

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLOWLYNESS IN MOTION

Joel Bigaignon

December 15, 2022 - January 09, 2023

Opening reception: Thursday, December 15th from 6-8 pm



"Slowlyness In Motion"

Joël Bigaignon explores the spatiotemporal dimensions of memory in his new solo show *Slowlyness In Motion* at Allouche Gallery. Growing up in Mauritius and France to African/Indian and European parents, Joël is no stranger to merging cultures, spaces, and places. On a particularly vivid childhood memory, Bigaignon reflects; “As a child, whenever I was on a bus, it always felt as though the whole world was moving around me. Whilst the bus and myself were still, I was observing movements outside, without being influenced by the movement of the bus. I wondered if anyone else was observing the world like me and if so, then it would mean everything is motionless.” In *Slowlyness In Motion*, Joël urges his viewers to observe the world through his eyes as he preserves the passing moments of his childhood on canvas.



"Hemoglobin"

With collage as his primary medium—a technique which refigures the initial meaning of a material—Joël is able to reimagine the shape of his memory. In the titular diptych, Bigaignon uses paper, oil, sawdust and acrylic which piece together colorful figures in nature amongst animals and shrubbery. “Slowness in Motion” rewrites the fairytales of Bigaignon’s childhood—Tarzan and Cinderella—both of which have racially charged histories. Joël depicts the looming threat of racial violence on the left, signifying the use of minstrelsy in movies like Tarzan. On the right, however, he recasts Cinderella as a Black princess, ready to gallop over the violent histories that are inextricably linked to the childhood fantasies we coveted.

Other pieces such as “Lalle Kamfre,” “Curepipe Road” and “Equatorial Police” incorporate representations of voodoo rituals. Crossroads in Mauritius are popular sites for voodoo ritual arrangements with offerings like flowers, fruits and small voodoo statues. These pieces pay homage to the voodoo tales and practices Bigaignon would often encounter in Mauritius on his way to school or on his childhood street.



"Lalle Kamfre"



"Curepipe Road"



"Equatorial Police"

Bigaignon's representation of voodoo idols and practices indicate a certain utopian longing for a brighter, more equitable future. In "Josephine Baker," Bigaignon uses vibrant and fiery flashes of color, along with her signature banana skirt, to represent the Black French star. According to Bigaignon, Baker had a "magical voodoo aura around her. Even though she was portraying an African Indigenous character, she was admired by high society. She was engaged in the civil rights movement, and refused to perform to segregated audiences in the US."

In *Slowlyness In Motion*, Bigaignon remaps the landscape of his memories while challenging the limits we construct around our dreams. Joël ultimately captures that warm fantastical feeling from childhood, brimming with hope and potentiality for a more just future.



"Josephine Baker"



"Untitled"



"Untitled"



"Untitled"

ALLOUCHE GALLERY

77 Mercer Street
New York, NY 10012

Slowness In Motion will premiere at Allouche Gallery NYC (77 Mercer Street) on December 15th from 6-8 pm.

About Allouche Gallery

Established in 2014, Allouche Gallery is home to an international roster of some of the world's most recognized and culturally significant contemporary visual artists. Through its highly curated exhibition program, the gallery has garnered a reputation for highlighting artists – whose work directly challenges preconceived notions of contemporary visual culture – and affirming their place in 21st Century art. Home to a select group of both established and rising artists across a variety of disciplines, Allouche Gallery represents the work of Felix R. Cid, Ron English, Nick Georgiou, Paul Insect, Rafa Macarron, Reinoud Oudshoorn, Michael Reeder, Malik Roberts, Stickymonger, Swoon, Hannah Yata, and UFO907.

Founded by Eric Allouche, Allouche Gallery is one of New York's premiere commercial art galleries and the preeminent exhibitor of contemporary art.

For more information about the upcoming show at Allouche Gallery, please visit
www.allouchegallery.com

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