



**American Federation of Arts**

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: 212.988.7700

**ARTIST LORNA SIMPSON TO SPEAK AT THE AFA ARTTALKS SERIES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

New York, NY (August 30, 2004)—One of the leading artists of her generation, Lorna Simpson will discuss her photographs and films as part of AFA's lecture series, ArtTalks. ArtTalks will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2004, at 6:30pm at the AFA townhouse, located at 41 East 65th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues, New York. Audience members are invited to join Ms. Simpson for an intimate reception at the AFA after the talk. Admission is \$15; \$10 for AFA members and students with valid identification. Seating is limited and reservations are required. For reservations, please call 212.988.7700, ext. 64. ArtTalks is presented by Target Stores.

Simpson first became well known in the mid-1980s, by examining racial and gender identity with large-scale photograph and text works. By the mid-90s, Simpson began to concentrate on creating multi-panel photographs printed on felt. The softly sensual images depict urban locales as the site of public, yet unseen, couplings. More recently, the artist has turned to creating moving images. In film and video works such as *Call Waiting*, she features people of color engaging in intimate yet incomplete conversations that elude easy interpretation but seem to plumb the mysteries of identity and desire. An upcoming exhibition of Ms. Simpson's work organized by the AFA will tour the country in 2006-2007. This important exhibition will be the first mid-career survey of Simpson's work to date and provides a comprehensive examination of her photographs and films.

Lorna Simpson is the first African American woman to present her work in the prestigious Venice Biennale (1993) and the first to have a solo exhibition in the *Projects* series at The Museum of Modern Art (1990). She has received much critical acclaim and has also had one-person exhibitions at the Miami Art Museum (1997) featuring her felt works; and at the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus (1997), and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1999), focusing on her film installations. Her works are included in the collections of many prominent museums including: the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD; and the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, to name but a few. She has also participated in such important international exhibitions as the *Hugo Boss Prize* (1998) at the Guggenheim Museum, New York, and *Documenta XI* (2002) in Kassel, Germany.

The AFA initiates and organizes art exhibitions that are presented in museums around the world. The AFA also publishes exhibition catalogues and offers educational and professional development programs for the museum community and general public. For more information, log on to our Web site at [www.afaweb.org](http://www.afaweb.org).

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