

CENTRAL FINE

Shadowboxing It: Painting Peripheries

December 2nd, 2023 - January 30th, 2024

Opening Sunday, December 3rd, 5 pm - 8 pm

“Keep pushing me,
Keep pushing me”

Over the borderline, the threshold redesigns itself conversationally. The gaze of a lion, with the eyes of a woman sporting contact lenses, encounters a solar storm where a man that looks like a sign, is busy cruising himself, in silence. Marks appear to rain over themselves, patterns travel, and a gathering of masked figures, move forward, in protest. Farmers with horns move around. They address the ground where abstraction and its signs, build a name.

A new dictionary opens up as a scroll, flanked by an undulating frame and it is a game.

Matter breaks free from the confines of a pregnant rectangle, and pigment appears to burst, into a million cuts.

Presenting voices that come forward from various thresholds, a dynamic field is charged in a dialectical movement, so that the periphery is understood as plural, fluid, and self-framing, —racing towards an enucleating stop.

The paintings presented, hang next to each other, in solidarity, and yet, aware of the clash.

In the periphery, shadowboxing the sphinxes of interiority, the expansion is what it is. And the center, is that construction that keeps policing itself, incapable to contain.

Loriel Beltran
Corinne Bernard
Chemu Ng'ok
Tomm El-Saieh
Viktor El-Saieh
Blake Rayne
Constanza Schaffner
Diego Singh
Frantz Zephirin

Loriel Beltrán earned his B.F.A from the New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL. His work has been included in group exhibitions at institutions including Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL; Florida International University, Miami, FL; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Miami, FL; Luhring Augustine, Chelsea, New York; de la Cruz Collection, Miami, FL; Museo de Arte Acarigua-Araure, Araure, Venezuela; and The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA, among others. Recent solo exhibitions of his work include *Total Collapse* (2023), Lehmann Maupin, Seoul, Korea; *Calor y Color* (2023), Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY; *Over the Sun, Under the Earth* (2022), CENTRAL FINE, Miami, FL; and *New Old Paintings*, CENTRAL FINE, Miami, FL (2020). Beltrán held his first museum solo presentation at the Museum of Art and Design, Miami, FL (November 6, 2021 – May 1, 2022). He has also presented solo exhibitions at the Bridge Tender House at The Wolfsonian – Florida International University, Miami Beach, FL; Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, FL;

and Locust Projects, Miami, FL. Lorie Beltran was the recipient of the South Florida Cultural Consortium in 2015. Beltrán was also a co-founder and co-director of the artist-run gallery and collective Noguchi Breton (formerly GUCCIVUITTON). His work is included in a number of notable private and public collections, including the de la Cruz Collection, Miami FL; Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, Miami, FL; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL; and Marquez Art Projects, Miami, among others.

Corinne Bernard (b. St. Louis, MO) currently lives and works in Miami Beach, FL. Bernard earned a BFA from Otis College of Art in Design (Los Angeles, CA) in 2015. In the fall of 2018, Bernard held a residency at Alternative Worksite in Roanoke, VA. In 2023, she completed her MFA at Hunter College (New York, NY). Recent group exhibitions of Bernard's work include *Push*, CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach, FL; *DRAW: Point to Point*, The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL; and *Estuary*, Hunter College, New York, NY. Bernard has also exhibited at institutions such as Upper Market Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Swivel Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; Launch 18, New York, NY; and Field Projects, New York, NY. Bernard's first individual presentation, *Seemingly*, opened in October 2023, at CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach, FL. Bernard's work is in the permanent collection of Marquez Art Projects, Miami.

Ivy Brandie Chemutai Ng'ok was born in Nairobi, Kenya in 1989, where she currently lives and works. In 2016 she was the recipient of the Mellon Foundation's Visual and Performing Arts of Africa Masters Bursary. The following year she completed her Master's degree in Fine Art, Painting at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. In 2018, Ng'ok was included in the New Museum Triennial, *Songs for Sabotage*, curated by Alex Gartenfeld and Gary Carrion-Murayari. The following year she participated in the Fountainhead Residency in Miami, FL in collaboration with the Africa Centre, Capetown, South Africa. Ng'ok's most recent solo presentations include *The longing* (2023), Goodman Gallery, London; and *Still waters Run* (2022), Matthew Brown Los Angeles. She has also had solo presentations at CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach; FNB Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg; and SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, among others. Ng'ok has been featured in group presentations internationally at institutions such as Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London; Lühring Augustine, Chelsea, New York; National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare; SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch; Goodman Gallery, Cape Town; CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach; and Rhodes University, Grahamstown. Ng'ok's work is part of the permanent collection of the ICA Miami.

