



# KENTLER INTERNATIONAL DRAWING SPACE

353 Van Brunt Street  
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## WORDROACH

K. Saito (front space)

***In Bold Colors***

Orlando Richards (back space)

Curated by Charlotta Kotik

**February 5 – March 27, 2016**

**Opening Reception:** Friday, February 5, 6-8 pm

**Artists' Talk:** Saturday, March 5, 4 pm

Kentler International Drawing Space is pleased to present solo exhibitions by two artists: WORDROACH, by K. Saito and *In Bold Colors*, by Orlando Richards. Each of these artists presents an international worldview and takes an innovative approach to language and human condition in his work.

Born in Japan in 1948, **K. Saito** has lived and worked in New York City since 1990. This exhibition showcases new works from WORDROACH, an ongoing series the artist began in 1999. Made up of 3-dimensional works and large-scale ink drawings on paper, WORDROACH humorously explores the vulnerability and absurdity of human life. Saito employs the image of the cockroach (the most resilient of all life forms according to popular lore) in combination with nonsensical or "foolish" text to symbolize human folly and our eventual self-destruction. To this end, the language itself is often shown transforming, disappearing or burning from one end. The artist's implicit nihilism is delivered here somewhat disarmingly with wit and in a playfully cartoonish style. A brochure with an essay by Reiko Tomii accompanies the exhibition.

**Orlando Richards** is a self-taught artist of Jamaican descent currently living and working in Brooklyn, New York. *In Bold Colors*, curated by Charlotta Kotik, features monumental and small-scale works on paper and hand-made paper in a range of media, including oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolor and charcoal. Many of Richards' compositions appear to show primal characters in dynamic, compressed foreground scenes. His use of overall bold colors – which the artist describes as his "language" – unifies the figures within their often chaotic surroundings, creating loose but evocative narratives. In this way Richards merges representation with abstraction to emphasize the expressive qualities of human connection, myth, memory, and storytelling. A brochure accompanies the exhibition, featuring an artist interview by Charlotta Kotik and Sallie Mize.

Kentler International Drawing Space is located at 353 Van Brunt Street (between Dikeman & Wolcott Streets) in Red Hook, Brooklyn. The gallery is open free to the public Thursday - Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Executive Director Florence Neal, 718.875.2098 or visit our website.

Founded by two artists in 1990, Kentler International Drawing Space Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization presenting contemporary exhibitions of drawings and works on paper by emerging and under-recognized local, national and international artists as part of the cultural fabric of the community. Kentler's Programs: Exhibitions and Events, The Kentler Flatfiles and K.I.D.S. Art Education.

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