

Alvaro Barrington
Wave Your Flags II

1 Davies Street W1
20 July - 11 September 2021

Sadie Coles HQ presents *Wave Your Flags II*, the second chapter to Alvaro Barrington's recent exhibition at The Tabernacle in Notting Hill, London. This new group of paintings features large and medium-scale hibiscus flowers painted in the flag colours of the Caribbean nations presented in sculptural frames that speak to the ubiquitous materials used for housing structures in the region. As the national flower of Jamaica, Barrington has often abstracted the hibiscus motif through gestural painting as a symbol for community, celebration, sexuality and nostalgia, and here repeats the image across the exhibition in a nod to Andy Warhol's *Flowers* series (1964) and ideas around tradition and mechanical reproduction in the context of cross-cultural exchange.



Wave Your Flags II furthers Barrington's *Garvey* series of exhibitions, an ongoing investigation into the legacy of Jamaican writer, entrepreneur and Pan-African activist Marcus Garvey (1887-1940), who was born in the Caribbean and later moved to New York and then London. Through these distinct bodies of work, Barrington looks to his own comparable Trans-Atlantic migration – having been born in Venezuela, raised between Grenada and Brooklyn, and now living and working between London and New York.

Alvaro Barrington (b. 1983, Caracas, Venezuela) studied at Hunter College in New York (2010-2013) and graduated with an MFA in painting from the Slade School of Art in 2017. Following his graduation, Barrington presented his first solo exhibition at MoMA PS1, curated by Klaus Biesenbach, for which his London studio was re-installed in its entirety at the institution (2017). Recent solo exhibitions include *Wave Your Flags*, The Tabernacle, London (2021); *GARVEY: SEX LOVE NURTURING FAMALAY*, Sadie Coles HQ, London and *Tt X AB*, Emalin, London (both 2019). Group exhibitions include *Mixing It Up: Painting Today*, Hayward Gallery, London (opening Autumn 2021); *LONDON ZEITGEIST*, curated by Norman Rosenthal, presented by CIRCA, Piccadilly Lights, London (2021, and concurrently at Coex K-POP Square, Seoul; and Yunika Vision, Shinjuku, Tokyo); *Tempest*, Tanya Leighton, Berlin, Germany, in collaboration with Sadie Coles HQ, London (2021); *No horizon, no edge to liquid*, Zabudowicz Collection, London (2020); *BREATHLESS: London Art Now*, Ca' Pesaro - Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna, Venice (2019); *Artists I steal from at Thaddeus Ropac*, London, which he curated alongside Julia Peyton Jones, (2019); *Der Lauf der Dinge (The Way Things Run Part), 1: Loose Ends Don't Tie*, PS120, Berlin (2018); *Widening the Gaze*, Slade Research Centre, London (2018) and *The Sleeping Procession*, Cass Sculpture Foundation, West Sussex, England (2017).

For further information please contact the gallery at +44 (0)20 7493 8611 or press@sadiecoles.com.