and resources around their collection. They want to inspire people to explore the arts and ignite visitors in conversation about the themes within this exhibition.

Chambers and Salami will both visit Waco in September to enhance this exhibition through class visits and gallery tours, culminating in a joint fireside chat with Dr. Gillespie. Dr. Gillespie jumped at the opportunity to engage with the artists in a public conversation: "I think it could be great to dive into the backgrounds of both artists as they are both so different and then link their experiences back to the exhibition themes present in their art."

This event will be a unique departure from the usual individual artist talks that dominate museums, the Martin included. "I'm excited to see this informal format at the Martin. It will be a casual conversation with the chance to peek into the artists' lives and see Dr. Gillespie's thought process as she crafted the exhibition and interacted with the artists," Martin Museum Director, Allison Chew, said.

Guests are welcome to join the Martin on September 12 at 5:30 pm to enjoy an evening of light refreshments and engaging conversation surrounded by the works of *Narrative as Reality: Constructing an Identity*. Complementary exhibition catalogs will be available. *Narrative as Reality: Constructing an Identity* will be on view at the Martin Museum through November 5.

ABOUT JESSICA AND KELVIN BEACHUM

Jessica Beachum is a Dallas native. She graduated from Baylor University in 2011 with a BA in Sociology and went on to earn a Master of Science (MS) in Science Healthcare Delivery from Arizona State University. Kelvin Beachum, a Mexia, Texas native, graduated from Southern Methodist University (SMU) in 2010 with a BA in Economics and a minor in Sports Management. In 2012, he completed a Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) in Organizational Dynamics and delivered the commencement address for the Simmons School of Education and Human Development. Kelvin and Jessica are both committed to helping young people, especially minority and disadvantaged youth, develop the habits and skills for success. They have a special focus on encouraging minority youth to engage in STEAM-centric disciplines and STEAM careers. They are passionate about addressing inequity in education with a specific emphasis on eliminating the digital divide. As a family of strong faith, the Beachums are devoted to glorifying God in everything they do and use their time and influence to encourage others by advocating for education, faithful devotion, and being of service to others. The Beachums reside in Arizona with their three children.

ABOUT MARTIN MUSEUM OF ART AT BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

The Martin Museum of Art (MMoA) is a dynamic resource that enriches appreciation for the visual arts while serving Baylor University, Waco and Central Texas communities and beyond. As a dedicated teaching museum within the Department of Art and Art History, the MMoA provides unique perspectives on art history and contemporary art and practice through innovative exhibitions, direct access to collections, vibrant public programming and captivating public tours, including related hands-on studio-art activities for school groups. As a primary resource for the visual arts, the MMoA is inclusive, reflective and transformative in its mission. It integrates the awareness, understanding and practice of artmaking into the fabric and culture of the students, faculty and staff of Baylor University and our communities abroad. For more information, visit the [Martin Museum of Art website](#).

ABOUT BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Baylor University is a private Christian University and a nationally ranked Research 1 institution. The University provides a vibrant campus community for more than 20,000 students by blending interdisciplinary research with an international reputation for educational excellence and a faculty commitment to teaching and scholarship. Chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas through the efforts of Baptist pioneers, Baylor is the oldest continually operating University in Texas. Located in Waco, Baylor welcomes students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries to study a broad range of degrees among its 12 nationally recognized academic divisions.