

Staff." Maren Hassinger's 'The Spirit of Things' at Baltimore Museum of Art," *Blouin Artinfo*, 1 August 2018.

BLOUINARTINFO

Maren Hassinger's "The Spirit of Things" at Baltimore Museum of Art

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | AUGUST 01, 2018



"High Noon," 1976, Maren Hassinger, Four black-and-white photographs.
(Courtesy of the artist. Photo by Adam Avila.)

The Baltimore Museum of Art, in conjunction with Los Angeles based Art + Practice, presents "The Spirit of Things," a solo exhibition showing works of artist Maren Hassinger. On view through November 25, 2018, the exhibition showcases a selection of sculptures, drawings, photographs of performances and videos that are drawn from the rich oeuvre of a career encompassing four decades. In the chosen works on display, the artist explores the emotional dynamics of relationships among different communities of people and the environments in which they live.

"This is the third exhibition the BMA has co-organized with Art + Practice," said BMA Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director Christopher Bedford. "With her Los Angeles roots, her ties to Baltimore through the Maryland Institute College of Art, and a distinguished and varied career, Maren Hassinger is the perfect subject for this bi-coastal presentation."

Now based in New York, Maren Hassinger is an African-American artist born in Los Angeles in 1947. Hassinger in her prolific career has created works that explore relationships between the industrial and natural worlds. She started her artistic experimentation in an LA junkyard in the early 1970s and has continued to create works incorporated common materials associated with manufacturing, mass media, and commerce ever since.

"In abstract compositions such as 'Interlock' (1972-73), 'The Veil Between Us' (2007/2018), and 'Embrace' (2018), she transforms wire rope, newspapers, and plastic bags into evocations of the beauty found in conditions often dismissed as blighted or marginal," the museum says.

The video works of Hassinger address subjects of race, gender, and other aspects of identity, while photographs that captures the artist's performance art and site-specific interventions focus on LA-based projects involving other artists, dancers, and friends from the 1970s.

"Maren's profound work connects Los Angeles and Baltimore in vibrant and creative ways. We are delighted to provide communities in both cities with the opportunity to learn more about her art in this celebration of her multifaceted career," said Kristen Hileman, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at BMA. "It was extraordinary to work closely with Maren on a project that has such deep personal resonance for her."

The exhibition runs through November 25, 2018, at the Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Dr, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA.