

MAKES SPACE FOR ART. The gallerist Eva Livijn-Olin and the artist Isaac Julien collaborate on the exhibition "Rock my soul II", which takes place at home in Eva's apartment.



The art is displayed in the gallerist's home

Gallerist Eva Livijn-Olin opens up her home for "Rock my soul II". British artist Isaac Julien has curated the exhibition which brings together female artists from the African diaspora. The most expensive piece is signed Njideka Akunyili Crosby.

The artist Isaac Julien and gallerist Eva Livijn-Olin are in the final stages of hanging "Rock my soul II", when Dagens industri is welcomed into the apartment at Karlaplan. In the entrance we are greeted by a video work by the American artist Okwui Okpokwasili. Isaac Julien curated the first "Rock my soul" 2019 at the Victoria Miro Gallery in London.

The title is borrowed from author Bell Hook's book from 2003. The author, who died in 2021, examines in his book self-esteem among African Americans in the United States and the role it plays. "Without self-esteem, one loses one's sense of meaning, purpose and power," writes Hooks.

Isaac Julien says that the opportunity to create an exhibition in a home environment attracted.

"You don't get the distance that happens in a gallery or a museum. It creates a kind of shudder," he says.

We walk from the apartment's living room into the dining room and are greeted by a video work by the British artist Sonia Boyce (born 1962), placed on a chest of drawers. Sonia Boyce has been on many people's lips during the spring. She represented Great Britain at the Venice Biennale and also won the Biennale's Gold Lion.

"By seeing the work here at home, it becomes a more intimate encounter," says Isaac Julien.

On the dining room table, the curator has placed two heel shoe-shaped sculptures by the American artist Wangechi Mutu, born in Kenya in 1972.

In one corner is a self-portrait signed by the British artist Claudette Johnson. On the opposite side of the room rolls another video work by the Danish-Trinidadian artist Jeannette Ehlers. It is paired with an older photograph of a woman.

"In this work, Jeanette Ehlers is in conversation with her ancestors," says Isaac Julien, who falls silent as he listens to the lines in the work.

"The anger, the Black Lives Matter movement, that is represented in this artwork is not like a demonstration. Rather, it is like a demonstration of the correlation over time between a black woman living today and a black woman who lived in the past," says the curator.

We move on to the more intimate parts of the apartment. A black and white photograph of the American artist Carrie Mae Weems is hung outside the gallerist's kitchen. The photograph of a couple having dinner is part of her famous project "The Kitschen Table Series" from 1990. The gallerist's bedroom contains several important works. Isaac Julien stands by what looks like a bed.

On the bed lies a female creature. A white dog can be seen by the headboard. The work is signed by Frida Orupabo, who is active in Norway. We return to the place where the interview began and Isaac Julien points to a graphic sheet signed by Camille Billops (1933–2019). The artist and filmmaker had a special meaning for Isaac Julien. As a young man, he was allowed to come to her large studio in Manhattan in New York.

All works exhibited until the end of November are for sale, some price tags are not visible to the eye yet. A list of all the works will come shortly, the gallerist promises. The large artwork in the salon by Njideka Akunyili Crosby, born in Nigeria in 1983 and now active in Los Angeles, is the exhibition's most expensive.

Karin Grundberg Wolodarski

The artists shown

Sadie Barnett

Owanto Berger

Camille Billops

Sonia Boyce

Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Theresa Traore Dahlberg

Jeannette Ehlers

Claudette Johnson

Rachel Jones

Diana Agunbiade-Kolawole

Deanna Lawson

Fatima Moallim

Zanele Muholi

Wangechi Mutu

Lorraine O'Grady

Okwui Okpokwasili

Frida Orupabo

Ebony G. Patterson

Ingrid Pollard

Deborah Roberts

Meaning Saar

Ming Smith

Carrie Mae Weems

Alberta Whittle

Rachel Williams