

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

PARIS - BRUXELLES

Brenna Youngblood **Spanning Time**

17 january — 6 april 2013

Rue Charles Decoster 8 - Bruxelles 1050



Brenna Youngblood, Untitled 2012, Mixed media on panel, 112.9 x 121.9 cm / 72 x 48 in. Copyright: John White

The Nathalie Obadia Gallery is delighted to present the work of Brenna Youngblood in Brussels, in her second solo show in Europe.

Brenna Youngblood, who was born in 1979, in Riverside, California, has lived and worked in Los Angeles since 2006. She graduated from California State University in 2002 and the University of California in 2006, and has spent a very prolific ten years using all the resources of photo collage, her favoured medium.

In both form and spirit, her kaleidoscopic compositions reflect the multicultural layers of meaning in the «City of Angels», which she melds with her Afro-American roots and the mixed culture from which she comes. Her works, across a range of media and techniques, mirror the urban mosaic of Los Angeles. From the chaos and drunkenness of the city, the artist isolates some powerful images which she shapes into portraits or landscapes, the composition being dictated by a scenario.

Brenna Youngblood creates hybrid structures reminiscent of Robert Rauschenberg's 'combine paintings', deploying a formal vocabulary which also evokes the photomontages of David Hockney, which in a way that is both narrative and formal, depict the Los Angeles of the 60s and 70s, and more recently, the landscapes of the Great American West.

Faced with a permanent flow of media, the artist makes use of extreme compilation of images. By mapping the contours of one or more stories, Brenna Youngblood offers viewers different perceptions of her work: up close and personal, the viewers can see the infinity of the details imprisoned in the random framework of the photographs cut up and then reassembled, just as they can experience en masse all the images placed end to end, which become coloured stitches in a narrative weave.

Reading her pictures, which involves a subtle game of fragmentation and then rebuilding the images, makes contemplating her works a dynamic affair. This playful interactivity with the viewer, who sometimes looks without finding, has its origins in the dialogue between the rhythm of Los Angeles and the artist's internal melody, echoing the contemporary speeds of society.

Unlike many other artists on the Californian scene, Brenna Youngblood employs images which, whether they come from the street or her own domestic intimacy, are not chosen from among the icons of American culture or counter-culture. This releases them from the stereotypes of realistic chronicles or anecdotes and gives Brenna Youngblood's work an unequalled relevance and originality which means that what it sacrifices in terms of naturalism, it gains in pictorial intensity.

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1979, Riverside, California, USA. She lives and works in Los Angeles

Brenna Youngblood graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2006

Winner of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art Young Talent Award – AHAN Award

SOLO SHOWS

- 2011 The Mathematics of Individual Achievement, Honor Fraser, Los Angeles
- 2010 WHEN-WIN, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York
- 2009 Susanne Vielmetter Berlin Projects, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles,
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Murder by the Bank, Project Room, Wallspace, New York
Wignall Museum, Rancho Cucamonga
- 2006 Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Los Angeles,
Armand Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles

GROUP SHOWS (Selection from 2006)

- 2012 Fore, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
Going Public – Telling it as it is?, performance with OJO, organized by the European Network of Public Art Producers, Bilbao, Spain
Made in L.A. 2012, organized by the Hammer Museum in collaboration with LAXART, LA
- 2011 G.L.O.W. Match Four: Kelly Cline & Brenna Youngblood, Commonwealth & Council, LA
Romare Bearden Centennial Exhibition, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Unfinished Paintings, curated by Kristin Calabrese and Joshua Aster, L.A.C.E, Los Angeles
Suelto, curated by Pilar Tompkins Rivas and Adrian Rivas, La Central, Bogotá, Colombia
The Space Between, curated by Glenn Kaino and Derek DelGaudio, LAXART Annex, LA
- 2010 50 Artists Photograph The Future, curated by Dean Dardeko, Higher Pictures, New York
Panorama: Los Angeles, ARCO Madrid, curated by Kris Kuramitsu and Christopher Miles, Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2009 With You I Want to Live, Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Glue, Paper, Scissors, Luckman Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles
Reading Standing Up, Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles
Feelings and Power, Five Thirty Three, Los Angeles
- 2008 California Biennial, organized by the Orange County Museum of Art, curated by Lauri Firstenberg, Los Angeles
Half-Life: Twenty-five Emerging LA Artists, LACE: Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions
- 2007 Hammer Contemporary Collection Part II, Armand Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles
"hovering over the universe...", Honor Fraser, Los Angeles
Blacks In and Out of the Box, California African American Museum, Los Angeles
- 2006 Bling, curated by Mark Greenfield, Palos Verdes Art Center, California
New American Talent: The 21st Exhibition, curated by Aimee Chang, Arthouse at Jones Center, Austin,

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
JP Morgan Chase Art Collection
Fundación/Colección Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico
Armand Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles
The Blake Byrne Collection, Los Angeles
Creative Artists Agency, Los Angeles
Eileen Harris Norton, Santa Monica

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Buffalo Burger
2012

Mixed media on panel
52 × 46 inches

© Josh White

Currently exhibited at the Studio Museum, Harlem, NYC
Exhibition «Fore», until march 10, 2013