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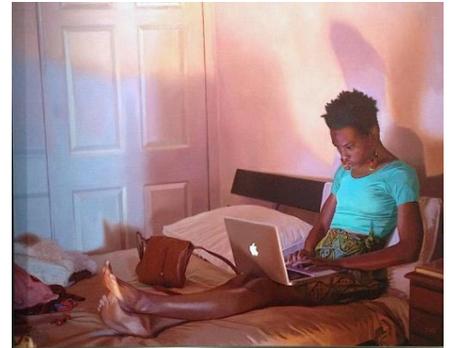
Jas Knight: Euhemerized

July 9 – July 25, 2015

Opening Reception: July 9, 2015 6 – 8 pm

New York, NY- Bill Hodges Gallery is pleased to announce its sixth exhibition at its new Chelsea location. *Euhemerized* by Jas Knight, will be on view July 9 – July 25, 2015 at 529 W. 20th Street.

The exhibition consists of sixteen oil paintings that combine traditional 16th and 17th century painting styles to subtly expose contemporary African subjects and themes. It is through this exposition that Knight incorporates the term *euhemerized*. The term refers to mythology that, through the process of interpretation over time, is considered to be real historical occurrence. As this title suggests, Knight is interested in the flux between reality and fiction.



Jas Knight, *Inbox 2*, 2015, Oil on Panel, 20 x 24 in.

Knight's unique style can be seen in *Inbox 2* (pictured right) which depicts a young African woman, dressed in contemporary clothing, alone in a small pastel colored room sitting on a bed. She is surrounded by her personal items such as a pocketbook, with an Apple laptop resting on her lap, which illuminates her face and torso as she intensely, stares back. It is through the irony of an African woman using an apple laptop that he addresses the subject of exploitation of African conflict minerals, which are used in electronics all over the world. He has his African model play an unsuspecting contributor to the conflict in her continent of origin. This subject is enhanced by Knight's use of highlights and shadows from the laptop and an outside light source. In addition, the painted lighting style used channels the style of chiaroscuro, employed commonly in paintings by Renaissance painter Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio.



Jas Knight, *Beatific*, 2014, Oil on Panel, 15 x 11 1/4 in.

The 15 by 11 in. oil on panel painting *Beatific*, (pictured left), depicts a young African woman, surrounded by a creamy colored halo that extends to a dark clouded background with rays of gold leaf that radiate from her dark coiled hair. Yet again, Knight highlights the modern conflict by illuminating the African model with golden rays of light ironically holding the device that connects her to modern conflict and enhancing the subtle reference to this conflict through the use of dramatic brooding clouds. It is also through the rays of gold leaf that Knight brings in a historical painting practice that was used by many artists during the Renaissance period.

While some of Knight's paintings make references to history and conflict in Africa, his other works serve to present the daily lives of his African models. The painting *Autumn*, displays a young African woman in action, making a bed. The woman, contemporarily dressed in a sequined hijab headpiece, cerulean blue sweater and denim jeans, is depicted in small bedroom. The woman stands beside the bed looking down while holding in her two hands, a beige colored sheet that she is preparing to fold.

Again Knight incorporates history of displaying naturalistic everyday life in art through genre painting used by artist such as Johannes Vermeer and Frans Hals.

Anthony "Jas" Knight was born in 1977 in Bloomfield, Connecticut. Since a young age, Knight has been creating art. At the age of eight, he was hailed an art prodigy by his teachers and already had a one-man show while only in the third grade. Later on, Knight attended Eastern Connecticut State University. Subsequently Knight would transfer to The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and receive a BFA. Knight has been awarded both the Greater Hartford Arts Council Innovation Grant and the Leonard Andrews Foundation Special Scholarship. In addition, Knight's paintings have been shown in group exhibitions at several galleries in Philadelphia. Knight's work has also been included in multiple private collections. Knight currently works and resides in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

The Bill Hodges Gallery is located on the 2nd floor of 529 W. 20th Street between 10th Avenue and 11th Avenue. Our closest subways stations are at 14th St. & 8th Ave. (A-C-E-L) and 23rd St. & 8th Ave. (C-E). Gallery Hours are Tuesday to Friday 10am – 6pm and Saturday 12:30pm – 5:30pm. Press viewings can be arranged. For more information or to arrange a viewing, please contact Bill or Navindren Hodges at (212) 333-2640 or via email at info@billhodgesgallery.com

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