

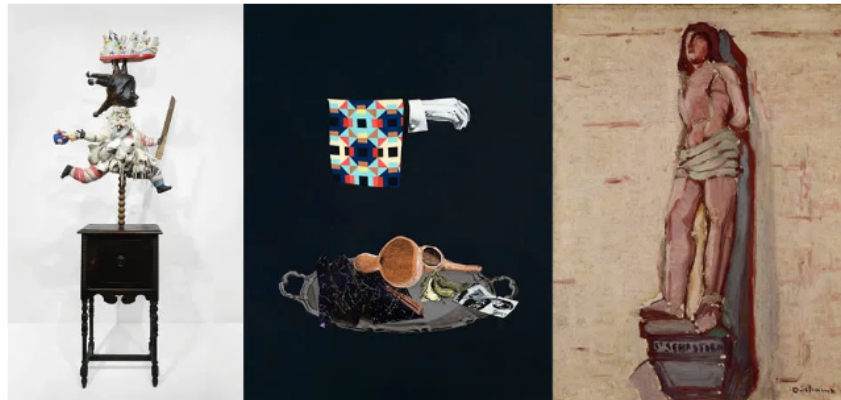
Staff. "A Century of Portraiture at The Ringling Museum," *Sarasota Magazine*, 29 February 2024.

# Sarasota

## A Century of Portraiture at The Ringling Museum

EMBODIED opens March 9 at The John and Mable Ringling Museum with work from some of the most exciting artists of the past century.

Presented by The Ringling Museum • [What's This?](#) • February 29, 2024



From Left to Right: Just Do It by vanessa german; Still Life with Quilt and Drinking Gourds by William Villalongo; Saint Sebastien by Marcel Duchamp.

The figure is one of the oldest records of our existence as a storytelling species. Depictions of the human body constitute some of the oldest subjects in art. From Marcel Duchamp to William Villalongo, *EMBODIED: Highlights from The Ringling Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art* expands classical notions of the figure and portraiture by bringing together diverse representations.

Works recently added to The Ringling's collection will be in conversation with earlier acquisitions to explore our relationship to difference and universality. Tropes from European and Dutch still life paintings merge with elements from Black identity and popular culture in William Villalongo's mixed media work. The first painting by a contemporary Native American artist acquired by the museum will be on view: Tony Tiger's abstract in acrylics reverberates with themes of forced removal, (in)visibility, and ancestral lands. Cauleen Smith's film draws from the Afrofuturism movement "to critique not only the present-day dilemmas of people of

color, but also to revise, interrogate, and re-examine historical events and investigate trauma very explicitly." The film pays homage to Florida's ancient Indigenous peoples.

Works by Benny Andrews, Marisol, Jessica Osceola, Mickalene Thomas, and Jake Troyli return the viewer's gaze through self-portraiture or representation to reveal the rich internal life of the subject. Also on display are examples of the powerful surfaces of non-objective art—a type of abstract art that does not represent specific objects or people. These works ground personal experiences, gender expression, and trauma in works by Natasha Mazurka, William Pachner, Linda Stein, and Yuriko Yamaguchi.

Figuration also foregrounds spiritual subjects with explorations of the body as transcendent and celestial in works by Thomas Chimes, Marcel Duchamp, William Edmondson, and vanessa german. Universality breaks through here as well. As vanessa german states, "...we are all connected. We are tied in an inescapable garment of mutuality."

*EMBODIED* will be on view through September 21, 2025.