

MEDIA RELEASE
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WELANCORA GALLERY presents *RED*



Image: Felipe Baeza, *Avistamiento Fantasmagórico 8*, 2021.
Ink, acrylic, cut paper, and glitter on panel.

ON VIEW

June 12 - August 21, 2021

Welancora Gallery, 33 Herkimer Street Brooklyn, NY 11216

www.welancoragallery.com

CURATED BY

nico wheadon

FEATURED ARTISTS

Jaishri Abichandani, Felipe Baeza, Joseph A. Cuillier, III, Alteronce Gumby, Joe Hayes, III, Leslie Hewitt, Anders Jones, Eleisha Faith McCorkle, Devin N. Morris, Soull Ogun, Lina Puerta and Dana Robinson

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Masks are required. By Appointment only after June 12.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The color red has long embodied a paradoxical tension. It motivates yet cautions, loves yet rages and—all too often—marks both the giving of life and its mortal end. Despite its ubiquity red is, however, uniquely defined by its context. In this group exhibition curated by [nico wheadon](#), twelve artists working across mediums share their distinct interpretations and applications of the color. Liberating it from its often binary existence, *RED* resists popular tropes and invites deep reflection on how red shows up in an increasingly fluid world. The exhibition was conceived in conversation with collector Merele Williams-Adkins and Welancora Gallery founder, Ivy N. Jones, and features curated pieces alongside newly-commissioned works.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Born 1969 in Bombay, India, **Jaishri Abichandani** immigrated to New York City in 1984. Abichandani founded the South Asian Women's Creative Collective, www.sawcc.org in New York (1997 - 2013) and London (2004); dedicating sixteen years to creating spaces for feminist artistic production. Abichandani has exhibited her work internationally including at MoMA P.S.1; the Queens Museum, the Asia Society, the IVAM in Valencia, House of World Cultures in Berlin, etc. Abichandani's work encompasses creating objects, exhibitions and culture. She received her M.F.A from Goldsmiths College, University of London. Jaishri served as the Founding Director of Public Events and Projects from 2003-6 at the Queens Museum where she connected the museum to local communities and organized exhibitions. In 2017 Abichandani engineered a collaboration between the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, the Asia Society and the www.QueensMuseum.org to organize a three day national convening of South Asian American artists, academics and curators; along with the exhibition "Lucid Dreams and Distant Visions". Later in 2017, her silent #metoo protest outside her rapist Raghbir Singh's exhibition at the Met Breuer spurred international actions and exhibition about sexual violence. Abichandani organized a trilogy of exhibitions to inaugurate the Ford Foundation Gallery in 2019. Perilous Bodies, Radical Love and Utopian Imagination centered the visions of BIPOC artists to critical acclaim with 22,000 attendees. Abichandani's work is in the Burger Collection and the Asia Art Archive Collection amongst others. She has been a resident of LMCC's Process Space residency and honored by the Brooklyn Arts Council.

Felipe Baeza (b. 1987 Guanajuato, Mexico) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He received a B.F.A. from The Cooper Union in 2009 and a M.F.A from Yale University in 2018. Baeza is the 2017 recipient of The Robert Schoelkopf Memorial Traveling Fellowship and The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation Traveling Fellowship. Solo exhibitions include La Emergencia de Hacer Memoria, Fortnight Institute, New York City (2019), and Felipe Baeza Maureen Paley, London (2018). Other recent exhibitions include Nobody Promised You Tomorrow: Contemporary Art in the 50th Year of the Stonewall Era, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY, USA (2019), as well as XL Catlin Art Prize, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California, USA, and No Longer Yours, The Mistake Room/Anonymous Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico (2018).

