Tanya Leighton

'A VOICE ANSWERING A VOICE'

Marcus Brutus
Clyde Conwell
Denzil Forrester
Stefanie Heinze
Matthew Krishanu
Joy Labinjo
Misheck Masamvu
Manuel Mathieu
Han Shen
Zhibo Wang

Kurfürstenstraße 24/25, Berlin 4654 W Washington Blvd, Los Angeles

22 July – 26 August 2023

'A voice answering a voice'
Tanya Leighton, Berlin and Los Angeles
22 July – 26 August 2023
Preview: Friday 21 July. 5–8pm

Marcus Brutus, Clyde Conwell, Denzil Forrester, Stefanie Heinze, Matthew Krishanu, Joy Labinjo, Misheck Masamvu, Manuel Mathieu, Han Shen, Zhibo Wang

What has praise and fame to do with poetry? What has seven editions ...

Was not poetry a secret transaction, a voice answering a voice?

So that all this chatter and praise and blame and meeting people who admired one and meeting people who did not admire one was as ill suited as could be to the thing itself—a voice answering a voice.

-Virginia Woolf, 'Orlando: A Biography' (1928)

Tanya Leighton, Berlin and Los Angeles is pleased to announce 'A voice answering a voice', an exhibition featuring works by Marcus Brutus, Clyde Conwell, Denzil Forrester, Stefanie Heinze, Matthew Krishanu, Joy Labinjo, Misheck Masamvu, Manuel Mathieu, Han Shen, and Zhibo Wang. Gesturing toward the exhibition as a dialogue between two cities, the show title is inspired by the eponymous heroine of Virginia Woolf's 'Orlando', a novel about a semi-immortal, man-turned-woman poet who embarks on a three-hundred-year quest for love, recognition, and fortune, all of which are frustrated due to the enduring patriarchy under which she lives.

Unsurprisingly, critics read 'Orlando' as a queer, feminist polemic on the human pursuit of meaning and desire, which for Woolf's poet, given her near-immortality, should be achievable but is always out of reach. 'Orlando' is in essence about the drive to transgress the constraints imposed on the body. In turn, 'A voice answering a voice' highlights artists who take up the figurative line and with it explore subject formation and its transgression. Despite their diversity, each artist shares an interest in locating the line at which figuration becomes legible and legibility becomes constraint.

Legibility, here, should be understood along many dimensions—with some focusing more explicitly on identity than others. For example, Marcus Brutus's paintings reconstruct scenes of everyday life, collaged from Afro-Caribbean visual culture, in a manner that dislocates his subjects from a specific sense of time and place. In Joy Labinjo's work, the complexity of the Black community also takes centre stage to contemplate the multiplicity of identities her subjects occupy in order to challenge Blackness as a monolithic category. A similar consideration underpins Matthew Krishanu's practice, which meditates on nationality and race to dwell on the artist's upbringing as a biracial child growing up in Dhaka—his father English and his mother Bengali Indian.

For other artists, legibility takes a more formal investigation, such as Denzil Forrester, whose long interest in the kinetic energy of dancehalls transforms bodies into rhythmic masses in a manner reminiscent of Futurism's interest in dynamism.

Following suit, Han Shen's work pursues the connection between body movement and the instincts that guide the painter's process to explore the relationship between somatic experience and creativity. Carrying the above conversation forward is Stefanie Heinze's abstract compositions, which she describes as mental and bodily experiences that can display a kind of otherworldliness that renders the banal strange.

Legibility can also take on a political frame, particularly when it comes to how a given political community comes to see itself as such. Manuel Mathieu's work, for instance, draws from the collective trauma of political violence still felt within the Haitian diaspora to visually capture the sense of fracture that remains for many who survived the country's dictatorships. Likewise, Misheck Masamvu's paintings document life in post-independence Zimbabwe through abstract works that aim to convey the experience of oppression through affect alone.

Lastly, legibility can refer to the primordial moment when the human subject becomes legible to itself, namely the instance in which the 'l' that anchors "the self" is suddenly an object among other objects. In pursuit of this moment is Zhibo Wang's votive painting; her work wrestles with longstanding questions about the dialectic between corporeality and spirituality. And for their part, Clyde Conwell's work contemplates the space of painting itself as the original first screen onto which the self is reflected, making painting a kind of prosthesis for the body whilst using symbols instead of words to title each work.

Referring back to Woolf's recalling of poetry as an instrument of dialogue with both oneself and a certain audience, the artists in the exhibition all make use of painting's capacity to amount to personal languages through which the painter can firstly (and ultimately) answer their own questions and preoccupations—a poetic form of parley for self-exploration. Legible to their audiences or not, each of these vernaculars suggests painting as a way to construct or de-construct the self, or challenge, decode, and perhaps even extend it through intimate forms of conversation—a voice answering a voice.

For more information, please contact: Melanie García, melanie@tanyaleighton.com

For high resolution images, please contact: Paula Vogels, paula@tanyaleighton.com

The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 11–6pm, and by appointment.

MARCUS BRUTUS

On view in Los Angeles

Marcus Brutus (born in 1991 in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States) lives and works in New York. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John's University, Queens, New York and is a self-taught painter.

Select solo exhibitions include 'Poetics of Exile' at Stems Gallery, Paris in 2023; 'At the Rendez-vous of Victory' at Carl Koystál, Stockholm in 2022; 'Good Night Willie Lee, I'll See You in the Morning' at Library Street Collective, Detroit in 2020-21; and 'The Truth That Never Hurts' at Harper's, East Hampton in 2020, among others. His work has been included in group exhibitions, most recently at Harper's, Los Angeles in 2023; Arsenal Contemporary, New York in 2022; König Galerie, Berlin, Carl Kostyál Gallery, Stockholm, and Gana Art, Seoul, all in 2021. Works by Brutus were also exhibited in 'American African American' (curated by Arnold Lehman) at Phillips, New York in 2019.

