

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY

NEW YORK | ASPEN

SANFORD BIGGERS
Meet Me on the Equinox

On View: September 7 – October 14, 2023
Opening Reception: Thursday, September 7, 6–8 pm
507 W 24th Street, New York, NY 10011



Sanford Biggers, *Slow Murder*, 2023. Antique quilts, assorted textiles, mixed media, 67 1/4 x 154 x 3 1/4 inches
Photo: Lance Brewer

NEW YORK, NY – Marianne Boesky Gallery is pleased to present *Meet Me on the Equinox*, a solo exhibition of new work by New York-based conceptual artist Sanford Biggers (b. 1970; Los Angeles, CA). Biggers's third solo exhibition with the gallery, *Meet Me on the Equinox* features new works from the artist's quilt-based *Codex* series, sculptural *Chimera* series, and a site-specific anamorphic drawing. A foray into the origin of myth and the malleability of historical narrative, the exhibition blurs the boundaries between seemingly disparate elements of Biggers's practice as the convergence of pattern, material, and allegory sets the stage for the creation of novel, discordant, and subjective mythologies.

Throughout his practice, Biggers examines the inherent tensions of history and culture, of language and symbol, of myth and narrative. Operating across diverse mediums—including painting, sculpture, collage, mixed media, music, video, and performance—Biggers emerges as an artistic intermediary. Continuously interrupting established narratives, intervening into historical forms, and remixing recognizable cultural signifiers, Biggers complicates, questions, and ultimately fosters new understandings of collective histories.

With *Meet Me on the Equinox*, Biggers examines the points of harmony and discord—material, formal, and conceptual—in his recent *Codex* and *Chimera* works. Antique quilts—versions of which, according to American folklore, acted as coded signposts on the Underground Railroad—form the heart of the *Codex*

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series. Biggers paints, collages, twists, and molds found quilts into artworks that resonate with major themes of his practice. With the marble *Chimera* sculptures, Biggers combines elements from traditional African and European masks, busts, and figures to investigate historical depictions of the body—and their associated myths, archetypes, and power dynamics.

Although visually, materially, and formally distinct, the *Codex* and *Chimera* series both probe the physical and symbolic origins of myth. Biggers reimagines these vestiges of the past—quilts and marbles—and their myriad attendant meanings, metaphors, and associations. Recombining and remixing these materials, metaphors, and forms, Biggers embraces the inherent tensions at the heart of this tangled web of history and lore. Allowing his divergent modalities to mingle with an uninhibited sense of playfulness, improvisation, and discovery, Biggers reveals his work as an ongoing process of remaking, re-envisioning, and renewed understanding.

Meet Me on the Equinox takes its title from the exhibition's centerpiece—a large-scale, site-specific anamorphic drawing installation. Comprising a series of arches that span the walls and floor of the gallery, the drawing—titled *Equinox*—confounds viewers' sense of place and perspective. From a singular point in the corner of the gallery, the drawing seamlessly aligns, framing the free-standing *Chimera* sculptures much as Stonehenge frames the solstice sun. Situating his marble sculptures and quilt-based compositions within this monumental installation, Biggers manipulates perspective and perception, infusing nuanced histories with renewed significance and prompting us to consider their diverse symbols, meanings, and mythologies anew.

ABOUT SANFORD BIGGERS

Biggers's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions throughout his career: *Sanford Biggers: Codeswitch*, an exhibition devoted to the artist's *Codex* works and curated by Sergio Bessa and Andrea Andersson, traveled from the Bronx Museum of Art, NY, to the Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY, and the California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA from 2020–2022. Biggers has had additional solo exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, MO; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI; the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA; Chazen Museum of Art, WI; and the Brooklyn Museum, NY. His work has been shown in numerous group exhibitions, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; the Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA; the Menil Collection, Houston, TX; and the Tate Modern, London, UK, among others. In 2023, Biggers received The Amistad Center's Spirit of Juneteenth Award, Morehouse College's Bennie Trailblazer Award, a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship, and he was elected to the National Academy of Design. In 2021, Biggers was awarded the 26th Heinz Award for the Arts from the Heinz Family Foundation and named Savannah College of Art and Design's deFINE Art Honoree and the MIT Department of Architecture's 2021-2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professor and Scholar. In 2020, Biggers was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. In 2019, he was inducted into the New York Foundation for the Arts Hall of Fame. He was awarded the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in 2018 and the Rome Prize in Visual Arts in 2017. Biggers's work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; the Walker Center, Minneapolis, MN; the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C.; the Dallas Museum of Art, TX; and the Legacy Museum, Montgomery, AL, among others. Biggers was raised in Los Angeles; he lives and works in New York, NY.

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For more information about the artist, please contact Kory Trolio at kory@boeskygallery.com or 212-680-9889. For press inquiries, please contact Jillian Scott, THIRD EYE, at jillian@hellothirdeye.com or 212-355-9009.