Joseph A. Cuillier, III (b. 1988, New Orleans, LA) is a multidisciplinary artist who explores abstraction as a technology, language in space, and the history of Black radical pedagogies through social practice, installation, textile art, and design. Cuillier's installations use fashion and architecture to render bodies in space and bodies in action in an attempt to bridge gaps between living and form. Currently based in Harlem, NYC where he achieved an M.F.A from Pratt Institute and is currently a faculty member at Parsons and Pratt. Cuillier's work has been exhibited, collected, and presented at New Museum, MoMA Library, Bauhaus Dessau, Bronx Museum of Art, Wallach Gallery at Columbia University, Schafler Gallery at Pratt Institute, among others.

Cuillier has been an artist-in-residence/fellow at Sweet Water Foundation courtesy of the Chicago Architecture Biennial, Ideas City NOLA, Antenna, New Museum, The Laundromat Project, and A Blade of Grass. Cuillier is also the founder and co-director of The Black School, an experimental radical Black art school, and Black Love Fest NYC and HTX.

Alteronce Gumby (b. 1985, Harrisburg, PA) graduated from Yale University's MFA program where he was awarded the Robert Reed Memorial Scholarship after earning a BFA from Hunter College, New York, NY. In 2019, he was a resident at the Rauschenberg Foundation in Captiva Island, Florida and, in 2017, he completed a year-long residency as the Harriet Hale Woolley scholar at the Fondation des Etats-Unis in Paris, France. Gumby's paintings focus on representation of the self and subvert the traditional understanding of light and color through nuanced application of tonal changes directly with the artist's fingers and hands. He was granted the AAF/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts as well as the Dumfries House Residency, Ayrshire, Scotland in 2015. Gumby has recently been featured in solo exhibitions at Long Gallery, New York, NY and the Fondation des Etats-Unis, Paris, France. He has had solo exhibitions at Parrasch Heijnen, Los Angeles in 2019 and 2020.

Joe Hayes, III is a Bronx based artist who draws inspiration from nature and his community and how we exist within both. His paintings incorporate techniques that achieve a texturally complex surface. The use of layering gives the works a field of depth and causes the viewer to question the intention while simultaneously evoking a feeling of controlled rage. Hayes' lack of formal training gives his works a raw energy that draws directly from his life experiences.

Leslie Hewitt (b. 1977, St. Albans, NY) addresses fluid notions of time. Her compositions of political, social, and personal materials build multiple histories embedded in lens based, sculptural, architectural, and "abstract forms." This perceptual slippage is what attracts Hewitt to both the illusions of still and moving images and the undeniable presence of physical objects. Exploring this as an artist and "not" as a historiographer, Hewitt draws parallels between the formal appearance of things and their significance to a collective "sense" of history, political consciousness in contemporary art and everyday life. Hewitt earned a B.F.A from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York (2000), an M.F.A in sculpture from Yale University (2004), and at New York University, she was a Clark Fellow in the Africana and Visual Culture Studies programs. She was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial and the recipient of the 2008 Art Matters research grant to the Netherlands. A selection of recent and forthcoming exhibitions include the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Studio Museum in Harlem; Artists Space in New York; Project Row Houses in Houston; and LA > < ART in Los Angeles. Hewitt has held residencies at the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the American Academy in Berlin, Germany amongst others. Hewitt was part of the faculty at Barnard College in the department of Art History from 2012 - 2017, where she was actively engaged in the development of the Harlem Semester partnering with the Studio Museum in Harlem. She is Associate Professor of Art at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and co-organizes the Cooper Union School of Art Intra-Disciplinary Lecture Series with curator and writer Omar Berrada.

