

# MESTREPROJECTS

Press Release:

Mestre Projects is pleased to present “wings of a dove”, a solo exhibition of recent works by emerging interdisciplinary artist Matthew David Rahming. This body work includes six large canvas drawings, one drawing on paper and three framed drawings on linen paper.

“wings of a dove” exhibition essay by Michael Edwards

Matthew David Rahming’s artistic voice emerges as a profound narrative force, weaving stories that bridge the personal with the universal, inviting viewers into a space where art serves as both a mirror and a window. In his latest exhibition, Wings of A Dove, Rahming’s creations unfold as chapters in a larger narrative of human experience, reflecting the nuanced interplay of growth, challenge, and transformation. His artistry, emblematic of a dove’s journey, captures the essence of potential and enlightenment, offering a testament to the unifying power of art in redefining cultural narratives.

Resisting the constraints of traditional motifs, Rahming embarks on a quest for a universal artistic language that transcends cultural divides, fostering a deeper connection through empathy and understanding. The recurring motifs of dogs against moments of stamped concrete breeze blocks stand

South Ocean Blvd, The Honeycomb building,  
Nassau, New Providence, The Bahamas  
[studio@mestreprojects.com](mailto:studio@mestreprojects.com)

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as a testament to his unique narrative style—each mark deliberate, fitting seamlessly into the fabric of his work. These elements combine elegance with defiance, allure with tension, engaging viewers in a dance of attraction and repulsion. Dogs, within African traditions, symbolize familial bonds and unconditional love, conveying attributes of collaboration and resilience. The Bahamian royal potcake, an unofficial national emblem embodying similar qualities, anchors itself in the national consciousness, personifying a blend of loyalty and communal spirit amidst urban backdrops.

Conversely, breeze blocks signify a post-war architectural resilience, representing the simplicity and practicality of design within economic constraints, which is especially poignant in island communities. Rahming's artistic dialogue between the organic warmth of canine companionship and the cold pragmatism of breeze blocks critiques societal structures, exploring themes of protection, isolation, filtration, public and private surveillance, and the human condition's inherent dualities.

Rahming's art transcends mere depiction, inviting viewers to engage deeply with the layers of symbolism and emotion woven into his work. His direct, unpretentious approach to mark-making not only characterizes his artistic expression but also amplifies his storytelling, bridging the gap between the specific and the universal. This narrative dexterity, juxtaposing the loyalty and community represented by dogs with the functional minimalism of breeze blocks, crafts a

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rich tapestry of contrasts and contradictions that mirror Rahming's artistic exploration. Wings of A Dove invites audiences into a reflective odyssey, guided by his insightful perspective. This journey through art challenges us to confront our inner landscapes, leveraging the transformative potential of creative expression. Through this exhibition, Rahming not only showcases his talent but also asserts his role as a beacon for a new era of artists committed to crafting narratives that resonate with a broad audience. As we engage with his work, we are drawn into a contemplative dialogue with ourselves, encouraged to navigate our paths toward healing and renewal under the gentle guidance of the dove's wings.

Michael Edwards

### Artist Bio

**Matthew David Rahming** (born in 1997, The Bahamas) is an emerging interdisciplinary artist who identifies as an expressionist. His creative process is deeply rooted in introspection and keen observation. Rahming's work draws inspiration from both the vibrant present and the experiences of the past. It often carries a duality, with undercurrents and overtones of violence and fragility, while also conveying a sense of permanence and focusing on the meticulous beauty of life. His choice of materials and symbols serve to stretch the inherent tensions present in the work. They also function to frame the perspective of the audience, acting as a direct extension of his reinterpretation of his environment.

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