

Gallery 1957

Florine Demosthene

The Stories I Tell Myself

6 March - 6 May 2018



Florine Demosthene, *Untitled Wound#2* (2018). Mylar, ink, glitter and pigment stick on paper, copyright the artist, courtesy Gallery 1957, Accra

This March, Gallery 1957, Accra presents a solo exhibition from mixed-media artist Florine Demosthene, following a four month residency with the gallery. Opening on 6 March - Ghana's Independence Day - the exhibition marks the artist's first in Ghana, and celebrates Gallery 1957's second anniversary.

Demosthene was born in the United States and raised between Port-au-Prince, Haiti and New York; she has spent the past four years living and working across Africa. Exploring themes surrounding race and gender, the artist uses her own biography as a reference point to re-evaluate the socio-political structures and conditions that surround black female sexuality and physicality today.

The Stories I Tell Myself sees Demosthene transform the uniformed gallery space into a personalised setting. Maroon coloured walls, resembling a boudoir, make the public space private, creating both a sense of intimacy and intrusion. Small scale works with highly

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decorated, ornate frames invite the viewer to interact more closely with the work. Using a combination of figurative and abstract mark making, Demosthene constructs alternative landscapes to present the heroines of her practice. The artist explains:

“For me, my art has been a peeling away of layers of preconceived ideas; much in the way a snake sheds its skin, this slow shedding process can be viewed as a continual rebirth of our identity.”

About Florine Demosthene

Demosthene earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Parsons the New School for Design in New York and her Master of Fine Arts from Hunter College-City University of New York. She has exhibited extensively through group and solo exhibitions in the USA, Caribbean, UK, Europe and Africa.

Recent solo exhibitions include, *The Burst*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town (2016) and *GET AZZMATIZED!*, Foundation Clément, Le François (2015) and her group exhibitions include: *New Portraiture* at VOLTA 13, Basel (2017); *LIFE VS TIME*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London (2016); *Transformative Visions*, Lowe Art Museum, Miami (2014); and *NordArt*, Kunstwerk Carl Shütte, Büdelsdorf (2014) among many others. In 2014 she was officially invited to participate in the Dak'Art Biennale. She is the recipient of a Tulsa Artist Fellowship, Arts Moves Africa Grant and a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant. She has participated in residencies in the USA, the UK, Slovakia, Ghana and Tanzania. Her work can be seen at the University of South Africa (UNISA), the Lowe Museum of Art of Miami and in various private collections worldwide. She resides between New York, Accra and Johannesburg.

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Exhibition: Florine Demosthene: *The Stories I Tell Myself*

Dates: 6 March - 6 May 2018

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