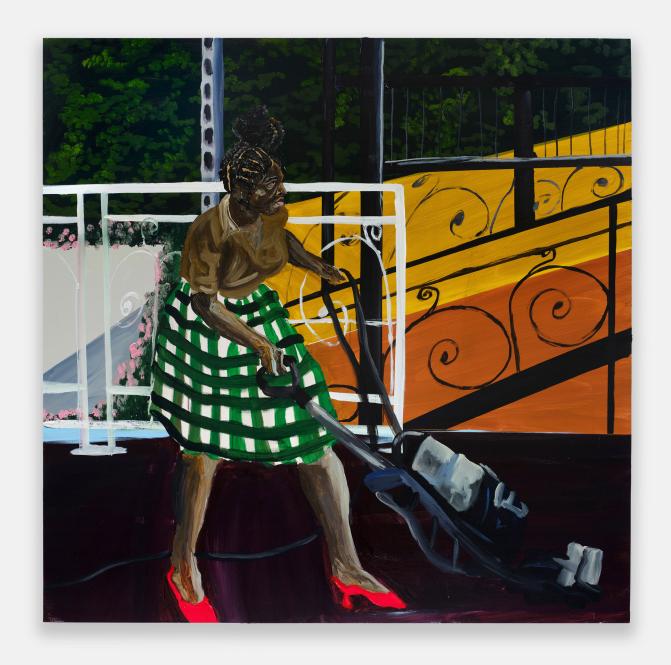
Brutus's first monograph 'Marcus Brutus: The Uhmericans' was published by Harper's in 2019. His painting Bus Stop appears on the cover of the anthology 'The Movement for Black Lives: Philosophical Perspectives' (Oxford University Press, October 2021). His work has been covered in the New York Times, Interview Magazine, and Avant Arte, just to name just a few.

His work is part of the permanent collection of the Davis Museum, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Marcus Brutus
Black and Blue on White, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
152.4×127 cm
60×50 in
Unique
(BRUTUS-2023-0002)







Marcus Brutus
My Longings Have One Abode, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
152.4×152.4 cm
60×60 in
Unique
(BRUTUS-2023-0001)



CLYDE CONWELL

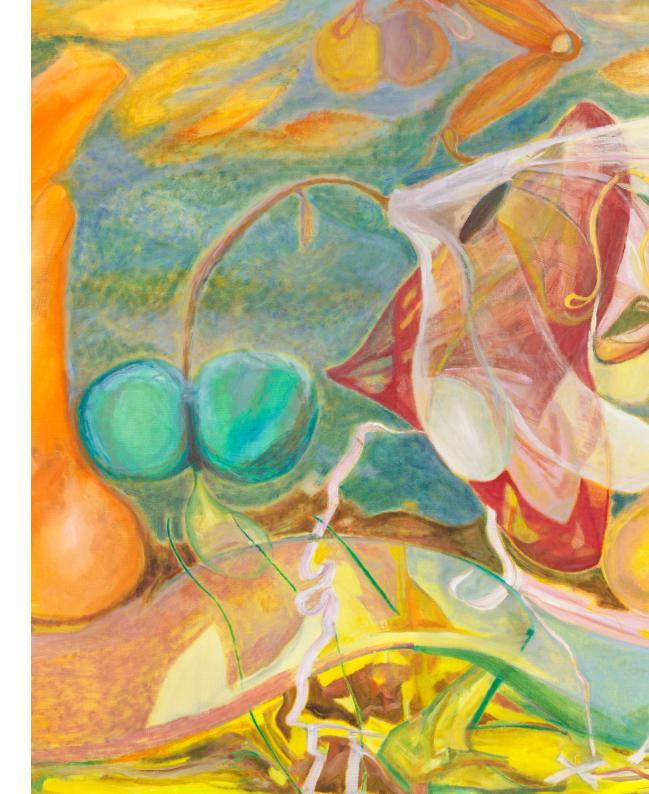
On view in Berlin and Los Angeles

(Details on LA paintings to follow)

Clyde Conwell (born in 1986 in Plattsburgh, New York) lives and works in Berlin. They received a BA from Bard College, New York; MA from Städelschule (under Monika Baer) and MFA from the University of Georgia.

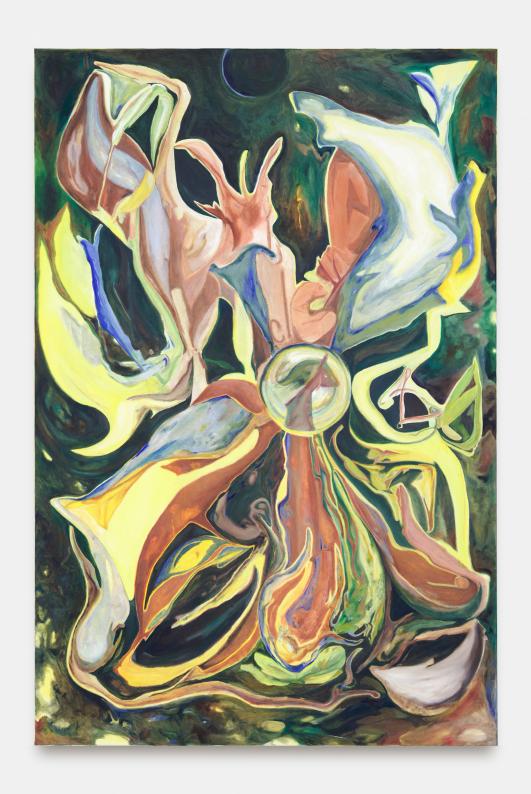
They have had solo exhibitions at Glass Gallery, Athens, Georgia and 50.097782, 8.657995, Frankfurt am Main in 2022; Thousand Faces, Athens Georgia in 2019, and C-21 Gallery, Wilmington, North Carolina in 2018. They have been included in group exhibitions at Wilma W. Daniels Gallery, Wilmington in 2023; Untermainkai, Frankfurt am Main in 2022; Deli Gallery, New York in 2020; Glass Gallery, Athens in 2019, and Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta in 2018, just to name a few.

