

# Hästens Art Support Fund

SINCE 2022

## LAUREN HALSEY NAMED THE INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF THE HÄSTENS ART SUPPORT FUND Funding will support the fabrication of Halsey's 2023 Roof Garden Commission for The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Hästens is pleased to announce the inaugural recipient of the Hästens Art Support Fund: the Los Angeles-based artist **Lauren Halsey**. The newly established Hästens Art Support Fund is dedicated to supporting the advancement of larger-than-life projects by today's best in contemporary art. The Hästens Art Support Fund provides crucial financial support to visionary artists to turn their dreams into lasting cultural legacy. Hästens will donate a portion of proceeds from their premium beds through the end of 2022 to the artist to support the fabrication of Halsey's prestigious commission for The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden in New York. *The Roof Garden Commission: Lauren Halsey* will be on display at The Met from April 17, 2023 through October 22, 2023. After the commission closes at The Met, the artist plans to install the artwork more permanently in South Central Los Angeles for community members to explore and make their own.

"We're thrilled to collaborate with Lauren Halsey," says **Jacob Koo**, owner of The Sleep Spa by Hästens. "Hästens was immediately drawn to Halsey's work and, specifically, this important and large-scale commission for The Met, which combines a powerful contemporary and personal narrative with legacy and permanence and monumentality. We're humbled to play a small part in supporting the artist to connect the wider public to her vision."

Halsey's project for The Met is the tenth in a series of site-specific commissions for the Museum's Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden. The Roof Garden Commission series was established in 2013 by The Met's Department of Modern and Contemporary Art. Previous commissions have featured work by Pierre Huyghe (2015), Huma Bhabha (2018), Alicja Kwade (2019), and Alex Da Corte (2021). The installation, titled *the eastside of south central los angeles hieroglyph prototype architecture (I)*, will consist of an architectural structure imbued with the collective energy and imagination of the South Central Los Angeles community where the artist was born and continues to live and work today. The full-scale structure is designed to encourage its visitors to explore connections to sources as varied as ancient Egyptian symbolism, 1960s utopian architecture and contemporary visual expressions. For more information, please visit [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org).

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lauren Halsey (b. 1987, Los Angeles) rethinks the possibilities for art, architecture, and community engagement. She produces both stand-alone artworks and site-specific projects, particularly in the South Central neighborhood of Los Angeles, where her family has lived for several generations. Combining found, fabricated, and handmade objects, Halsey's work maintains a sense of civic urgency and free-flowing imagination, reflecting the lives of the people and places around her and addressing the crucial issues confronting people of color, queer populations, and the working class. Critiques of gentrification and disenfranchisement are accompanied by real-world proposals as well as a celebration of on-the-ground aesthetics. Inspired by Afrofuturism and funk, as well as the signs and symbols that populate her local environments, Halsey creates a visionary form of culture that is at once radical and collaborative.

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Lauren Halsey's first solo exhibition in New York inaugurated David Kordansky Gallery's new gallery in Chelsea in May 2022. Halsey was awarded Seattle Art Museum's 2021 Gwendolyn Knight and Jacob Lawrence Prize and was the subject of a solo exhibition at the museum in 2022. She has also presented solo shows at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2021); David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles (2020); Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (2019); and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2018). Halsey participated in Made in L.A. 2018, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, where she was awarded the Mohn Award for artistic excellence. Her work is in the collections of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. In 2020, Halsey founded Summaeverythang Community Center. Halsey lives and works in Los Angeles.

## **ABOUT HÄSTENS & THE HÄSTENS ART SUPPORT FUND**

Since 1852, Hästens has been committed to crafting optimal sleep. The skilled craftsmen at our factory in Köping, Sweden, have been refining our work for generations. Every bed is bespoke and hand-made using only the best natural materials. With operations in 36 countries and more than 200 partners in Europe, Asia and America, the small family-owned company has grown into a global producer and retailer of premium beds.

Hästens believes in supporting the next generation of dreamers and amplifying the voice of artists. Established in 2022, the Hästens Art Support Fund is dedicated to supporting the advancement of larger-than-life projects by today's best in contemporary art. The Hästens Art Support Fund will provide crucial support to visionary artists to turn their dreams into lasting cultural legacy. For more information, go to [www.hastens.com](http://www.hastens.com).

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