

Artnet Bulletin

Glenn Ligon Lands a Major Survey at the National Gallery

Plus: Pace is subleasing several floors of its Chelsea headquarters, V&A staffers strike, and other art world matters.



Glenn Ligon, *Double America* (2012). National Gallery of Art. © Glenn Ligon; Courtesy of the artist, Hauser & Wirth, and Thomas Dane Gallery.

[artnet.com/bulletin/2012/09/12/glenn-ligon-double-america](#)

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A Big Show in the Works...

Glenn Ligon is getting the traveling survey treatment. The **National Gallery of Art** in Washington, D.C., will open “Glenn Ligon: Subtext” next spring, tracing nearly 40 years of the artist’s text-based, citational practice through more than 40 paintings, prints, drawings, and neon sculptures, as well as 20 works by artists Ligon admires. Highlights include his 1988 breakthrough painting *Untitled (I Am a Man)*, referencing a 1968 civil rights sign, and the neon sculpture *Give Us a Poem* (2007), drawn from a famous **Muhammad Ali** quote. The show also debuts new work, including two neons and a series of rubbing-based drawings exploring language and form, tied to a recurring thread from a **James Baldwin** essay that has shaped Ligon’s practice for decades.

“Subtext” marks Ligon’s first U.S. survey since his critically acclaimed mid-career retrospective at the **Whitney** in 2011; it will run April 3–September 6, 2027 in the museum’s East Building before heading to the **Walker Art Center** in Minneapolis in October and Boston’s **Museum of Fine Arts** in 2028.