Conwell has been awarded several scholarships and prizes including the Tom Hollingsworth Scholarship in 2020; the Dorothy Alexander Roush Scholarship in both 2020 and 2019; the Vince Dooley Scholarship in 2019, and the Mary Rosenblatt Graduate Award in 2018.



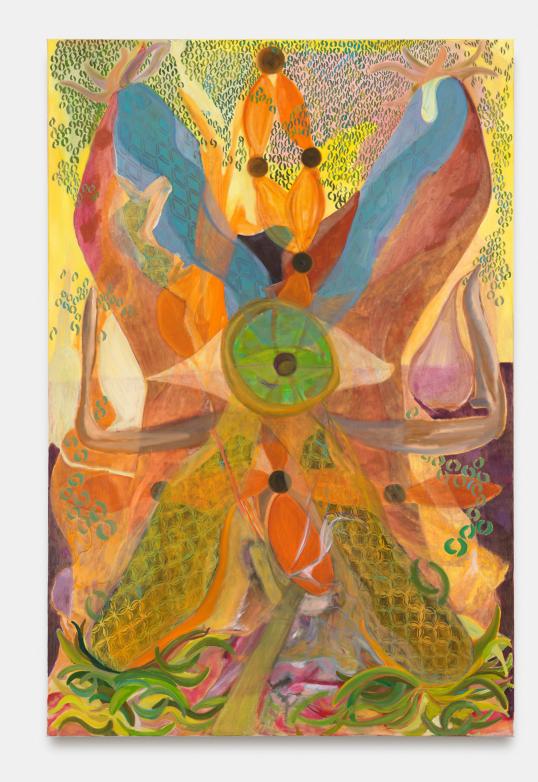


Clyde Conwell
SUB\llure, 2022
Oil on canvas
130×195 cm
511/6×763/4 in
Unique
(CONWELL-2023-0004)



Clyde Conwell </n>ol, 2023 Oil on canvas 195×130 cm 76³4×51½ in Unique (CONWELL-2023-0001)

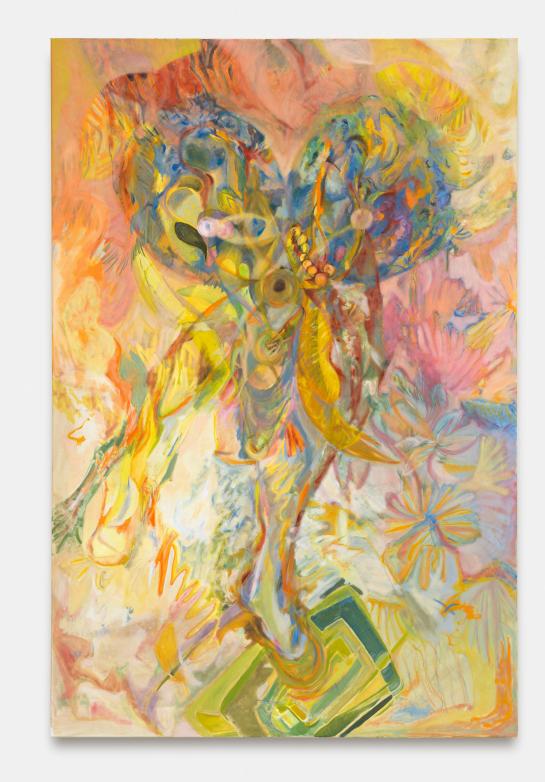




Clyde Conwell
--Sp / itting—-Levels—--_-T-/_-, 2021-22
Oil on canvas
195×130 cm
763/4×511/6 in
Unique
(CONWELL-2023-0007)



Clyde Conwell #over*>/<*flow *:~slippery~slappery~cusp~:, 2021-22 Oil on canvas 195×130 cm 76¾×51½ in Unique (CONWELL-2023-0006)



Clyde Conwell

Their draggg___ (ing I on) —-., 2021
Oil on canvas
195×130 cm
763/4×511/6 in
Unique
(CONWELL-2023-0005)



DENZIL FORRESTER

On view in Berlin

Denzil Forrester (born in 1956 in Grenada) lives and works in Cornwall. England. He received his BA from the Central School of Art, London in 1979 and MA from the Royal College of Art, London in 1983.

