

DECEMBER 2017

# THE ARTISTS' ARTISTS

*To take stock of the past year, Artforum asked an international group of artists to select a single exhibition or event that most memorably captured their eye in 2017.*

## LORNA SIMPSON

**“Blue Black” (Pulitzer Arts Foundation, Saint Louis)** There are specific moments in time when an exhibition engages the viewer and the city in which it is situated on a multitude of levels. Glenn Ligon’s curatorial effort at the Pulitzer was a striking and beautiful reconsideration of works by a range of prolific artists under the umbrella of the concept of blue and black. The artist-writer’s contemplation revealed a longtime engagement with ideas and observations within his own work, and created a discourse within a city where past curatorial indifference had temporarily engendered an intellectual vacuum in the midst of protracted violence, strife, and ongoing failures of justice. This is how meaningful exhibitions can reflect the times we live in, and inspire.



**View of “Blue Black,”**  
2017, Pulitzer Arts  
Foundation, Saint Louis.  
Photo: Alise O'Brien.