Anders Jones (b. 1966, Pendleton, SC) Anders Jones is a contemporary artist based in New York City. His works use a combination of printing techniques paired with new technologies, painting, sculpture and photography to uncover and expand the potentials of materials and mediums as a means to explore social commentary. He received a BA in Textile Surface Design from the Fashion Institute of Technology and an M.F.A in Photography and Video Related Media from the School of Visual Arts. Anders has also maintained a parallel practice as a textile designer for over a decade. His commercial textile and surface design work includes projects for: MoMA, Louise Bourgeois, El Anatsui and Jeff Koons; Merce Cunningham; NYC Ballet X Stella

McCartney; and Gagosian, DC Moore and PACE galleries among others. Early in his career, as a music photographer, Anders created album covers for clients including Sony Records, RCA Records, Fairchild Publications and independent labels. His fine art photography has been published in *BLACK: A Celebration of Culture* by Deborah Willis and on PDN.com. His artwork has been featured in exhibitions at RE:Art, White Box, Welancora Gallery, En Foco, HERE Art Center, Five Myles Gallery, PULSE Miami Beach art fair 2017, Spring Break Art Show 2018 and Untitled Art Fair 2020.

Eleisha Faith McCorkle (b. 1999 in Washington, DC) is an interdisciplinary artist making up one half of Hope & Faith, a collective formed with her twin sister Tonisha Hope McCorkle. She holds a BFA in Studio Art, minor in Social & Cultural Analysis from New York University. Her work travels various dimensions, conflating the ideas of reconstruction and resilience through symbolic imagery and deconstruction of materials. The collective's work serves as a spiritual process towards completion, commemorating the past, present, and future as they grow into a new state of consciousness as one. Together, they investigate and nurture the archetype of the black mother and spirit, transmitting energetic healing through their practice, offerings, and the food they cook. Utilizing 2D, 3D, and 4D elements as puzzle pieces to reconstruct narratives, the dynamic duo communicates stories of black life, food, rituals, healing and magic. Currently, the pair has been honored with a full scholarship to the 2021 Chautauqua School of Art Residency, making them the first collective in the School's history to be accepted.

Devin N. Morris is a Brooklyn-based artist interested in abstracting American life and subverting traditional value systems through the exploration of identity, memory, and grief in mixed media paintings, photographs, writings and video. Morris was recently in *The Aesthetics of Matter*, the first NYC curatorial project by Deux Femme Noires: Mickalene Thomas and Racquel Chevremont. He was also featured in the New Museum's *MOTHA and Chris E. Vargas: Consciousness Razing—The Stonewall Re-Memorialization Project*, and the two-person show, *Inside Out, Here*, at La Mama Gallery, curated by Eric Booker (Studio Museum, Exhibition Coordinator). Morris is the founder of 3 Dot Zine, which is an annual publication that serves as a forum for marginalized concerns and recently hosted the Brown Paper Zine & Small Press Fair with the Studio Museum in Harlem and created a site-specific installation at the MoMA PS1 2018 NY Art Book Fair.

Soull Ogun is a multidimensional artist currently living in Brooklyn NYC. In 2014, Soull was featured in the group show, *Intangible Beaty: Beautiful Women and the Endless Void*, launching the first exhibit of gallery- boutique, KASHER | POTAMKIN. Soull was featured in the exhibition, *JEWEL: an exhibition of extraordinary, lustrous and ornamental*, curated by Andrea Bergart in 2015. From 2015- 2018, Soull became the head jewelry designer for american brand, 3.1 Phillip Lim. During that time, she developed a new jewelry collection along side, Phillip and the ready to wear head designer. Soull created samples for all the runway shows from Fall 2015 until Spring 2018, inspiring the official launch of their jewelry department. In 2019, Soull's sculpture jewelry was featured in an exhibition: *DINNER* curated by R & Co. & J.B. Jones. This show demonstrated sculptural jewelry served as a dinner, exhibiting the key "ingredients " which develops each piece/ body of work. In August 2020, Soull's ethereal sculptures were featured in a group show at Patel Brown Gallery "*Talismans Magickal Objects of Revolution* ". Currently, Soull's sculptural head pieces and adornments are worn and collected by performance artist such as Erykah Badu, Ms Lauryn Hill, Beyonce and Stevie Wonder.

