

GALLERY 1

A FAST, MOVING SKY

Group Exhibition

May 24 – July 25, 2017

The Third Line is proud to welcome Dexter Wimberly as guest curator for the exhibition *A Fast, Moving Sky*. Dexter has selected four artists from vastly different parts of the world, who are connected to the African diaspora. **Rushern Baker IV**, **Leonardo Benzant**, **Andrew Lyght** and **Valerie Piraino** are cultural hybrids whose works exemplify the complexity of defining this phenomenon; aesthetically as well as geographically. *A Fast, Moving Sky* illustrates how ideas, aesthetics and people are constantly in flux.



From left to right: Valerie Piraino, *Bad Seed*, 2014 (1), *Ravished, Famished, and Juicy (Half Papaya)*, 2014 (2), *Ripest*, 2014 (3).

Rushern's abstract mixed media pieces convey a sense of violence and destruction. In his creative process, Rushern strains the canvas through construction and inclusion, even adding building materials to his work. Born into a politically active family and raised in Washington D.C., Rushern developed an active interest in current affairs, which returns in his work as the artist strives to capture a feeling of unrest.

Leonardo is a Dominican-American artist, born and raised in Brooklyn, who refers to himself as an Urban Shaman. His practice is informed by his studies of the Congo and his spiritual beliefs, that are shaped by his research into native African and South-American religion and rituals. Through expressive and colorful imagery, Leonardo depicts his impressions of the visual world, the unseen and the cosmos, and continuously explores his ties to his ancestral past.

Andrew tests the limits of the conventional canvas through deconstruction. His current works resemble kite-like objects that are difficult to categorize simply as drawing or sculpture. The artist, who was born in Guyana and later moved to the US, finds his inspiration in early childhood memories such as flying kites—a popular sport in Guyana that fuels his oeuvre.

Valerie's work departs from her transnational background: she was brought up between Rwanda and the US. Her sculptures represent tropical fruits, plants and seeds native to the Global South and embody the migrants from the region. By means of aesthetic clues such as the use of gold—a resource that plays an important role in African history, she reflects on colonization, trade and current migration.

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About Dexter Wimberly

Dexter Wimberly (b. 1973, Brooklyn, NY) organizes exhibitions that explore contemporary culture, American history, economics, and power dynamics. He was recently appointed Executive Director of Aljira - a Center for Contemporary Art, located in Newark, New Jersey. A passionate supporter of the arts, Dexter has exhibited the work of hundreds of artists internationally. During his decade-long career, he has organized exhibitions and programs at numerous museums and galleries including the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) Raleigh, California African American Museum, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA), 101/EXHIBIT, Edward Tyler Nahem Fine Art, bitforms gallery, Koki Arts and The Third Line.

About The Third Line

The Third Line is a Dubai-based art gallery that represents contemporary Middle Eastern artists locally, regionally and internationally. The Third Line also hosts non-profit, alternative programs to increase interest and dialogue in the region.

The Third Line's book publishing division Works on Paper collaborates with associated artists from the region to publish and co-publish content. Projects include Presence by photographer Lamya Gargash (2008), In Absentia by Tarek Al-Ghoussein (2009), Cosmic Geometry, an extensive monograph on Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, edited by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Karen Marta (2011), and the self-titled treatise Huda Lutfi about the artist's Cairo based practice.

Represented artists include: Abbas Akhavan, Ala Ebtekar, Amir H. Fallah, Arwa Abouon, Babak Golkar, Farah Al Qasimi, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Golnaz Fathi, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayv Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Laleh Khorramian, Lamya Gargash, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Poursan Jinchi, Rana Begum, Sahand Hesamiyan, Sara Naim, Sherin Guirguis, Shirin Aliabadi, Slavs and Tatars, Sophia Al-Maria, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, Youssef Nabil and Zineb Sedira.

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