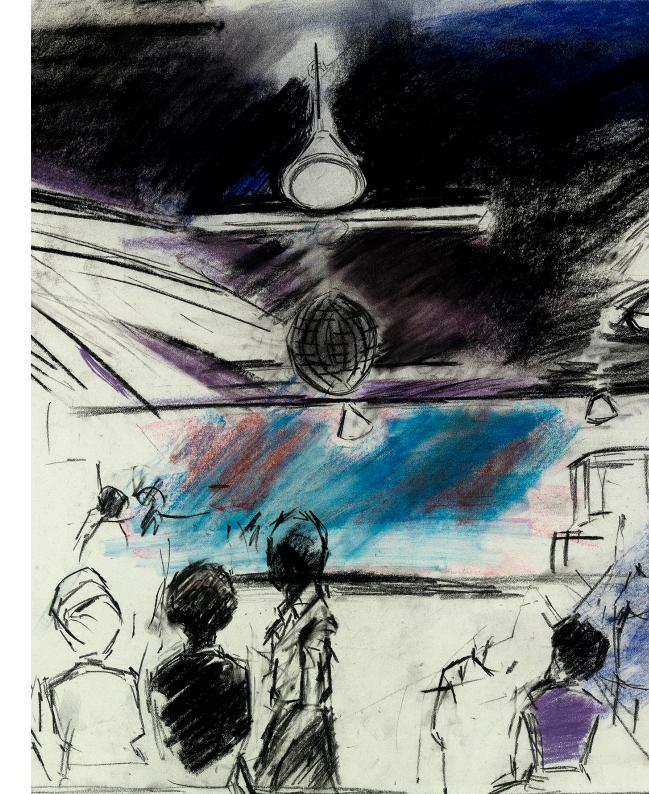
Forrester was awarded the 2021 South Bank Sky Arts Award for his solo exhibition 'Itchin & Scratchin' at Nottingham Contemporary and Spike Island, Bristol in 2020 and 2021 respectively. He was awarded the decoration of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in December 2020; received the Morley Fellowship from Morley College, London in 2019, and was awarded a Harkness Fellowship in New York in 1986.

In 2023, major solo exhibitions by Forrester opened at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City and Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Florida. He participated in the 58th Carnegie International Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2022. A large-scale public artwork for Brixton Underground Station was unveiled by Transport for London in September 2019. His work was the focus of three solo exhibitions curated by Peter Doig and Matthew Higgs at White Columns, New York and Tramps, London both in 2016, and at the Jackson Foundation, St Just, Cornwall in 2018. His work has been exhibited internationally at venues including The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Tate Britain, London; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Royal Academy of Arts, London, and Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow.

Recent group exhibitions include 'Forecast Form: Art in the Caribbean Diaspora, 1990s-today' at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago in 2022; 'Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 50s - Now' at Tate Britain, London and 'Mixing It Up: Painting Today' at Hayward Gallery, London both in 2021, and 'Get Up, Stand Up Now: Generations of Black Creative Pioneers' at Somerset House, London in 2019. This year, his work will feature in 'Thin Skin' at Monash University Museum of Art in Cauldfield East. Australia.

Forrester's works is included in public collections including Tate, London; Arts Council Collection, United Kingdom; Government Art Collection of the

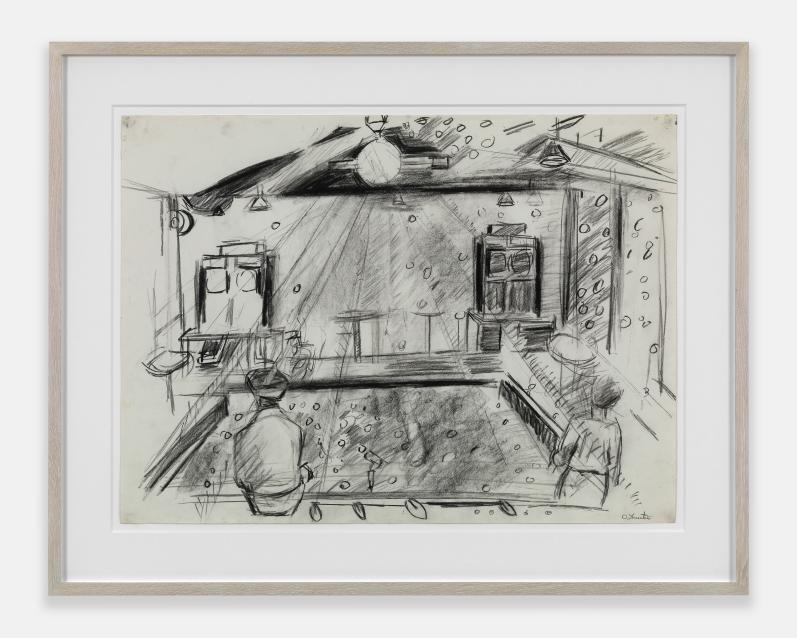
United Kingdom, and Long Museum, Shanghai, amongst many others.



Denzil Forrester Night Shadows, 1989 Detail



Denzil Forrester
Night Shadows, 1989
Compressed charcoal and pastel on paper
55.7×75.7 cm
21%×29¾ in
Unique
(DENZIL-2023-0003)



Denzil Forrester
Night Strobe, 1984
Pencil and compressed charcoal on paper
56×76 cm
22×29% in
Unique
(DENZIL-2023-0002)



Denzil Forrester

Songs, 1986

Compressed charcoal and pastel on paper
55.7×76 cm
21%×29% in
Unique
(DENZIL-2023-0001)



STEFANIE HEINZE

On view in Berlin

Stefanie Heinze (born in 1987 in Berlin, Germany) lives and works in Berlin. Since graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts in Leipzig in 2014, she has exhibited widely.

Recent solo exhibitions include Capitain Petzel, Berlin; Pippy Houldsworth, London; Petzel, New York; LC Queisser, Tbilisi, and Mary Boone Gallery, New York, among others. Selected group exhibitions include 'Fire Figure Fantasy' at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami in 2022; 'In Heat Wind Wounds Holes' at LC Queisser, Tbilisi in 2021; 'Studio Berlin' at Berghain, Berlin in 2020; 'Liquid Bodies' at Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf in 2019; 'Nothing Will Be As Before' at Tanya Leighton, Berlin in 2018; 'Monday is a Day Between Sunday and Tuesday' at Tanya Leighton, Berlin and 'Known Unknowns' at Saatchi Gallery, London in 2017; 'Dropping the Guru' at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London in 2016, among many others. Her work is currently on view as part of L'Almanach 23 Biennial at Le Consortium Museum, Dijon.

