

LIFEWTR Fund Supports Two Major Acquisitions for the Brooklyn Museum by Emerging Artists Diedrick Brackens and Gala Porras-Kim at Frieze New York 2019

New York, NY – May 1, 2019 – Today at Frieze New York, the Brooklyn Museum acquired two major works, *when no softness came* (2019) by Diedrick Brackens, and *13 International Dogs* by Gala Porras-Kim. Both works will join the Museum's permanent collection through The LIFEWTR Fund. The LIFEWTR Fund builds on the 15-year tradition of museum acquisition funds at Frieze Art Fairs and deepens the partnership between Frieze and LIFEWTR, a premium water brand committed to supporting and advancing the careers of emerging artists.

Launched in 2017, The LIFEWTR Fund at Frieze New York supports the acquisition of significant works by emerging artists for the Brooklyn Museum, a leading cultural institution and community museum dedicated to serving a wide-ranging audience. The Museum contains one of the nation's most comprehensive collections, spanning 5,000 years of human creativity from cultures in every corner of the globe. The LIFEWTR Fund made possible the Museum's acquisition of *Untitled* (1971) by Virginia Jaramillo in 2017, as well as *Untitled* (1978-80), a large-scale abstract painting by the American artist Ed Clark in 2018. Both works are currently featured in the international touring exhibition, "Soul of A Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power," now on view at the Broad Art Museum.

The 2019 selection panel includes the Brooklyn Museum's Shelby White and Leon Levy Director, Anne Pasternak; Acting Chief Curator, Susan Fisher; along with curators Eugenie Tsai, Catherine Morris, Drew Sawyer, Ashley James and Carmen Hermo. The LIFEWTR Fund is chaired and organized by Olga Osminkina-Jones, Vice President, Hydration & Innovation, Global Beverages, PepsiCo.

The panel chose two works from Los Angeles based galleries: *when no softness came* (2019) by Diedrick Brackens from Various Small Fires, and *13 International Dogs* (2019) by Gala Porras-Kim from Commonwealth and Council.

Brackens (b. 1989) explores the intersections of identity and sociopolitical issues through thoughtful, intricate and large-scale figurative tapestries, inspired by the cultural histories of African, American and European textiles. The gallery, who is debuting at Frieze with a solo presentation of works by Brackens, is participating in the fair's Frame section, which is curated by Andrew Bonacina (The Hepworth) and Laura McLean-Ferris (Swiss Institute), which features solo presentations of emerging artists.

Gala Porras-Kim (b.1984) works across media including sculpture and drawing and engages conceptually with Mezoamerican cultural objects and museum practices, with a particular interest in histories of conservation and preservation. Commonwealth and Council is part of a new curated section at Frieze New York called Dialogos, showcasing Latinx and Latin American artists, presented by El Museo del Barrio.

"We're so grateful for the continued opportunity to add work to our permanent collection through The LIFEWTR Fund at Frieze," stated Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Brooklyn Museum. "LIFEWTR's support has been transformative as the previous two significant works by Ed Clark and Virginia Jaramillo have since been widely lauded and are actively traveling to major museums throughout the US and UK. Now this year's acquisitions deepens our commitment to supporting emerging artists, and furthers the canon-expanding conversations we're able to have across collections."

Olga Osminkina-Jones said: "In everything we do at LIFEWTR, we are dedicated to showcasing emerging artists and helping them advance their careers. Over the last two years, we have seen how the institutional support of an artist's work can positively impact the artist as well as the museum's community. Frieze and the Brooklyn Museum are wonderful partners that share our purpose and we are so proud that The LIFEWTR Fund can make a lasting impact and deliver on our shared goal of supporting creativity globally."

Loring Randolph, Artistic Director for Americas, Frieze Fairs added: "Following The LIFEWTR Fund's exceptional acquisitions over the last two years, with works by Ed Clark and Virginia Jaramillo, we are so pleased to continue this important element of our partnership with LIFEWTR and support the Brooklyn Museum in acquiring Diedrick Bracken's *when no softness came* (2019) and *13 International Dogs* by Gala Porras-Kim. LIFEWTR has demonstrated a sincere commitment to support the development of emerging artists' careers, from initiatives like the new Frieze LIFEWTR Sculpture Prize for emerging artists to the support of the exhibition *Electric* at Frieze New York. We could not be happier to help Diedrick Brackens and Gala Porras-Kim find a permanent home in the Brooklyn Museum."

In 2018 LIFEWTR was named the Official Global Water and Emerging Program Partner for Frieze as part of a wide-ranging, multi-faceted global partnership that furthers the shared commitment to support emerging artists at various touchpoints.

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Notes to Editors:

About The Brooklyn Museum Founded in 1823 as the Brooklyn Apprentices' Library Association, the **Brooklyn Museum** contains one of the nation's most comprehensive and wide-ranging collections enhanced by a distinguished record of exhibitions, scholarship, and service to the public. The Museum's vast holdings span 5,000 years of human creativity from cultures in every corner of the globe. Collection highlights include the ancient Egyptian holdings, renowned for its objects of highest world-class quality, and the arts of the Americas collection, which is unrivaled in its diverse range from pre-Columbian relics, Spanish colonial painting, and Native American

art and artifacts to 19th- and early 20th-century American painting, sculpture, and decorative objects. The Museum is also home to the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, which is dedicated to the study and exhibition of feminist art and is the only curatorial center of its kind. The Brooklyn Museum is both a leading cultural institution and a community museum dedicated to serving a wide-ranging audience. Located in the heart of Brooklyn, the Museum welcomes and celebrates the diversity of its home borough and city. Few, if any, museums in the country attract an audience as varied with respect to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational background and age as the audience of the Brooklyn Museum.

LIFEWTR, supporter of The LIFEWTR Fund, is a premium water brand whose purpose is to support and advance emerging artists on a global stage. In 2018 LIFEWTR was named the Official Global Water and Emerging Program Partner for Frieze as part of a wide-ranging, multi-faceted global partnership that furthers the shared commitment to support emerging artists through various touchpoints, including at Frieze New York.

Frieze: Frieze is the world's leading platform for modern and contemporary art for scholars, connoisseurs, collectors and the general public alike. Frieze comprises three magazines—frieze, Frieze Masters Magazine and Frieze Week—and four international art fairs—Frieze London, Frieze Masters, Frieze New York and Frieze Los Angeles. Additionally, Frieze organizes a program of special courses and lectures in London through Frieze Academy. Frieze was founded in 1991 by Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp, with the launch of frieze magazine, the leading international magazine of contemporary art and culture. In 2003, Sharp and Slotover launched Frieze London art fair, which takes place each October in The Regent's Park, London. In 2012, they launched Frieze New York, which occurs each May in Randall's Island Park, and Frieze Masters, which coincides with Frieze London in October and is dedicated to art from ancient to modern. In 2018, Frieze announced the launch of Frieze Los Angeles, which will open February 14–17, 2019 at Paramount Pictures Studios, Los Angeles.