Tomm El-Saieh was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 1984 and is of Haitian, Palestinian, and Israeli descent. He grew up in Miami, FL, where he continues to live and work while maintaining close personal and artistic ties to his native country. This past year marked El-Saieh's third solo presentation at CENTRAL FINE, as well as his participation in group exhibitions at Marquez Art Projects in Miami and Gagosian in London. In 2022 El-Saieh presented his year-long solo exhibition, *Imaginary City*, at the Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, curated by Robert Wiesenberger, Associate Curator of Contemporary Projects. That same year, El-Saieh's work was featured in a year-long group exhibition at the de la Cruz Collection in Miami, as well as group exhibitions at the ICA Miami and Lühring Augustine Gallery in Chelsea, NY. El-Saieh was also featured in *Forecast Form: Art in the Caribbean Diaspora, 1990s–Today*, which opened at MCA Chicago in 2022, and is currently on view at ICA Boston until February 2024, after which it will open at MOCA San Diego in April 2024. In 2018 his work was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) Miami, curated by Alex Gartenfeld and Stephanie Seidel. The same year El-Saieh was included in the New Museum's 2018 Triennial: *Songs for Sabotage* in New York. Additional noteworthy exhibitions include solo presentations in 2015 and 2019 at CENTRAL FINE, Miami. Parallel to his artistic practice are El-Saieh's curatorial endeavors which focus on historical and contemporary Haitian art. He has organized robust and illuminating exhibitions at numerous international venues, as well as through his family's intergenerational and eponymous gallery in Port-au-Prince. El Saieh's work is part of the permanent collection of the ICA Miami; Pérez Art Museum Miami; The Rice University Art Collection; Marquez Art Projects; Blanton Museum of Art at the University

of Texas at Austin; de la Cruz Collection, Miami; and the Rubell Family Collection, Miami, among many others.

Viktor El-Saieh was born in 1988 in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, and moved to Miami as a child. El-Saieh received a BA in International Affairs from Florida International University (FIU) and an MA in Teaching Secondary Social Studies from the University of Colorado (CU). He currently lives and works in Denver, Colorado. His works have been presented at the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; the Ghetto Biennale, Port-au-Prince; Documenta 15, Kassel; Lühring Augustine, Chelsea, New York; Locust Projects, Miami; El-Saieh Gallery, Port-Au-Prince; CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach; and David Castillo Gallery, Miami, among other places. In 2022, El-Saieh inaugurated his 45 x 145-foot permanent installation at the Miami World Center Public Art Program in Downtown Miami. Most recently, El-Saieh's work was acquired by Pérez Art Museum Miami, ICA Miami, and Marquez Art Projects; and he presented his solo exhibition, *TIM-TIM* (2023) at CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach, FL.

Blake Rayne was born in Lewes, Delaware in 1969. He lives and works in New York. He attended the California Institute of the Arts, received a fellowship from the American Academy in Berlin in 2010, and taught at Columbia University's School of Visual Arts. Rayne has had solo exhibitions at institutions such as Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York; Nuno Centeno, Porto; Campoli Presti, London, and Paris; Mendes Wood, São Paulo; Formalist Sidewalk Poetry Club, Miami Beach; Capitain Petzel Gallery, Berlin; Sutton Lane, Paris; and CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach. He has also been featured in group exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Gagosian Gallery, London; Künstlerhaus, Graz; Thomas Duncan Gallery, Los Angeles; Langen Foundation, Neuss; Thomas Dane Gallery, London; Bergen Kunsthall, Norway; The Kitchen, New York; SculptureCenter, Long Island City; Artists Space, New York; Gladstone Gallery, New York; Reena Spaulings, New York; and Green Naftali, New York, to name a few. In 2016, a major monographic exhibition was organized by the Blaffer Art Museum in Houston, Texas; An accompanying publication with texts by John Kelsey, David Lewis, Jaleh Mansoor, Laura Owens, Sean Paul, and Javier Sánchez Martínez, was published by Sequence Press/Blaffer Art Museum/Sternberg Press in 2017. Most recently, Rayne presented his solo exhibition, *Bad Maps* (2023), at Galeria Nuno Centeno in Porto. Rayne's paintings are held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; FRAC Poitou-Charentes, France; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; the Pinault Collection, Paris; New York Public Library, New York; the Portland Museum of Art, Portland; and Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami.