Heinze's work is part of the public collections of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden; The Hepworth Wakefield, West Yorkshire; MAMCO, Genève; Pérez Art Museum, Miami; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, and The Rachofsky Collection, Dallas.





Stefanie Heinze
O.T. (Devil's Disperse), 2021
Ink, pencil, cardboard and paper, collaged
25.7×34.8 cm
101/8×133/4 in
Unique
(HEINZE-2023-0004)

MATTHEW KRISHANU

On view in Berlin

Matthew Krishanu (born in 1980 in Bradford, England) lives and works in London. His first solo exhibition at the gallery, 'Arrow and Pulpit', opened at Tanya Leighton, Berlin in Winter 2021. In 2022, Krishanu made his U.S. debut as the inaugural exhibition at LGDR, New York.

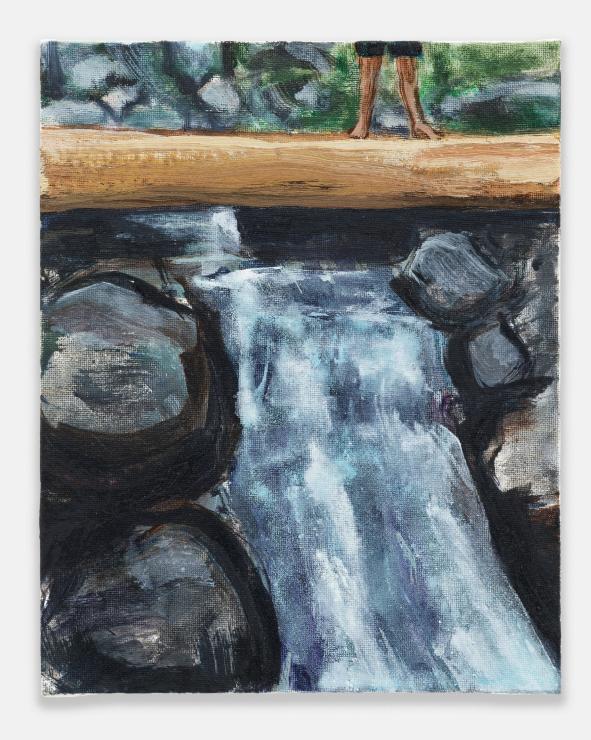
He has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Institute for International Visual Arts, London; the Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham; the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; and Huddersfield Gallery, Huddersfield. His work has also been included in group exhibitions such as 'Prophecy' at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry in 2022; 'Mixing It Up: Painting Today' at the Hayward Gallery, London in 2021; 'Everyday Heroes' at Southbank Centre, London in 2020; 'Childhood Now' (with Chantal Joffe and Mark Fairnington) at Compton Verney, Warwickshire, and 'Made in Britain', The National Museum in Gdańsk, Poland in 2019, just to name a few. His work is currently on view at Whitechapel Gallery, London as part of the group exhibition 'Life Is More Important Than Art'.

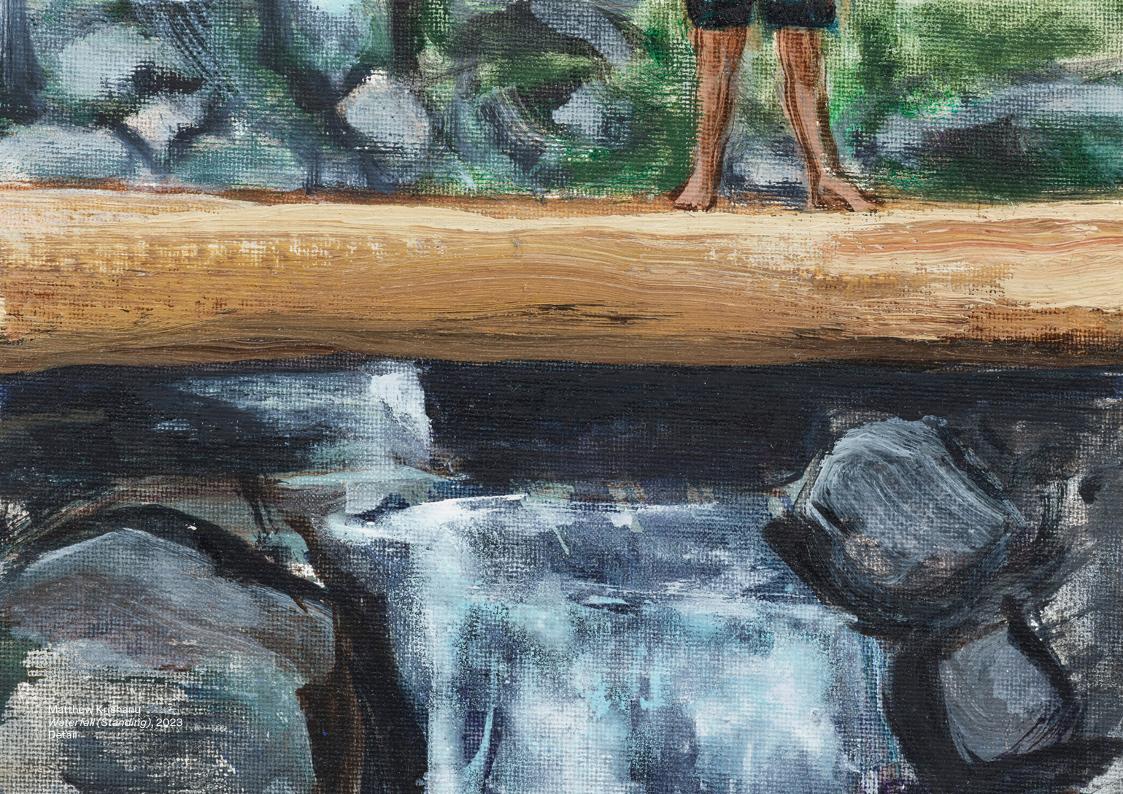
Krishanu has forthcoming solo exhibitions at Jhaveri Contemporary Mumbai and Tanya Leighton, Los Angeles in 2023; as well as a major solo exhibition at Camden Art Centre, London in 2024.

