



**CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY
ANNOUNCES SCOPE 2024 PRESENTATION BY ARTISTS
BK ADAMS, GIO SWABY, STAN SQUIREWELL, SIMONE ELIZABETH SAUNDERS, AND
ANNOUNCING THE REPRESENTATION OF SHARON KERRY-HARLAN**

December 3-8, 2024



New York, NY – 2024 | Claire Oliver Gallery is pleased to announce its 1000-square-foot presentation at the 2024 SCOPE Art Show in Miami Beach on December 3-8, 2024. The gallery will showcase a dynamic presentation of original and first-ever editioned artworks by four remarkable artists: Bahamian interdisciplinary artist **Gio Swaby**, self-taught sculptor and painter **BK Adams**, multidisciplinary artist **Stan Squirewell**, textile artist **Simone Elizabeth Saunders**, and the gallery debut of textile artist and painter **Sharon Kerry-Harlan**.

This presentation highlights the gallery's ongoing commitment to supporting diverse voices and boundary-pushing practices in contemporary art. Each artist, known for their unique approaches to storytelling, materiality, and cultural exploration, brings a distinct vision to this year's SCOPE Miami Beach showcase.



About BK Adams

BK Adams is a self-taught artist and sculptor based in Washington, D.C., celebrated for his avant-garde expressionist abstract works that explore themes of materiality, resilience, and personal accountability. A former mentee of the late color field painter Sam Gilliam, Adams has honed a distinctive style that fuses mixed media, everyday objects, and bold colors, speaking to inspire and empower his community. Adams' work is included in the collections of prestigious institutions, including The National Museum of African American History and Culture, a Smithsonian Institution, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and Hunter Art Museum, among others.

About Gio Swaby

Gio Swaby is a Bahamian interdisciplinary artist based in Toronto, known for her textile portraits that explore and celebrate Black women. Swaby creates works that examine identity, representation, and intimacy. The artist seeks to give Black women the confidence and love to take up space in any situation and know their community supports them. She has exhibited at numerous galleries and museums, including Claire Oliver Gallery in New York City, Die Textile in Schmallenberg, Germany, and The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas. Swaby holds degrees from The University of The Bahamas, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, and Ontario College of Art and Design University. Her work has been collected by many important Museums and Institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Art Institute of Chicago, and The National Gallery of Canada.

About Stan Squirewell

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Stan Squirewell is a multidisciplinary artist whose work spans painting, sculpture, and installation. Squirewell's creative practice is deeply rooted in his upbringing and cultural heritage, incorporating elements of science fiction, ancestry, and Afro-futurism. Currently living and working in Louisville, KY, Squirewell holds an MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and has performed with acclaimed artists Nick Cave and Jefferson Pinder. His pieces have been acquired by important museums and institutions, such as The Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, The Norton Museum of Art, FL, and the Minnesota Museum of American Art.



About Simone Elizabeth Saunders

Simone Elizabeth Saunders' work delves into the search for belonging by examining the Black female body, personal identities, and connections to Black history. Through her artwork, she embeds repetitive ideologies of powerful creatures, serving as talismans that enhance themes of otherness and the Black body's relationship with power and survival. Saunders creates narratives woven from cultural mythology, history, and personal landscapes. Her work emphasizes a connection to the global Black diaspora. The outcome is a body of work of large textiles that illuminate creative content rooted in a powerful history.

About Sharon Kerry-Harlan

Sharon Kerry-Harlan is a visual artist living and working between Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and Hollywood, Florida. Known for her mixed-media collages, paintings, and large-scale textile works, she employs innovative techniques such as fabric manipulation and "rust-dyed" textile patterns to craft her distinctive asymmetrical compositions. Her work skillfully balances geometric shapes with figural curves to create compelling narratives. Inspired by African diasporic heritage, modern metropolitan life, and the improvisational spirit of jazz, her rhythmic creations interweave the voices of the past, present, and future. Through dynamic shapes,

intricate patterns, and multifaceted perspectives, Kerry-Harlan's art fosters a vibrant dialogue that transcends temporal boundaries.