Constanza Schaffner was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1989. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York, where she is currently completing a Ph.D. at NYU's Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Her work has been exhibited at CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach; Lühring Augustine, Chelsea, New York; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Plymouth Rock, Zürich, Switzerland; Bortolami, New York; Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, England; Park View/Paul Soto, Los Angeles; and Galerie Housenot, Paris, France. The artist's work is included in the permanent collections of the Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL; and the Hall Art Foundation, Reading, VT.

Diego Singh was born in Salta, Argentina. He currently lives and works in Miami Beach, Florida. Singh pursued a master's in Social Communications at the Kennedy University in Buenos Aires and then entered the prestigious National Council for Technological and Scientific Investigation (CONICET) in Argentina as a research assistant of Surrealist poetry expert Graciela Maturo. Singh has held solo exhibitions at Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo; Mendes Wood Gallery, São Paulo; McLemoy Gallery,

Sydney; Annarumma Gallery, Napoli; Galleria Macca, Cagliari; Various Small Fires, Los Angeles; CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach; and Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami. His work has also been featured in group exhibitions at institutions such as Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami; De la Cruz Collection, Miami; Luhring Augustine, Chelsea; MOCA North Miami; Gavin Brown's Enterprise at Passerby, New York; MOCA San Diego, San Diego; Palazzo Fruscione, Salerno; Fondazione Malvina Menegaz, Castelbasso; Braverman Gallery, Tel Aviv; and Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, amongst many others. Concurrent to his art practice are Singh's curatorial projects: He founded CENTRAL FINE in 2012, an artist-run-space in Miami Beach, which is currently active and has recently exhibited artists like Tomm El-Saieh, Lorie Beltran, Myrlande Constant, and Georgia Sagri. Singh's works are in the permanent collection of the Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami; ICA Miami, Miami; Marquez Art Projects, Miami; De la Cruz Collection, Miami; MOCA North Miami, Miami; MOCA San Diego, San Diego; and The Drake Art Collection, Netherlands, among others.

Frantz Zephirin was born in 1968 in Cap-Haitien, Haiti. Zephirin was raised by his grandmother near her voodoo compound in Cap-Haitien before moving to Port-au-Prince at 16, where he would later become associated with the Galerie Monnin. In 1996 he was awarded the Gold medal in the Third Biennial of Caribbean and Central American Painting, a competition featuring 144 artists from 37 countries in the region. That same year, Zephirin was one of 5 Haitians to be included in the V Biennial in Cuenca, Ecuador. Two of his paintings were featured in the show and catalog "Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou," which toured the United States in 1997 and 1998. Shortly after surviving the January 12th, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Zephirin was honored with the selection of one of his paintings for the cover of the New Yorker. The September issue of Smithsonian Magazine gave him his second major cover in 2010. His paintings have also made the cover of several prestigious magazines such as Time Magazine and The New York Times; and have been featured in stories in the New York Times, Le Monde, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, the Times of London, the Guardian, and the BBC. In 2022 Zephirin had a solo exhibition at the Williams College Museum of Art, curated by Tomm El-Saieh. He has also held solo exhibitions at institutions such as Denkmalschmiede Höfgen Gallery, Germany; CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach; Galerie Espace Loa, France; Ambassade de France, Dominican Republic; Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, Winter Park; Indigo Gallery, Philadelphia; and Galerie Monnin, Haïti, among others. Zephirin has been featured internationally in group exhibitions at Musée de la civilisation, Québec; Afrika Museum, Netherlands; Nottingham Contemporary, Cornwall; Grassi Museum, Leipzig; Palais du Rhin, Strasbourg; Musée du Montparnasse, Paris; Le Centre d'Art, Port-au-Prince; Galerie Neue Meister - Albertinum, Dresden; and Kunstgewerbemuseum, Dresden, to name just a few; He has also been featured in group exhibitions at United States institutions such as Luhring Augustine, Chelsea; American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore; Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; Figge Art Museum, Davenport; Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles; Waterloo Center of the Arts, Waterloo; Lowe Art Museum, Miami; and the Main Gallery of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York, among many others. Most recently, Zephirin presented his solo exhibition, *Invisible Friends* (2023) at CENTRAL FINE, Miami Beach; and his work was featured in *La Biennale di Venezia: The Milk of Dreams* (2022), curated by Cecilia Alemani. Zephirin's work is featured in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.; Afrika Museum, Berg-en-Dal, Netherlands; Waterloo Center of the Arts, Waterloo; Lowe Art Museum, Miami, FL; and Marcus Rediker Collection, among others.