

MISHKIN GALLERY

Mishkin Gallery Presents *Lamin Fofana: BLUES*



BLUES installation view, 2020. Mishkin Gallery.

NEW YORK, NY—Mishkin Gallery is pleased to re-open the gallery to the public with *BLUES*, an exhibition by Sierra Leone-born, New York-based musician and artist Lamin Fofana. The exhibition opens Monday, March 21 and will be on view through May 6, 2022.

Fofana's music is a conduit for engaging with an array of issues involving blackness, migration, displacement, and race through collective listening. The exhibition centers on a trilogy of sound works comprising the albums *Black Metamorphosis*, *Darkwater*, and *Blues* that engage with seminal texts by Sylvia Wynter, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Amiri Baraka to reflect on historical and epistemological trajectories of contemporary social and political thought through the lens of Black Studies. These works will be presented alongside videos and photographs by Fofana and his collaborators Jim C. Nedd and Nicolas Premier.

Fofana creates spaces for contemporary black life in the West that are informed by his interest in history and the sonic and “allow for dreaming and imagining other ways of being” which foreground non-linear thinking and experience. Mishkin Gallery will be the main site of the exhibition, with additional elements such as posters and sounds spiraling outwards through the College campus and into the city. Aiming for both physical and emotional resonance, the works attempt to challenge authoritative forms of representation and communication while drawing upon the artists' personal experiences of diaspora, the coming and going of communities. Throughout the exhibition, the Gallery will hold live music performances, talks, readings, and listening sessions to collectively think through what Christina Sharpe calls “wake work”, living with and attending to the paradoxical history of slavery and its afterlives.

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A booklet with contributions by Alaina Claire Feldman, Lamin Fofana, Dino Dinçer Şirin, and excerpts of primary source texts will accompany the exhibition. The exhibition opened briefly in March 2020 but closed soon after due to Covid-19. A special zine including recent writing by the artists will account for and reflect on the past two year since the exhibition had initially opened.

BLUES is curated by Alaina Claire Feldman. The exhibition was made possible by the Baruch College Fund and the George and Mildred Weissman School of Arts and Sciences. Additional support was provided by Hedwig Feit and the Schindler-Lizana Fund for Latin American Arts and Culture, and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

About the Artists:

Lamin Fofana is an artist and musician. Fofana's music contrasts the reality of our world with what is beyond it, and explores questions of movement, migration, alienation and belonging. Fofana's overlapping interests in history and the present, and his practice of transmuting text into the affective medium of sound, manifests in multisensory live performances and installations featuring original music compositions, field recordings and archival material. His latest releases include *Black Metamorphosis*, *Darkwater*, and *Blues* (an album trilogy). Recent exhibitions include *Ballad Air & Fire* for Preis der Nationalgalerie at Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany (2021); *a call to disorder* at Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2021); *Life and Death by Water* for the Liverpool Biennial 2021 at Lewis's Building, Liverpool, England; *Refracted Gazes/Fugitive Dreams* at Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany (2019); *WITNESS* at 57th Venice Biennale, Italy (2017); and performances at Documenta 14, Kassel, Germany and Athens, Greece (2017). In 2021, Fofana was awarded a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants and was nominated for the National Gallery Prize in Germany. Fofana hosts a monthly radio show on NTS Radio, an online station based in London.

Jim C. Nedd is a Colombian and Italian artist based in Milan. He works predominantly in photography, and music as the duo Primitive Art alongside Matteo Pit. From 2015 to 2020, Nedd assisted the Italian artists Maurizio Cattelan and Pierpaolo Ferrari at *Toiletpaper Magazine*. In 2015, with Invernomo, Nedd co-directed the documentary *Pico: Un Parlante de África en América*, and in 2016, in collaboration with Honest Jon's Records, he co-edited the music compilation *GUARAPO!: Forty Bangers from Barranquilla*, both works focusing on the Afro-Colombian legacy of music in the Caribbean regions. Nedd's work has been exhibited at Autoitalia, UK; Athens Biennial, Greece; Damien & the Love Guru, Belgium; Hamburger Bahnhof, Germany; Liverpool Biennial, UK; and SANDY BROWN, Germany. Nedd's work has been published by *Aperture Magazine*; *Vogue*; *GQ*; *Kaleidoscope*; *Esquire*, and he has collaborated with brands such as Bottega Veneta, Off-White and Prada.

Nicolas Premier is a French-Congolese artist living and working in Paris. His work interrogates Modernity and contemporaneity from off-screen experiences and knowledge by performing social, temporal, and spatial scale changes. Premier is interested in the links of mutual borrowing, fascination and dazzlements, as Joseph Tonda understands them, that exist between and towards the African diasporas. Selected works include *Regular Man* (2010), *Our Poetry* (2012), *Africa Is The Future Magazine Covers* (2015), *Style* (2017), *Misericordia* (2019), and *Black Metamorphosis* (2019). He has recently exhibited at E:Werk in Luckenwalde, Germany (2021), and the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, Germany (2021).

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