



## CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY ANNOUNCES SCOPE 2023 PRESENTATION

**Introducing large-scale installations by artist Arron Stephan, Lauren Fensterstock, Jeffrey Henson Scales, and BK Adams**

**New artworks by Gio Swaby, Simone Elizabeth Saunders, BK Adams, LaNia Roberts, and Stan Squirewell are on view at Gallery booth # F01**

**December 5 – 10, 2023**



New York, NY | November 2023 – Claire Oliver Gallery is pleased to present works by eight gallery artists at SCOPE Miami from December 5 – 10, 2023. The gallery's presentation showcases large-scale installations by artist BK Adams, who has created a 25-foot tall, 20-foot-long steel sculpture of a Trojan horse sculpture entitled *The Messenger, Time, A Blue (Collar) Horse*. The sculpture will grace the entrance to the fair, in addition to significant works by Aaron T Stephan and Lauren Fensterstock that will be on view in the public space in the center of the fair. The gallery will also showcase a major exhibition in an 850-square-foot booth featuring new works of art by Gio Swaby, Simone Elizabeth Saunders, BK Adams, LaNia Roberts, and Stan Squirewell.

The gallery's carefully curated exhibition showcases work from the gallery's program with a focus on storytelling and amplifying new perspectives on identity and representation. BK Adams' bold-colored, large-scale paintings leverage symbolism to tell an inspirational and motivational story; Gio Swaby's signature textile portraits serve as an artistic celebration of individuality, Blackness, and womanhood; Simone Elizabeth Saunders' large-scale polychrome tufted works explore female empowerment, Blackness, and mythology; LaNia Roberts' vibrant, figurative paintings disrupt



the historical use of skin color as a gauge of racial identity; and Stan Squirewell's multimedia artworks focus on chronicling histories that are often overlooked and elevating those that history has forgotten.



Large-scale installations include a monumental light fixture composed of a cluster of streetlights by Aaron T Stephan; a Buddhist-inspired 20-foot-long crystal mosaic installation by Lauren Fensterstock; a massive steel sculpture by artist BK Adams; and a series of recently discovered lost negatives from Jeffrey Henson Scales's early days in the Black Panther Party. Each installation connects to experiential programming, such as panel discussions and performances that will take place throughout the show.

### **BK ADAMS'S THE MESSENGER, TIME, A BLUE (COLLAR) HORSE**

BK Adams' *The Messenger, Time, A Blue (Collar) Horse* stands 25 feet tall and 20 feet long. Conceived as a modern-day "Trojan Horse," Adams' large-scale sculpture employs the vernacular of welding and manufacturing to create a large-scale, three-dimensional artwork that inspires self-reliance and empowerment. Hand fabricated by the artist and his team, there are more than 7,000 running feet of welds created entirely from steel; the work is painted with industrial blue car paint and draped with a blanket of 130 clocks, symbolizing our relationship to the constant passing of time. This handcrafted work echoes a history of manufacturing while posing the question, "Who is selling us the dream now?" *The Messenger, Time, A Blue (Collar) Horse* is intended as a mantra to encourage the next generation to self-improvement, self-love, and actualization.

### **AARON T STEPHAN'S LUMINOUS TWIST**

*Luminous Twist*, in its simplest interpretation, is a light fixture. The sculpture comprises a cluster of streetlights in keeping with familiar public lighting features. Here, however, the lights come to life. Rising from a single foundation,



the light poles gradually diverge into individual intertwining paths, abandoning a static vertical posture to join into a vibrant, life-like spiraling form. Representing a tree, a swarm, or a choreographed dance, Luminous Twist literally illuminates but also suggests that the ordinary can become extraordinary and, in fact, that the ordinary itself is extraordinary. Luminous Twist will illuminate and create a visual anchor in the center of the SCOPE Miami 2023 tent. Aaron will also be participating in Loews Miami Beach Hotel artist-in-residence program.

#### **LAUREN FENSERSTOCK'S INSTALLATION: MANIFEST LANDS LIKE THIS**

Lauren Fenserstock's Manifest Lands Like This is a series of seven wall-hanging obsessively detailed mosaic sculptures inspired by the energy centers of the chakra system. The sculptures showcase two elements crashing together – with one merging explosively and another tentatively testing the boundaries of difference – and the shapes bring together an esoteric cast of forms from Buddhist texts and contemporary science. Each sculpture's title is a loose interpretation of the original Sanskrit, embodying each chakra's emotional and energetic nature.

#### **JEFFREY HENSON SCALES: IN A TIME OF PANTHERS**

Jeffrey Henson Scales recently discovered lost negatives from his early days in the Black Panther Party; this series of photographs, which were not previously printed, now reveal to us some 56 years later, an intimate peek at an organization that has long been misunderstood and misrepresented. The leaders of the Black Panthers took Henson Scales under their wing and encouraged his creativity even as a young teenager. Henson Scales visited Huey Newton in jail frequently at the Alameda County Courthouse while he was on trial for murder in the killing of an Oakland police officer during a traffic stop. The Black Panther Party chairman, Bobby Seale, encouraged Jeffrey to be the official photographer for the party's newspaper, The Black Panther, and this became the first place his photographs and illustrations were ever published at the age of 13.

image captions:

- 1) BK Adams: The Messenger, Time, A Blue (Collar) Horse, 2023
- 2) Simone Elizabeth Saunders: Olympia's Oasis, 2023
- 3) Stan Squirewell: Untitled, 2023
- 4) Gio Swaby: Where I Know You From 7, 2023

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#### **ABOUT CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY**

Claire Oliver Gallery is located in Central Harlem in a four-story brownstone. For over 30 years, Claire Oliver Gallery has worked exclusively in the primary market, showcasing the brightest new artists and assisting museums in their acquisition and exposition of these artist's works. The Gallery's continuous championing of underrepresented voices transcends and challenges the traditional art historical canon. Our forward-thinking program and exclusive commitment to our artists allow for an intensive focus that has nurtured and grown their careers. Many gallery artists have been included in The Venice Biennale, The Whitney Biennial, and biennales in Sydney, Pittsburgh, and Lyon. They have exhibited works in major international museums, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Center Georges Pompidou, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, amongst many others. Claire Oliver Gallery artists are included in the permanent collections



of many important museums worldwide, including The Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Tate Britain, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The State Hermitage Museum, MoMA, and the NMAAHC among many others. Claire Oliver Gallery held the first American exhibition for the Russian collaborative AES+F, whose work went on to twice represent Russia in the Russian pavilion of the Venice Biennale. Gallery artists have received prestigious fellowships, including Fulbright, Guggenheim, USArtist, and National Endowment for the Arts.

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