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D.C.'s Hirshhorn Museum Announces Massive Acquisition Spree of 95 Works

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During the intense peak of the pandemic in 2020, there wasn't much for museums to do but put on some online programming and hope for the best. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., however, used the tumultuous period to expand their permanent collection. Since late 2019, the institution has acquired 95 works from 60 artists, including pieces by Huma Bhabha, the Guerilla Girls, Yayoi Kusama, Zanele Muholi, Christina Quarles, Tschabalala Self, Lee Ufan, Dana Awartani, Amoako Bofofo, Paul Chan, Jeffrey Gibson, Chuck Close, and Rachel Jones.

See a selection of works from the museum's recent acquisitions below:

Maren Hassinger, *Monuments 1*, 2020



Photo: Courtesy of Susan Inglett Gallery, NYC

"One of the things that we are thinking about is how to not only acquire acquisitions that are shown inside the building, but to find works to populate the entire campus, the plaza, the exterior and the sculpture garden, which is being revitalized," said Hankins. One such work is a sculpture by Maren Hassinger. *Monuments 1* (2018), which went on view at the Studio Museum in Harlem along with other works from the series, was acquired for the Sculpture Garden.

Each of the eight works in the series were made of woven branches that came together into simple shapes that reflected the forms found in public parks. The pieces take on an added significance when the BLM protests of 2020 brought a national debate over monuments to a head. The works were made in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery in Washington.