Public Programming Highlights from Gallery Artists include:

Afro-Operizm

The performance brings together a dynamic five-piece band of multi-instrumentalists, including saxophone, flute, trombone, trumpet, drums, and percussion, delivering live renditions of songs from the EP. Accompanied by a dancer blending African, hip-hop, and ballet styles, the performance highlights the roots of African dance and its influence on Western forms. A vocalist will also showcase a range of genres, including soul, gospel, and rap, connecting modern music and its African origins.

Performers:

Bill Summers - percussion

Tendai "Baba" Maraire - Mbira, vocals, percussion

Hussein "H-Bomb" Kalonji - Guitar, Vocals

Medearis Dixon - flute, keys, sax

Roy Lancaster - French Horn, Trombone

Victor Puentz - Trumpet

Singer - TBD

Tuesday December 3, 8:30pm and Wednesday, December 4 @ 4:30pm

Talk Series | The AI Dilemma: Art in the Age of Innovation

In this thought-provoking panel, industry experts explore the ongoing debate surrounding artificial intelligence's role in the art world. On one side, proponents argue that AI offers new tools for creativity, enabling artists to push boundaries and unlock innovative forms of expression. On the other, critics warn of the potential for AI to commodify art, disrupt traditional artistic processes, and replace human creativity. This discussion delves into the ethical, philosophical, and practical implications of AI in the creative sphere. Whether you're a technophile or a traditionalist, this panel will challenge your views on what the future of art might look like.

Judith Schaechter and Tobi Shinobi

December 4, 3:30 - 4:00PM

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IMAGE CAPTIONS

Gio Swaby, *In Colour 1*, 2024. Cotton fabric and thread, 28 x 24 x 1 in. Image courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery

Gio Swaby, *Hi-Vis 1*, 2024. Cotton fabric and thread, 28 x 24 x 1 in. Image courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery

Stan Squirewell, *Penelope*, 2024. Photo collage, paint, glitter in Shu Shugi Ban handcarved frame, 50 x 35 x in. Image courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery

Stan Squirewell, *Chico & Charles Johnson*, 2024. Collaged photographs, paint, glitter in a hand carved frame, 78 x 50 x 3 in. Image courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery

Simone Elizabeth, *She Manifests Her Destiny*, 2024. Silk and wool yarn on textile backing, 50 x 40 in. Image courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery

BK Adams, *Protect The Youth*, 2024. Acrylic paint and mixed media on canvas, 72 x 48 x 3 in. Image courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY

Claire Oliver Gallery is located in Central Harlem in a four-story brownstone. For nearly 25 years, Claire Oliver Gallery has showcased and celebrated artwork, with a focus on work by women and people of color, which transcends and challenges the traditional art historical canon. The gallery's forward-thinking program and exclusive commitment to the primary market allows for an intensive focus that has nurtured and grown the careers of our artists. Many of the gallery's artists have been included in The Venice Biennale, The Whitney Biennial, and biennales in Sydney, Pittsburgh, and Lyon and have exhibited works in major international museums including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Centre Georges Pompidou, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and The Los Angeles County Museum of Art amongst 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 Museum of Arts and Design amongst 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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ABOUT SCOPE MIAMI BEACH

SCOPE Miami Beach is a pathbreaking art show providing a platform for experiential innovation and discovery within the ultra-contemporary art market. For more than 20 years, SCOPE has redefined what an art fair can be, specializing in showcasing emerging artwork from around the globe with a dynamic program of events at the intersection of culture at large, giving the show a unique relevance to global and local audiences. Located on the sands of Miami Beach amidst the iconic architecture of Ocean Drive and 8th Street, SCOPE Miami Beach presents more than 130 diverse exhibitors from more than 27 countries. SCOPE was founded by artist and entrepreneur Alexis Hubshman in 2002 and has staged more than 90 presentations to date.

For more see here: <https://scope-art.com/>