

Giacobetti Paul Gallery

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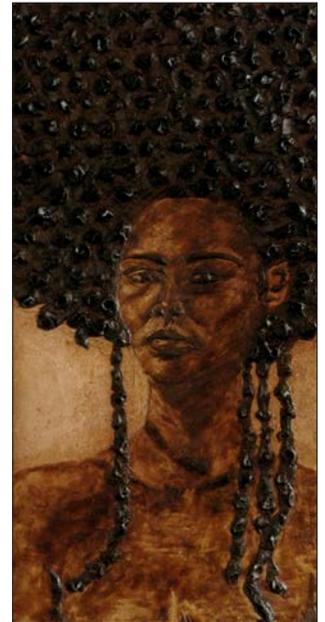
KONSTANCE PATTON | BARRON CLAIBORNE
BLAQUE & SHINEE, CURATED BY LUISE KAUNERT

OPENS THURSDAY, MAY 2, 6 PM

EXHIBITION CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE 1, 2013

GiacobettiPaul Gallery and Umbrage present two Brooklyn-based artists, Konstance Patton and Barron Claiborne, whose works explore archetypes and icons of beauty in an ongoing investigation of art as personal fiction.

Konstance Patton's artistic practice embraces a variety of techniques in a contemplation of Indigenous and African-American imagery within the perspective of her own ancestry. This show presents a selection of her recent artworks, including several wax paintings, ink and stencil drawings, sculptures and mixed media works. She deliberately uses organic materials like wax, wood, or fabric out of respect for ancient traditions but also to emphasize the texture and tactile nature of her work. Her carefully constructed contemporary narratives are informed by the written and oral transmission of Indigenous and African-American stories and rituals. Growing up in Detroit, Patton's experience of unfavorable social conditions created an impetus for her as an artist to use beauty as a way to transcend the hardship of life and to gracefully deconstruct socio-cultural stereotypes. Patton received formal training at The New School, New York, and has since been involved in public art, street art, and community-based projects in the US and throughout Europe. She has taught and held workshops to create collaborative artworks (Central Park Conservancy, NYC; Parks and People, Baltimore) while using art as means of reflection and action. Upcoming projects include a live mural at Weeksville Heritage Center (WHC) in Brooklyn (July 2013).



Barron Claiborne's photographs focus on a poetic yet provocative depiction of the female figure staged as intrepid saints or tenebrous goddesses, figments of his own "post-millennial mythos." *Illuminated Sable Goddess* is a series of black and white polaroids featuring delusive divinities in front of a visually elaborate and extravagant background. Propped up with crosses, amulets, crowns, wrestling masks, and weapons, these goddesses are creators and destroyers of a timeless, yet always evolving mythological fiction. The polaroids are displayed in sophisticated devices, whether suspended in a resin frame, mounted on a panel, or drowned in a mason jar enveloped by a nebula of glitter. His series *CadaCulo* is the sacrilegious counterpart to these deities, a myriad of minuscule "rear views" forming a trompe l'oeil mosaic portrait when contemplated from a distance. Claiborne (a.k.a BC Africanus) was born and raised in Boston before he moved to New York in 1989. His photos and videos have been exhibited in the United States and abroad and featured in numerous magazines including The New York Times Magazine, Newsweek and Rolling Stone. His video *The Triptych* has been screened recently at the Brooklyn Museum. Creative Time has commissioned a series of twelve *Illuminated Sable Goddesses* to be recontextualized in public spaces such as churches, bodegas, liquor stores, or schools in New York in late 2013.