His first monograph, was published earlier this year by Anomie Press. This special publication presents three key bodies of Krishanu's work produced over the course of the past sixteen years, and features two new essays by Mark Rappolt and Dr. Dorothy Price, and an interview with Ben Luke. A recent interview with Krishanu and Ben Luke can also be heard on the Art Newspaper's 'A Brush With' podcast.

Krishanu's work is part of numerous permanent collections including the Government Art Collection of the United Kingdom; the Arts Council Collection, London; Central Saint Martins (UAL), London; China Academy of Art Museum, Hangzhou, China; Jiangsu Art Museum, Nanjing, China; Kiran Nadar Art Museum, New Delhi; Komechak Art Gallery, Chicago; Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, London, amongst others.

Matthew Krishanu
Waterfall (Standing), 2023
Oil and acrylic on board
25×20 cm
9%×7% in
Unique
(KRISHANU-2023-0040)

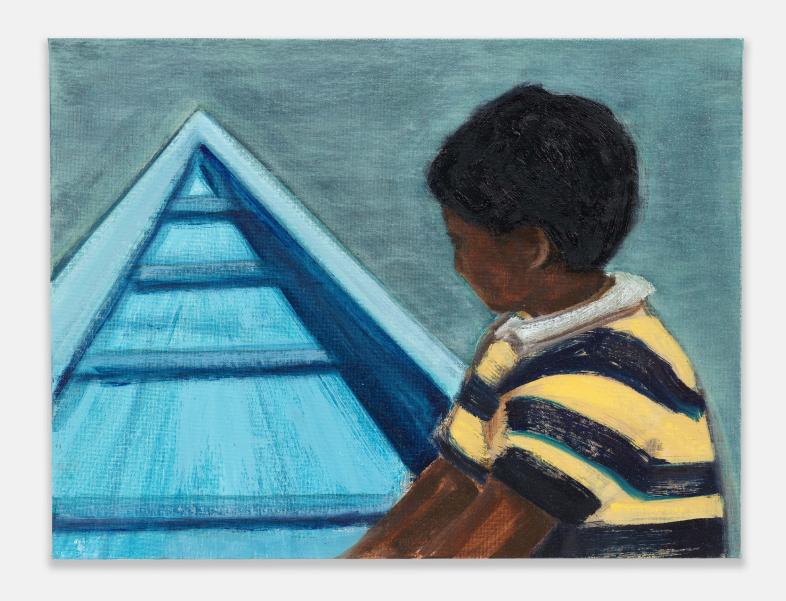






Matthew Krishanu
Girl on a Boat (Kashmir), 2023
Oil and acrylic on canvas
120×150 cm
47½×59 in
Unique
(KRISHANU-2023-0041)





Matthew Krishanu Boy on Blue Boat, 2023 Oil and acrylic on board 30×40 cm 11¾×15¾ in Unique (KRISHANU-2023-0039)

JOY LABINJO

On view in Berlin

British-Nigerian artist Joy Labinjo (born in 1994 in Dagenham, United Kigndom) lives and works in London. She received her BA from the University of Newcastle in 2017 and is currently enrolled in her MFA at the Ruskin School of Art at the University of Oxford.

Selected solo exhibitions include 'Ode to Olaudah Equiano' at Chapter, Cardiff and 'Full Ground' at Tiwani Contemporary, Lagos in 2022; 'Male PICUS' at Hospital Rooms, London in 2021; 'The Elephant in the Room' at The Breeder, Athens; 'Our histories cling to us' at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead in 2019, just to name a few. Her work has been included in group exhibitions internationally, most recently 'Life Is Still Life – The Women's Art Collection' at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge in 2022; 'Art, a serious game' at the Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech in 2021; the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy, London in 2020.

In 2021, Labinjo was commissioned by Transport for London's Art on the Underground programme for the Brixton underground station. In 2017, she was awarded the Woon Art Prize.

Her work is included in public collections including the Government Art Collection of the United Kingdom; Minneapolis Institute of Art; Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels; Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, Nigeria; Muzeul de Artā Recentā, Bucharest; the Musée d'Art Contemporain Africain Al Maaden, Marrakech, and Pérez Art Museum, Miami, among several others.





Joy Labinjo
Sandcastle, 2023
Oil on canvas
180×200 cm
70%×78¾ in
Unique
(LABINJO-2023-0001)



