

Group Exhibition ***Power of Femininity***

April 8—May 6, 2022

Kutlesa is pleased to present *Power of Femininity*, an exhibition of work by Amy Beager, Laura Berger, Jeanine Brito, Lanise Howard, Lizzy Lunday, Tania Marmolejo, Lindsey Jean McLean, and Marigold Santos, on view at the gallery's location.

Femininity is a force as fluid and supple as it is raw in its strength and potential. As singular as it is multiplicitous, as personal as it is communal and historic. It is beyond the corporeal yet grounded, palpable, embodied and experienced. The group exhibition *Power of Femininity* honors the multifaceted concept of “the feminine”, serving as much as an inquiry and exploration as it is a celebration. Gathering a dynamic group of female-identifying artists, the artworks consider what the feminine means symbolically and concretely, beyond prescribed roles and representations. The practices presented exhibit a range of formal and thematic qualities: dreamlike archetypes, vibrant abstractions, softly-conjured figures in mundane poses, and carefully rendered details of nature and domesticity paired against details of the body. The result is a unified vision of what can never be described uniformly—therein lies its power.

Tania Marmolejo

Born in Santo Domingo (1975), The Dominican Republic, Tania began her studies as a graphic designer and illustrator in Harstad, Norway in 1993, continuing her education in Fine Arts in Kristiansand, Norway, Fine Arts in The Dominican Republic, and graduating from Fine Arts and Illustration in the year 2000 in Parsons, New York.

Her mixed Scandinavian-Caribbean heritage plays a large role in her work, often depicting female characters that are torn between two opposing forces such as hesitation/ seduction, fear/ determination, as well as cultural and physical divides, as a means of expressing the dual and opposing cultural influences present in her development as a woman and artist.

The cartoonish qualities in her work are remnants of her experience designing characters for animation, for companies such as PBS, Nickelodeon, MTV and Hyperion/Disney, and her children's book illustrations that include a series on the national parks in the Dominican Republic. These influences create a unique mix of themes, color and mood in her paintings and works.

She has participated in over 30 exhibitions, and 9 international solo exhibits, as well as international art fairs such as Context Miami during Art Basel, Scope and PINTA. Tania is the author of the books: "To Doodle Or Not To Doodle", and "I Doodle, Therefore I Am". She is a champion for women's rights, often exhibiting with organizations that support women.

Lizzy Lunday

Lizzy Lunday's paintings distort the boundaries between the real and the artificial to consider the precarity of intimacy. Combining images from the media and her personal archives, the artist's compositions foreground what happens when the strange and the familiar collide. Bold coloration destabilizes the already haunting scenes while urgent painterly gestures highlight the relationships between the figures. Set within dream-like environments, Lunday's figures are captured in moments of intimacy pricked by the threat of complications and idealizations. Figures embrace but look away from each other, outsized hands grip passionately onto bodies, and unsettling colors vibrate against each other. Emphatic swashes of paint are met with beautiful expressions of bodily details that are unreliable in what they communicate. There are outlines of body parts that do not always contain flesh and instead exist as specters of motions past or projections of actions to come. Exploring the space between tender and territorial, Lunday's paintings speak to the disconnect of mediated, idealized intimacy and its often awkward, inarticulable lived experience.

Jeanine Brito

Jeanine Brito (b. 1993, Germany) is a painter living in Toronto, Canada, where she received her B.Des in Fashion Communication from Ryerson University in 2015. In 2014 she studied at the Amsterdam Fashion Institute, completing a minor in independent fashion magazines. Her design education informs the use of colour and composition in her work, where she explores themes of memory and desire through self-portraiture and still life. Her work has been collected privately across North America and Europe, and she has been featured in publications such as Elle US, Creative Review, CBC Arts, Elle Canada, Harper's Bazaar Italia, and S/ Magazine.

Laura Berger

Laura Berger is an artist based in Chicago. Centered around themes of interdependence and self-understanding, her images focus on figurative archetypes, intuitive color palettes and dreamlike minimalistic environments. Initially approaching painting as a therapeutic practice, her work serves as a means through which to explore and articulate experiences and memories that feel just out of reach, that exist on a more spiritual or emotional plane. Laura has exhibited her work at numerous galleries across the US and abroad.

Amy Beager

Amy Beager (b. 1988) lives and works from her studio in Chelmsford, UK. She obtained a National Diploma in Art & Design (Distinction) in 2007 and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Nottingham Trent University in 2010. Beager was selected as a winner for the Delphain Gallery open call 2020 and started exhibiting her work in London in 2019. She has since exhibited with a number of London Galleries including the Saatchi Gallery, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Huxley Parlour Gallery and Wilder Gallery among others. Beager's work has been acquired by Soho House and placed in multiple private collections globally.

Amy's painterly language has re-imagined figurative painting with her bold colour juxtapositions; figures rendered in a simultaneously classical yet modern style; and compositions which are exquisitely romantic and poetic. Parallel to the joyous vivid colour palette and swathes of rich paint and brushwork, often the figures appear restless, fervent, and in a complex tension of ecstasy and anguish. Reminiscent of the dramatic poses of the divine saints from the Renaissance period, these figures hover between the classical and the contemporary. Amy's paintings both celebrate and explore the emotional intensity and intimacy of love. Predominantly featuring the female figure, Beager casts these female protagonists as modern-day deities, transcending their stature and presence; suspended, dream-like, between the imagined and reality.

Lanise Howard

Lanise Howard is a visual artist who recently graduated from Otis College of Art and Design. She works mainly in paint and mixed media. Lanise was born in Southern California and raised partially in New York State. Her earliest years were spent from El Centro, California to Los Angeles California. The unique environments of Southern California and New York have both shaped the way she sees the world. Her work is usually figurative and often narrative. There is a surrealistic quality to her work, as well as a spiritual feeling that is often embodied.

Lanise is interested in many various topics such as, the esoteric, sacred geometry, ancient belief systems, the current digital world, as well as her experience as a woman of color in today's climate. Recently she has been moving towards a fusing of these many inspirations, and hopes to future investigate these phenomena in her works. Her recent body of work is an investigation on censorship and assimilation, lost narratives, and hidden histories. Lanise Howard has shown in multiple exhibitions within the past two years, and has won art prizes, such as the Women's Painters West Award in 2019, and was a finalist in the 2019 AXA art prize.

Mariogold Santos

Marigold Santos pursues an interdisciplinary art practice involving drawn, painted, and printed works, sculpture, tattooing, and sound. Her work explores self-hood and identity that embraces multiplicity, fragmentation and empowerment, as informed by experiences of movement and migration, and through a diasporic lens. She holds a BFA from the University of Calgary, and an MFA from Concordia University. As a recipient of grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec, she continues to exhibit widely across Canada. Marigold Santos lives and works in Mohkinstsis/Calgary.

Lindsey Jean McLean

Lindsey Jean Mclean is an artist currently living and working in London. McLean's painting questions the historical representation of femininity and women in painting. McLean uses reoccurring motifs such as feather boas, fans and veils - transformative objects that obscure the gaze within the works. She subverts the historically patriarchal medium of oil paint to dismantle and create a new space to view femininity.

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