

NOMAD GALLERY BRUSSELS

PRESS RELEASE

NOMAD GALLERY is pleased to present: *Counting On You Counting On Me*, a two-woman exhibition curated by gallery artist Lavar Munroe. This exhibition features Ethiopian-American born artist Helina Metaferia and Bahamian born artist Alexandria Robinson.

Through the piecing together of collaged material ranging from paper to steel, the artists use their work as poignant forms of critique, reflection and critical inquiry. Notions surrounding ideas ranging from virtue, strength, and struggle are seamlessly interwoven in the collaged paper works by Helina. Ideas surrounding labor, maternity, and patriarchy are intricate to the work of Alexandria. Both artists will present large format pieces that address the grandiosity of womanhood while celebrating self, family, and lineage.

This exhibition was curated as a direct response to *Phenomenal Woman : Four Poems Celebrating Women* (1995) by Maya Angelou.

***Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
the palm of my hand,
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.***

NOMAD GALLERY a le plaisir de présenter *Counting On You Counting On Me*, une exposition organisée autour de deux femmes artistes présentées pour la première fois en Europe: Helina Metaferia, d'origine américano-éthiopienne et Alexandria Robinson, d'origine bahamienne.

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Leur œuvre témoigne d'une réflexion engagée sur la place et l'identité des femmes, avec des thèmes de prédilection propre à chacune : la vertu, la force et le combat des femmes incarnés dans la prolifération de papiers collés d'Helina Metaferia ; la maternité, le matriarcat et le travail concentrés dans l'assemblage de matériaux mixtes d'Alexandria Robinson.

Lavar Munroe, artiste de NOMAD GALLERY, est le curateur de cette exposition qu'il a conçue en écho au poème *Phenomenal Woman : Four Poems Celebrating Women* (1995) de Maya Angelou, activiste, écrivaine, actrice et chanteuse noire américaine.

Helina Metaferia

ARTIST STATEMENT:

My work combines archival research with performative gestures and transforms history into mythology in order to interrogate racism, sexism, and notions of Western exceptionalism. In some works, I integrate found art periodicals that were published in the 1980's (the decade of my birth) with photographic stills from my recent performances, creating an avatar persona that reclaims a space in art history for under-recognized and marginalized women/artists of color. Playing with the 1980's trending re-interest in "primitivism," I use my Ethiopian-American female body as a way to reclaim that gaze and decolonize the appropriation of black culture. In other works, I integrate images of civil rights activism sourced from Black Panther newspapers with images of women of color in gestures of historic resistance - - standing, sitting, and kneeling. These collages are forms of affirmations that summon the survival methods and tactics used throughout activism movements of the past, and applies them to today's effort toward social justice.

BIO:

Helina Metaferia is an interdisciplinary artist working in performance, video, installation, and collage. She has exhibited her work at venues including Museum of African Diaspora (San Francisco), Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), and Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (Detroit). Helina completed her MFA in 2015 at Tufts University's School of the Museum of Fine Arts and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Her artist residencies include Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Ox-Bow, MASS MoCA, and NARS Foundation, among others. She has taught in the BFA and MFA programs at the San Francisco Art Institute, Michigan State University, and Parsons Fine Arts.

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She is currently an Andrew W. Mellon Gateway Fellow / Assistant Professor at Brown University and lives and works in New York City.

AVAILABLE WORKS : [pdf](#)

Alexandria Robinson

ARTIST STATEMENT:

My work challenges the nature of multiple materials. By merging multiple mediums together, my intention is to challenge the idea of how a painting can be defined and what it can significantly become. By combining canvas, paper, fabric and steel altogether, I use methods of painting and drawing, use of colour and the application of foreign objects to exaggerate multiplicity and otherness, but most importantly to test the succession of harmony between materials. Apart from the works material nature, the politics of identity and how that relates to migration is a key element within the work. My intention is to create a narrative through conversation with subjects in each work. Being invested in the study of semiotics, I anticipate that each known or unknown signifier, being represented through the use of colour and symbol, will create some narrative whether it be the one the subject envisions or the viewer himself. How these subjects interact within this narrative, whatever the narrative be at the time, is a metaphorical process that I ultimately envision to have a wavering effect within the subject and life itself.

BIO:

Alexandria Robinson is an artist working in oil, collage and steel. She was raised in Nassau, Bahamas, and eventually went off to complete her BFA at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2018. She has exhibited her work at Moore Galleries (Philadelphia), The Trocadero Theatre (Philadelphia) and The Greenhouse (London, UK). She is currently studying at Goldsmiths University of London in the UK and is expected to receive her MFA in 2020.

AVAILABLE WORKS : [pdf](#)

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