

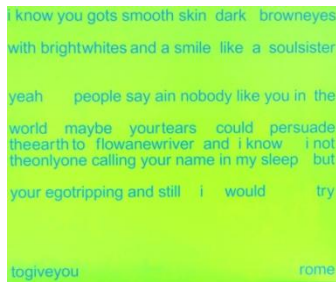
BILL HODGES GALLERY

The Summer Exhibition

July 8th – August 27th, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

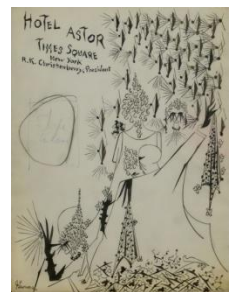
Bill Hodges Gallery is pleased to present our annual *Summer Exhibition*. This group exhibition exemplifies the variety of works and artists within our collection and within Black artistry. *The Summer Exhibition* will be on view at our Chelsea location until May 29th, 2021. Artists featured in this show include Lorna Simpson (Brooklyn, NY; 1960); Adam Pendleton (Richmond, VA; 1984), Willie Cole (Newark, NJ; 1955), Jacob Lawrence (Atlantic City, NJ; 1917 – Seattle, WA; 2000); Marisol Escobar (Paris, FR; 1930 – New York, NY; 2016) and many more.



Adam Pendleton. *Ego Tripping*, 2004
Silkscreen on Canvas, Edition 2 of 3.
37 3/8 x 44 3/4 in. (94.9 x 113.7 cm)

Upon entering the gallery, Adam Pendleton's *Ego Tripping*, 2004 is a captivating work. On a neon-green background, Pendleton strings us across a disjointed poem, whose message of love is no less profound. While Pendleton is known mostly for his black and white works that reference topics of race and inequality, his earlier, more vivid works like *Ego Tripping* offer delightful variety within his oeuvre. Within the main gallery are even more vibrant works that we are thrilled to debut in this gallery space. Among them are an *Untitled* work on paper by Neo-African abstract expressionist Danny Simmons (New York, NY; 1953), a festive watercolor by muralist and painter Marion Greenwood (Brooklyn, NY; 1909 – Woodstock, NY; 1970) and a fantastic watercolor by Richard Dempsey (Ogden, UT; 1909 – Washington, D.C.; 1987). These works particularly embody the intoxicating energy of summer.

We are also proud to feature two works by renowned painter Jacob Lawrence in this exhibition. One is an ink on vellum work titled *Hotel Astor* ca. 1954, after the popular Times Square hotel. For many years, Jacob Lawrence created various advertisements for an annual ball presented by the Artists Equity Fund, Inc. On the night of May 20, 1954, the Spring Fantasia Masquerade Ball was in full swing at *Hotel Astor* and this was one of the advertisements used to promote this wonderful evening. This work evokes elements of glamour and mystery that basked the hotel's magnificent ballrooms, once upon a time. Lawrence draws strobes of light from artful sconces floating above the heads of two fashionable women. In front of the women, a bald man in the throes of dance gives us his profile as he dangles a patterned cloth from his finger tips. Another exquisitely dressed woman bearing sharp, black gloves clings to the man while she is held in his embrace. Also by Lawrence is *And God Created All the Beasts of the Earth*, 1990 from his *Genesis* series based off the sermons of Reverend Adam Clayton Powell of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. A poignant peace, Lawrence portrays the origin of the world using all Black figures within the shelter of the church.



Jacob Lawrence. *Hotel Astor*, ca. 1954.
Ink on Vellum. 12 x 9 in.
(30.5 x 22.9 cm)

This exhibition also features works by **Irene Clark** (Washington, D.C.; 1927-1984); **Gerald Jackson** (Chicago, IL; 1936); **LeRone Wilson** (Harlem, NY; 1968); **Alvin Hollingsworth** (New York, NY; 1928 – 2000); **William Villalongo** (Hollywood, FL; 1975); **Richard Mayhew** (Amityville, NY; 1924); **Joseph**

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Kersey (Chicago, IL; 1909-Chicago, IL; 1982); **Marion Greenwood** (Brooklyn, NY; 1909-Kingston, NY; 1970) and **Merton Simpson** (Charleston, SC; 1928-New York, NY; 2013); **Nikki Lee** (Geochang-gun, SK; 1970); **James Barnsley** (Hamilton, ONT; 1861 – Verdun, MTL; 1929); **John Tarrell Scott** (New Orleans, LA; 1940-Houston, TX; 2007) and **Frederick D. Jones** (Raleigh, NC; 1913-Chicago, IL; 1996).

Established in 1979, Bill Hodges Gallery is a modern and contemporary art gallery specializing in influential artists of the African Diaspora. The gallery's collection is well known for its strong inventory of works from the Harlem Renaissance and Abstract Expressionist movement by prominent artists including Norman Lewis (1909-1979), Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000), Romare Bearden (1911-1988), Sam Gilliam (1933), and Ed Clark (1926-2019). Responding to market and scholarly interest in artists who are underrepresented in the canon of art history, the gallery advocates for their status as leading artistic pioneers of the 20th and 21st centuries. Bill Hodges Gallery is located at **529 W. 20th Street, suite #10E**, between 10th Avenue and 11th Avenue. Our closest subway stations are 14th St. & 8th Ave. (A-C-E) and 23rd St. & 8th Ave. (C-E). The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 11 AM – 6 PM. The gallery is implementing social distancing measures and we kindly ask that guests wear appropriate personal protection equipment. Masks and hand sanitizer can be provided. For more information or to arrange a private viewing, please contact Bill or Navindren Hodges at (212) 333-2640 or at info@billhodgesgallery.com.