

***Repossession: Kader Attia, Tim Rollins and K.O.S., and Mickalene Thomas***

**June 24—August 12, 2016**

**201 Chrystie Street, New York**

#repossession | @lehmannmaupin

**Opening Reception: Friday, June 24, 6-8PM**



Mickalene Thomas, *Angelitos Negros*, 2016, eight (8) two-channel HD video duration: 23 minutes, 18 seconds, 48 x 54 in, 121.9 x 137.2 cm. © Mickalene Thomas / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong.

New York, June 16—**Lehmann Maupin** is pleased to present ***Repossession***, a group exhibition that investigates intersections between the work of **Kader Attia, Tim Rollins and K.O.S.**, and **Mickalene Thomas**. Each of these artists has devoted their practice to confronting predominant historical narratives embedded in Western culture. Using the language of collage, the artists mine historical and cultural ephemera to create alternative histories that reveal omissions and inaccuracies and celebrate the voices of those who are often invisible or overlooked. **There will be an opening reception at the gallery on Friday, June 24, from 6-8PM.**

**Mickalene Thomas** (b. 1971, Camden, New Jersey) draws on art history and popular culture to create a contemporary vision of black female sexuality, beauty, and power. Best known for her large-scale paintings that depict African-American women, domestic interiors, and vast landscapes adorned in Swarovski rhinestones, Thomas has recently embarked on a series of video installations that recasts notions of beauty, gender, race, and representation. *Repossession* presents the New York premiere of *Angelitos Negros*, 2016, an eight-channel video installation that depicts Eartha Kitt and three women (including the artist herself) performing the Antonio Machín song “Angelitos Negros.” The song poses the question: Why are there no black angels? Thomas’ appropriation and recreation of Kitt’s performance becomes a multilayered investigation of race, femininity, and sexuality today.

**Kader Attia** (b. 1970, Paris, France) sources historical memorabilia and archives as tools to expose the wide-ranging repercussions of Western cultural hegemony and colonialism on non-Western cultures—particularly the effect colonialism has had on the construction of identity. Attia, who grew up in Algeria and the suburbs of Paris, draws from his experience of living within two disparate cultures to create collages and installations that visualize the systemic construction of difference. His practice is deeply rooted in anthropology, history, and politics, and often deals directly with violence and repair. The works presented in *Repossession* exemplify Attia’s aptitude in creating hybrid cultural objects and collages that transform Western artifacts from icons of power and domination into symbols of freedom and resistance.

Tim Rollins (b. 1955, Pittsfield, Maine), a renowned educator, has been active in the South Bronx since teaching at a public middle school there in the early 1980s. In 1984, Rollins launched the Art and Knowledge Workshop in the South Bronx with a group of at-risk students who called themselves K.O.S. (Kids of Survival). The collective, still working with at-risk youths today, has created a practice that merges literature and art as a way to visualize and negotiate issues of race, class, and gender. Since the collective’s inception, **Tim Rollins and K.O.S.** have challenged the notion of individual authorship by working within a more collaborative structure that prioritizes social engagement and education. Each member lends his unique perspective and skills, resulting in a body of work that embodies social action, in content and in practice. *Repossession* will present monumental collages and drawings inspired by the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois, and Mark Twain, exposing and illustrating the power of the written word to both confront and perpetuate racism and difference.

### About Lehmann Maupin

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

### Current and Upcoming Exhibitions

Tracey Emin, *Stone Love*, through June 18, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street

Adriana Varejão, *Kindred Spirits*, through June 19, 2016, New York, Chrystie Street

Angel Otero, *Born in the Echoes*, through July 2, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

Mr., *Sunset in My Heart*, June 23—August 12, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street

---

# LEHMANN MAUPIN

---

*Radical Materiality*, July 7—August 27, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

Alex Prager, *La Grande Sortie*, September 7—October 23, 2016, New York, Chrystie Street

David Salle, September 8—October 29, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

OSGEMEOS, *Silence of the Music*, September 8—October 22, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street

For more information on Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan or Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923, or visit [lehmannmaupin.com](http://lehmannmaupin.com).

###