MISHECK MASAMVU

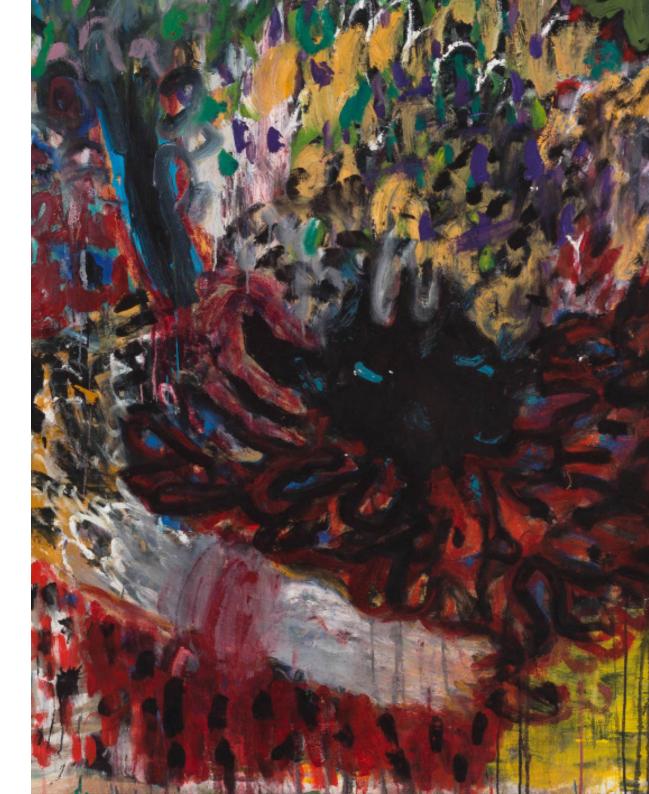
On view in Berlin

Misheck Masamvu (born in 1980 in Penhalonga, Zimbabwe) lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe. Since his studies at Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich, Masamvu has been developing a socially-engaged multi-media practice, aiming to raise questions and ideas around the preservation of dignity across drawing, painting and sculpture.

He has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Goodman Gallery in London, Cape Town, Johannesburg and most recently East Hampton as well as at the National Gallery, Bulawayo in Zimbabwe; Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon, and the Institut Français, Paris. His work has been included in group exhibitions at James Cohan, New York; Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town; Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne; Pérez Art Museum, Miami just to name a few.

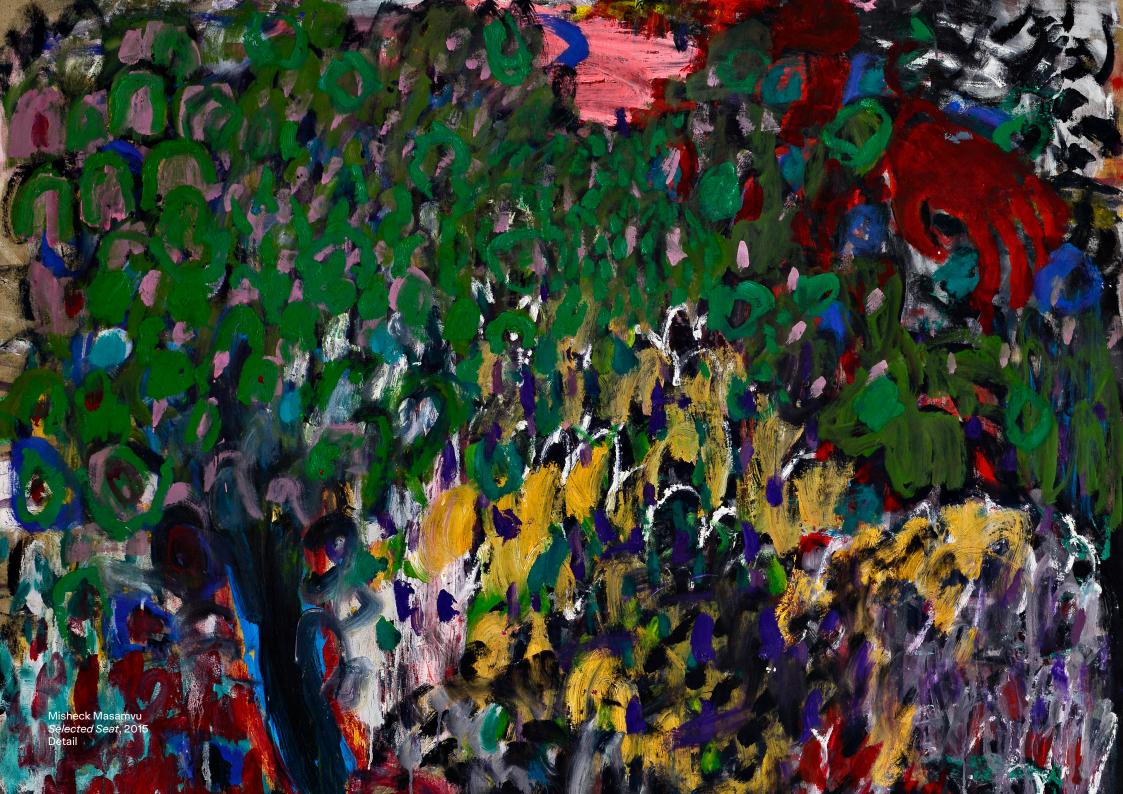
Since he represented Zimbabwe at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011, Masamvu's work has been exhibited widely at international biennials including the 5th Aichi Triennale, Japan and the 8th Biennial of Painting, Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium in 2022; the 22nd Biennale of Sydney in 2020; the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo in 2016; São Tomé Biennale, São Tomé and Principe in 2011, and the Dak'Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal in 2006.

Masamvu's work is part of numerous permanent collections including A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa; Institut Français, Paris; National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare; Pérez Art Museum, Miami; United States National Embassies Permanent Collection, Washington DC; Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne; Sovereign Art Foundation, Jakarta; X Museum, Beijing, China, among many others.





Misheck Masamvu Selected Seat, 2015 Oil on canvas 223×142 cm 87¾×55½ in Unique (MASAMVU-2023-0001)



MANUEL MATHIEU

On view in Los Angeles

Manuel Mathieu (born in 1986 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti) lives and works in Montréal. He received his BFA from the University of Québec in Montréal and their MFA from Goldsmiths University, London.

His solo exhibition 'World Discovered Under Other Skies' at The Power Plant, Toronto has toured several institutions in Canada, including Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art, Winnipeg; Art Gallery of Windsor, Ontario, and National Gallery of Alberta. In 2023, the exhibition will tour to Owens Art Gallery, Sackville and in 2024 it will be presented in the Museum of Contemporary Art of North Miami.

