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### Museo Tamayo presents *The Hikers* a Rashid Johnson exhibition

- The Hikers, a new exhibition by American artist Rashid Johnson opens Saturday July 27th. Johnson will be present during the opening.
- This is Johnson's first monographic exhibition in Mexico and Latin America.
- *The Hikers* features a collection of paintings, sculptures, and videos created by the artist over the past seven years.

Taking as a starting point multiple literary, musical and historical references, Rashid Johnson (Chicago, 1977) explores distinct narratives, processing the thought of different minds to establish understandings of identity. With an interest in utility, Johnson discusses a position in historical reflection, memory and daily life: a contemplation of our own identity as adults in relationship to our childhood.

The artworks of Rashid Johnson explore and redefine notions of blackness by blending a wide range of sources. Rufino Tamayo said in an interview with Antonio Rodríguez in 1947 "what is national is secondary to the piece of art, but as a Mexican, as the Indian I am, what is Mexican comes out of me naturally, without the necessity of having to search for it." In the same way Johnson doesn't need to search for blackness because it's an intrinsic part of his work; it's found in the materials he uses: shea butter, black soap and tropical plants. All of this opposes to his particular treatment of the materials and forms, as well as the reconfiguration of the minimalist attitudes. The artwork is presented as an object between object and man.

The exhibition *The Hikers* presents a selection of paintings belonging to different series, all of which display a constant representation of anxiety. These works show anxious heads and torsos that can be related to the feelings and the behavior of society provoked by political, racial, economic and environmental issues. Tied to a similar theme, a seven —minute video— namesake of the exhibition—is shown.

*The Crisis* is a sculpture or installation inhabited by plants, books and shea butter sculptures located at the museum's central courtyard. Through the production of an impenetrable chaos, Johnson studies the occupation of the grid, the appropriation and invasion of space and of the principles of Minimalism. Also, *The Crisis* will have a sporadic activation in which a trumpeter inside the sculpture will perform for the museum visitors.

