

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Sanford Biggers
Ebony G. Patterson
March 3 – 6, 2016

moniquemeloche LES

2 Rivington St, New York, NY 10002

Running concurrent with Armory Arts Week 2016, moniquemeloche will present a two-person exhibition of work by Sanford Biggers and Ebony G. Patterson at 2 Rivington Street, a storefront exhibition space located just steps from the New Museum. Within Patterson's

richly ornate works on paper and Biggers' heavily manipulated patchwork quilts, material affinities abound. The synergy of this pairing is found in their ability to employ collage as a technique to converge seemingly disparate ideas and influences into one ground.

Initially focusing on the body to impart the paradoxical relationship between Jamaica's traditional expectations of manhood and the flamboyant aesthetics of its dancehall culture, Ebony G. Patterson's practice has expanded to consider larger binaries in contemporary Jamaican society. New tapestries and mixed media works on paper from *Dead Treez*—some of which are currently on view at the Museum of Art and Design in New York—are an inquiry into the representation of violent deaths on social media. Seductive embellishments on the surface of these works belie the depth of the artist's plight: to make visible that which is invisible. Utilizing the history of both African and Asian Diasporic culture, Sanford Biggers has developed a body of work that considers the familial and the mythological. Biggers' ongoing investigation into the power of objects includes the use of quilts and fabrics as a platform to explore pattern and sacred geometry, non-linear notions of time and to question established histories. Drips, tears, layering and pours on the surface of the quilts combine an unexpected range of cultural and formal references. His patterned grounds of patchwork quilts are overlaid with marks and superimposed with shapes and original symbolic imagery. This cultural sampling combines with his interest in found objects, the figure, and history. The resulting works are visually rich and layered with meaning. Biggers will debut a new quilt, monumental in scale, alongside new sculptures.



Press Preview

Thursday, March 3
10:00-11:00AM

Opening Reception

Friday, March 4
6:00-9:00PM

Gallery Hours

Thursday, March 3 – Sunday, March 6
11:00am-6:00pm daily

Concurrent and upcoming exhibitions:

SANFORD BIGGERS, *the pasts they brought with them*, moniquemeloche, Chicago, through April 2

EBONY G. PATTERSON, *Dead Treez*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, through April 3

EBONY G. PATTERSON, *...when they grow up...*, Studio Museum in Harlem, opening March 24

Press contact for Sanford Biggers: Angella Forbes, Forbes Public Relations, LLC, +1 305-531-8241, angella@forbespr.com

Press contact for Ebony G. Patterson: Molly Rowe, THIRD EYE, +1 919-627-5230, molly@hellonthirdeye.com

moniquemeloche

2154 W. Division, Chicago, IL 60622
p 773.252.0299 www.moniquemeloche.com

Sanford Biggers (born 1970 Los Angeles, CA, lives and works New York, NY) is an interdisciplinary artist who works in film/video, installation, sculpture, music, and performance. Biggers's art frequently references African American ethnography, hip hop music, Buddhism, African spirituality, Indo-European Vodoun, Jazz, Afrofuturism, urban culture and icons from Americana. An L.A. native, he has lived and worked in New York City since 1999. He holds a BA from Morehouse College, Atlanta, an MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and is a Creative Capital Awardee. Biggers has been included in notable exhibitions such as: *The Freedom Principle* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (2015) travelling to the Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia (2016); *Prospect 1/New Orleans Biennial* (2008), *Illuminations* at the Tate Modern (2007-08), *Performa 07* (2007), *The Here and Now* at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago (2005), the Whitney Biennial of American Art (2002), and *Freestyle* at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2001). Solo exhibitions include MassMoCA (2012); Brooklyn Museum of Art (2011); Sculpture Center NY (2010); Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (2010); Portland Art Museum (2009); Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland (2005); Contemporary Art Center Cincinnati (2004); Contemporary Art Museum Baltimore (2004); Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2002); and the Berkeley Art Museum (2002). Biggers is a TED2016 Fellow, and received a Joyce Foundation Award and NEA Grant in 2015 to assist with a yearlong project in Detroit that will result in *Subjective Cosmology*, a solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit in Fall 2016. He is presently Assistant Professor at Columbia University's Visual Arts program.

Ebony G. Patterson (Jamaican, b. 1981 Kingston, lives Kingston and works Lexington, KY) and was included at the 12th Havana Biennial: *Between the Idea and the Experience* (2015), *Prospect.3: Notes for Now*, curated by Franklin Sirmans, New Orleans (2014), *Jamaica Biennial* (2014/2012/2010), Aruba Biennial: *Happy Islands* (2012), and the *Ghetto Biennial*, Port-au-Prince, Haiti (2009). She will be included in the prestigious 32nd Sao Paulo Biennial, opening this September, and her solo project at The Studio Museum in Harlem opens March 24th. Her current solo exhibition, *Dead Treez*, at the Museum of Arts and Design NY (thru April 3), originated at the Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI, and will travel to Boston University Art Galleries later this year. Her work was in the travelling group exhibitions *Disguise: Masks and Global African Art*, that originated at the Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA (Sept 2015); *En Mas': Carnival 21st Century Style, The Caribbean as Site Specific Performance* that originated at the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA, on view now at the National Art Gallery of the Cayman Islands and travelling to the National Gallery of the Bahamas; and *Caribbean: Art at the Crossroads of the World* organized by the Studio Museum in Harlem, El Museo del Barrio, and the Queens Museum of Art (2012) and travelled to the Perez Art Museum Miami (2014). Patterson's work was on the FOX TV series *Empire*, directed by Lee Daniels (2015) and *Interview Magazine* features her in their March 2016 issue. Other press includes *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *Forbes Magazine*, *Frieze Magazine*, *Art in America*, *Modern Painters*, *Vogue Italia*, *The Huffington Post*, *Artnet*, *Blouin Artinfo*, *ARC Magazine*, *Chicago Magazine*, *The Jamaica Observer*, *The Miami Herald*, and *Art Voices Magazine*, amongst others. Her work is in the public collections of the National Gallery of Jamaica, Birmingham Museum of Art, Eastern Illinois University Tarble Arts Center, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Nasher Museum at Duke University, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Seattle Art Museum (pending acquisition), Speed Museum, and 21c Museum Hotel who will mount an exhibition around Patterson's work opening in their new Louisville location on February 29, 2016. Patterson is Associate Professor in Painting and Mixed Media at the University of Kentucky in Lexington and is currently on sabbatical.

Image, top left: Ebony G. Patterson, detail of *in a field of bluteflies*, 2015, Mixed-media photo collage on archival paper

Image, middle right: Sanford Biggers, detail of work in progress, 2016, Spray enamel, cotton textiles, and vintage quilt

moniquemeloche

2154 W. Division, Chicago, IL 60622
p 773.252.0299 www.moniquemeloche.com