Lina Puerta was born in New Jersey, raised in Colombia and lives and works in New York City. Puerta holds an MEd in Art Education from Queens College/CUNY and has exhibited internationally. Puerta examines the relationship between nature and the body. She utilizes a wide variety of materials in her sculpture – concrete, clay, resin, wood, foam fabric, artificial plants,

paper pulp and handmade paper; craft and recycled items. With these materials she creates textural forms and compositions that blend the human-made world with the natural, exploring notions of control, consumerism and life's fragility. Her artistic process is in great part guided by the physical qualities of the materials, their textures, forms and colors; and informed by concepts of femininity, fashion, sexuality and artificiality. She is currently one of the two inaugural Artists-in-Residence at KODA, in NYC. She has also been honored with the 2019/2020 Artist-in-Residency at the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling, 2017 NYFA Fellowship in Crafts/Sculpture, 2017 Artist-in-Residency at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, the 2016 Dieu Donn e Workspace Residency, Artprize-8 Sustainability Award, 2015 Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant, 2015 Kohler Arts Industry Residency (WI), 2014-15 Keyholder Residency at the Lower East Side Printshop, 2013-14 Smack Mellon Art Studio Program, 2014 Materials for the Arts Artist Residency, 2013 Wave Hill Winter Workspace, and the 2010 Emerging Artist Fellowship at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York. Exhibition venues include the Ford Foundation Gallery, El Museo del Barrio, The 8th Floor, Smack Mellon, Wave Hill, and Geary in New York City; 21C Museum Hotels in Louisville, KY and Bentonville, AR; and Pi Artworks in London. Puerta's work has been written about in Hyperallergic, The New York Times, The Brooklyn Rail, and Artnet News among others.

Dana Robinson's paintings address black female identity, black love and Blackness. Her visual language uses 70's Ebony magazines as a source material. Selecting stylized advertisements that highlight the idea of upward mobility and a growing black middle class the artist employs a language of humor and relaxation; the work puts viewers at ease with its accessibility. Her artwork opens up complex spaces of laughter and irony, while retaining an empathetic quality. The familiarity of the work creates a homelike and inviting environment, communicating to viewers regardless of background that they are welcomed here: we are your friends and we understand you. As Robinson rearranges these images into an airy, atomized spread of abstract and dispersed parts, she strips them of their original power to promote the consumption of the products. She hacks the tools given to us to achieve personal fulfillment and aim to use new tools to envision and map a future that preserves and honors black life. Robinson has exhibited her work in the US and abroad, most recently online with Medium Tings, Stay at Home Gallery, and Selena's Mountain, Mexico City with Beverly's at Material Art Fair, Miami at Untitled, and 'My Country 'Tis of Thee' at HERE Art Center in New York. Her work has been written about in NY Mag's Vulture, VICE, Ain't Bad, Queen Mobs Teahouse, Kolaj Magazine, and Sarah Lawrence College's Lumina Journal to name a few. Robinson graduated from the School of Visual Arts with an M.F.A in Fine Art and is currently living and working in Brooklyn, and participating in the Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency, through Collar Works.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

nico wheadon is an independent art advisor, curator, educator and writer, and is founder and principal of [bldg fund, LLC](#). She is an adjunct professor at Barnard College, Brown University and Hartford Art School, and serves on the Board of Governors at the National Academy of Design. nico recently served as Inaugural Executive Director of NXTHVN (2019-2020); Director of Public Programs and Community Engagement at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2014-2019); and Curatorial Director of Rush Arts Gallery (2007-2010). She holds an MA in Creative & Cultural Entrepreneurship from Goldsmiths, University of London (2011), and a BA in Art-Semiotics from Brown University (2006). WWW.NICOWHEADON.COM

ABOUT WELANCORA GALLERY

Welancora Gallery was founded by Ivy N. Jones. The gallery is located in a townhouse in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York. The focus of the gallery is to represent artists from around the world by placing their works with collectors and museums, holding major exhibitions and publishing scholarly catalogues.