He has had notable solo exhibitions at Pilar Corrias, London and Longlati Foundation, Shanghai in 2022; Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago and Matthew Brown Gallery, Los Angeles in 2021; Montréal Museum of Fine Arts in 2020; HDM Gallery, Beijing in 2019; Tiwani Contemporary Gallery, London in 2017 and the Institute of Contemporary Art, London in 2015 (curated by Fatos Üstek), among others.

His works have been included in group exhibitions at Kunstmuseum Stuttgart; Pérez Art Museum, Miami; Song Art Museum, Beijing; Art Museum of the Americas, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Montparnasse, Paris; Montréal Museum of Fine Arts; Esker Foundation, Calgary; Québec Museum of Civilization and Phi Fondation for Contemporary Art, Montréal, just to name a few.





Manuel Mathieu
The Poetry in Our Disappearance, 2023
Acrylic paint, charcoal, chalk, and tape
172.7x182.9 cm
68x72 in
Unique
(MATHIEU-2023-0001)



HAN SHEN

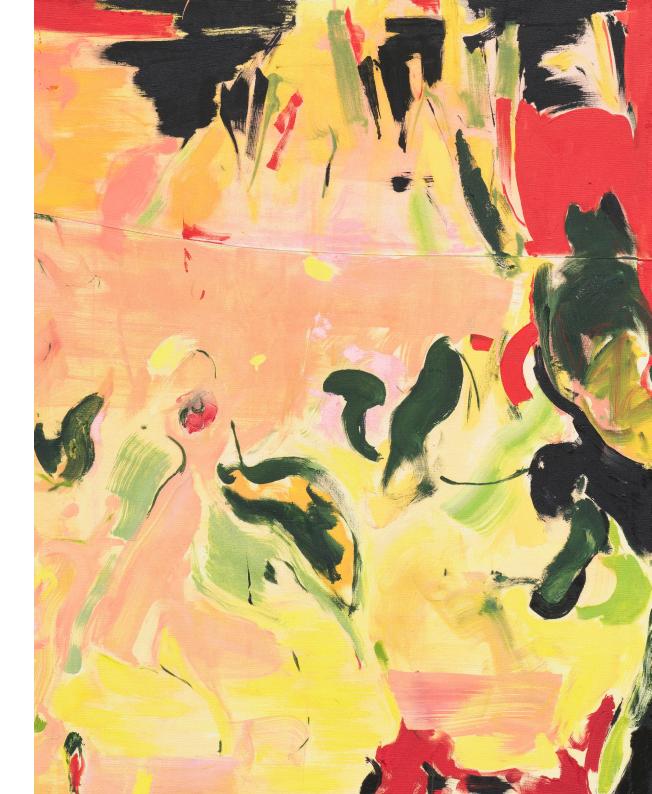
On view in Berlin

Han Shen (born in 1988 in Hangzhou, China) lives and works in Berlin. He graduated from Universität der Künste, Berlin in 2017.

Solo exhibitions include 'West Lake' at PARIS-B, Paris in 2023; 'Intimate Morphology' at Vacancy, Shanghai in 2019; 'The Trajectory of Dream' at Galerie Paris-Beijing, Paris in 2019, and 'Open Up' at Edmond Gallery, Berlin in 2018.

His work has been part of group exhibitions at Spoiler, Berlin; PM/AM, London; Hua International, Berlin; He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen; Aurora Museum, Shanghai; Tansbao Gallery, Taipei; Qiao Space, Shanghai; König Galerie, Berlin; Galerie Liusa Wang, Paris; Galerie Anette Müller, Düsseldorf; Tang Contemporary Art, Bangkok, and Wuhan Art Museum, Hubei, among many others.

Shen's work is included in the permanent collections of Aurora Museum, Shanghai, and Wuhan Art Museum, Hubei.





Han Shen Memento, 2023 Oil on canvas 253×197.5 cm 995/8×773/4 in Unique (SHEN-2023-0001)



ZHIBO WANG

On view in Berlin

Zhibo Wang (born in 1981 in Zhejiang, China) lives and works in Berlin. She was the 2008 recipient of the prestigious Luo Zhongli Scholarship and graduated from the China Academy of Fine Art Oil Painting Department that same year.

Recent solo exhibitions include 'Actor: Talking, Imitating, Teasing and Singing' for Gallery Weekend Beijing, presented by Edouard Malingue Gallery in 2021; 'He No Longer Looks Human' at Edouard Malingue Gallery, Shanghai in 2018, and 'There is a place with four suns in the sky – red, white, blue and yellow' at Edouard Malingue Gallery, Hong Kong in 2016.

Her work has been included in group exhibitions such as 'Painting Unsettled' at UCCA Edge, Shanghai and 'Tao Hui, Tromarama, Wang Zhibo' at Stevenson, Amsterdam both in 2023; 'About painting' at Galerie Rolando Anselmi, Rome and 'Hot/Cold – Dry/Wet: On Art and Latitude' at art+château, Bern, Switzerland both in 2021; 'Neither Black/Red/Yellow nor Woman' at Times Art Center, Berlin and 'Pal(ate)/ette/' at Shanghai Gallery of Art in 2019. Other group exhibitions featuring Wang's works include Chongqing Art Museum, Chongqing, China; Times Museum, Guangzhou; Penrith Regional Art Gallery, Sydney; Taiwan Museum, Taichung; National Art Museum of China, Beijing; Antwerp Museum, Belgium; Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, among many others. In 2022, Wang was included in Phaidon's 'Great Women Artist' publication.

Forthcoming for Wang is a solo exhibition at Aranya Art Center, Beidaihe, China in 2024. .

Zhibo Wang
Portrait with ice cream, 2023
Oil on canvas
180x130 cm
70%×51½ in
Unique
(WANG-2023-0001)





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