

PENTA

Rapper Q-Tip's Contemporary Art Collection on Public Exhibition for First Time

By **Fang Block** Sept. 10, 2019 2:50 pm ET



Nina Chanel Abney's untitled work created in 2014 will highlight Q-Tip: The Collection at Bonhams. Courtesy of Bonhams

Rapper and record producer Q-Tip has personally curated a collection of contemporary art to exhibit, which will showcase his interests and patronage, at Bonhams in New York from Sept. 20 to Oct. 4.

Q-Tip, 49, a member of groundbreaking American hip-hop collective A Tribe Called Quest, selected 13 pieces from his collection, many of which were acquired directly from artists as a result of his strong personal relationships within the creative industries, Bonhams said.

"It is a privilege to have the opportunity to showcase and recognize some of the most talented artists that have inspired me personally and professionally," Q-Tip said in a statement through Bonhams.

Although the collection includes works by established contemporary artists such as Richard Prince and Jeff Elrod, as well as works by street art icon Fab 5 Freddy and avant garde director Harmony Korine, it also includes works by emerging artists, including William Villalongo, Hebru Brantley, and Torey Thornton.

“My hope is that this exhibition will encourage visitors to learn something new, be inspired, and discover the brilliance of some of these incredible emerging artists,” Q-Tip said.



Q-Tip Nabil Elderkin via Bonhams

Q-Tip released his first solo debut album *Amplified* in 1999. In the 2000s he released the Grammy Award-nominated album *The Renaissance*, and the experimental album *Kamaal the Abstract*. He also appeared in films such as *Poetic Justice*, *She Hate Me*, and *Prison Song*, which he also co-wrote. He hosts radio shows and teaches at New York University, too.

A highlight of the collection is a 2014 artwork by Nina Chanel Abney, 37, a female African artist who often explores race, gender,

pop culture, homophobia, and politics in her work. The piece, depicting six black faces with geometric shapes and truncated text on background, was included in the artist's first institutional show at Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University in 2017.

An untitled work created in 2015 by American painter and photographer Richard Prince, 79, will also be on exhibition. The painting was featured as the cover art of A Tribe Called Quest's most recent album *We Got It from Here... Thank You 4 Your Service*, released in 2016.

The exhibition of Q-Tip's collection is free and open to the public at Bonhams New York galleries, and coincides with the auction house's inaugural sale *Contemporary: Art, Editions & Design* in New York being held on Sept. 25.
