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**Big Appple presents**

**DON'T STRESS BE BLESSED**

**An exhibition by Luna Mahoux**

**June 1, 2025 – September 14, 2025**

**Opening:**

**Souley (live), Azzeazy, Darius Phatmak Clayton (live), Joliah B2B Tututumimi, Renoiterrible**

Luna Mahoux works with screenshots of images found online and on social media. These are images that document Black bodies and their stories. From these visual fragments, she creates a sensitive archive, a counter-narrative to invisibilization. By focusing on images often considered peripheral—blurry, pixelated, poorly framed, or low-quality—Luna highlights their political and historical power.

At Big Appple, all the images presented by Luna Mahoux are connected to music, specifically the rap scene in Chicago. Among them, we see Sasha Go Hard, Katie Got Bandz, and Chief Keef paying tribute to his mother. One particular moment stands out. While in Chicago, Luna witnesses a memorial ceremony for a young man killed on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. The powerful scene is recorded on video. Luna later finds the footage on YouTube and captures a still from it. More broadly, the images shown reflect a daily life where disappearance and violence are closely intertwined. Though haunted by harsh realities, they are also deeply personal—these are artists Luna listens to or has listened to, whose music mirrors and shapes the identities of Afro-descendant diasporas in Europe.

In 2023, Luna Mahoux decides to start creating her own images. She begins work on a documentary <sup>1</sup> about La Chat, a key figure in Memphis rap and best friend of Gangsta Boo, who passed away that same year. Luna travels to Memphis without knowing La Chat personally or having any direct contact.

Although Memphis has had a profound influence on contemporary rap, its artists have long been overlooked. A few examples, however, are enough to show the city's cultural impact. On the opening track of her latest album, Beyoncé samples Princess Loko, another Memphis rapper who has passed away. In 2005, the film *Hustle and Flow*, directed by Craig Brewer, won the Audience Award and Best Cinematography at Sundance, and was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize. In 2006, Three 6 Mafia, the group that included Gangsta Boo, won the Oscar for Best Original Song with *It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp*. It was the first rap song ever performed at the Oscars and the first by a rap group to win the award. Juicy J, a founding member of the group, was the first to give La Chat a chance—she was only 14 at the time.

While in Memphis, Luna meets Darius “Phatmak” Clayton, also known as “Mak of Memphis,” a performance artist, poet, and the one who eventually leads her to meet La Chat. Although he barely appears in the final film, *The Other Queen of Memphis*, Luna pays tribute to him in a separate video shown in the exhibition. Made from footage not used in the documentary, it follows Mak and Luna riding through a fragmented, precarious city.

During filming, as the pressure builds and Luna prepares to meet La Chat for the first time, Mak shares with her the mantra that would eventually become the title of the exhibition:

“DON’T STRESS,  
BE BLESSED.”

1. *The Other Queen of Memphis*, Luna Mahoux, 2024.

## Biography :

Luna Mahoux was born in 1996 and is originally from Liège. She lives and works between Paris and Brussels. She earned her degree in Painting from the École nationale supérieure des Arts visuels de La Cambre in Brussels and completed a dual program at the École nationale supérieure d'arts de Paris-Cergy (ENSAPC). In the fall of 2023, she began a post-master's program at Le Fresnoy – Studio national des arts contemporains in Tourcoing, France.

Her work has been exhibited in Liège at 2 STRONG FOR 2 LONG, Biennale de l'Image Possible (2023), and WHEN A BLACK BODY WAKE UP, part of the Art au centre #15 initiative (curated by Anne Françoise Lesuisse). She has also shown her work at FOMU in Antwerp, Circulation(s) Festival at CENTQUATRE in Paris, KANAL – Centre Pompidou in Brussels, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Basel Social Club in Basel, CALM in Lausanne, Afterhour in Paris, Marres in Maastricht, MAGCP (Maison des Arts Georges et Claude Pompidou) in Cajarc, Cherish in Geneva, Treize in Paris, Mécène du Sud in Montpellier, and at Villa Medici in Rome as part of Les Chichas de la pensée residency, among others.

In 2023, she was awarded the .tiff Belgian Emerging Photography Prize by FOMU Antwerpen, and she is the recipient of the Fintro Emerging Belgian Talent Prize for 2024–2025. In 2025, Luna Mahoux was selected for the 68th edition of the Salon de Montrouge. Her film *The Other Queen of Memphis* received the Exceptional Special Prize from the Friends of Le Fresnoy and was selected for Cinéma du Réel, the international documentary film festival in Paris.

***Big Apple*** is an artist-run space founded in 2024 by Thily Vossier, Rachel Magnan, and Clément Hébert. It is housed in a fairground-style structure located in the garden of the restaurant In den Appelboom, at Rue du Pommier 401 in Anderlecht.