

PRESS RELEASE—JACKSON FINE ART

Sam Taylor-Wood, *Crying Men* and *Peachtree Road*
&
David Hilliard, *Saturate*
September 14th

Opening Reception for the artists, September 14th, 6-8pm
ACP Sam Taylor-Wood Lecture, September 15th, High Museum,
Hill Auditorium 4:00 pm
Book Signing Saturday September 15th 10:30 – 11:30 pm

“Women cry and men get angry,” a casual comment made at a dinner party, was the impetus behind world renowned British photographer **Sam Taylor-Wood’s** *Crying Men* series, a selection of which Jackson Fine Art is thrilled to premiere in the Southeast. **Taylor-Wood** decided she wanted to show “men stripped of their defenses.” She photographed her subjects in a most vulnerable state, an unguarded emotional display that not only usually has no witnesses, but also one that is not usually considered appropriate for men to engage. But their supposed genuine tears can never be fully believed as such because these crying men are also famous actors, including Ed Harris, Forest Whitaker, and Paul Newman, men celebrated for their ability to portray a range of emotions in front of a camera. The photographs’ exquisite cinematic aesthetic is ironic—these actors are stripped of the storylines their films provide and we are used to. **Taylor-Wood’s** work intensifies the way in which we identify with her subjects. We don’t empathize with a character. Instead, we relate to the raw emotion itself, either what it feels like to be the one helplessly crying or the bewildered bystander.

Taylor-Wood’s *Peachtree Road* photographs, which will also be on display, were taken on a ten-day road trip through Georgia in 2004. Commissioned by legendary musician Elton John for his album of the same name, these black and white photographs are lyrical depictions of a pastoral south that is frequently forgotten still exists. They immediately invite comparison with some of the most beloved photographs ever taken of the south, those commissioned by the WPA during the Great Depression. Over seventy years later, though the desperation of the WPA photographs is thankfully absent from Taylor-Wood’s, the landscape is still remarkably similar. *Peachtree Road* pays homage to a place that despite one’s efforts to the contrary, gets into your blood once you’ve been.

Sam Taylor-Wood was born in London in 1967 and graduated from Goldsmith’s College. In 1997, she received the Venice Biennale’s Illy Café Prize for Most Promising Young Artist. Her work is in many prestigious collections worldwide, including the Saatchi Collection and Tate Gallery in London, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. She lives and works in London.

Jackson Fine Art is also pleased to present photographer **David Hilliard’s** third solo show at the gallery, *Molt*, a selection of his most recent work. Admittedly, not every aspect of life is profound, but through his signature multi-paneled photographs **Hilliard** is able to make significant those moments that make up most of our lives and usually go by unnoticed. He layers meaning in his constructed narratives, conveying the exhaustive range of emotions that

drive the human conditions—solitude, joy, reflection, sexuality—through a series of commonplace experiences, like sitting on a bench with a friend or lifting weights in the garage. His use of composition, color, and focus of the camera lens are akin to literary devices, utilized to evoke deeper meaning. **Hilliard** is a keen “visual storyteller.” Like the best works of fiction, in his photographs, under the surface of the story runs a current of timeless themes.

David Hilliard, born in Massachusetts in 1964, received his MFA from Yale. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2001. Several institutions have collected his work, including the Whitney Museum in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Boston Museum of Fine Art. He lives in Boston.

Jackson Fine Art is located at 3115 East Shadowlawn Ave. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10-5 pm. For more information please contact Malia Stewart at 404.233.3739.