

JACKSON FINE ART

ATLANTA

Jackson Fine Art
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Lalla Essaydi
Conflicted Identities

Shanequa Gay
Gateway to the South

In the viewing room:
Works by Ben Shahn, Walker Evans, Arthur Rothstein
& Eudora Welty

April 11 — June 29, 2024

Opening Reception
Thursday, April 11, 6:00 – 8:00PM

Atlanta, March 19, 2024. Jackson Fine Art is pleased to present new exhibitions from acclaimed artists **Lalla Essaydi** and **Shanequa Gay**, each offering a captivating dialogue between cultural heritage and feminine identity in their respective series, "**Conflicted Identities**" and "**Gateway to the South**." Through a dynamic blend of visual storytelling and multimedia art, both artists invite viewers to delve into rich tapestries of personal experience, societal norms, and the enduring legacy of colonialism.



Lalla Essaydi, *Conflicted Identities #5*, 2023

In "Conflicted Identities," Lalla Essaydi explores the complexities of cultural identity within the context of Islamic culture. Born in Morocco in 1956, Essaydi's work reflects her own experiences growing up in a postcolonial society grappling with issues of tradition, modernity, and gender. Through innovative visual and conceptual strategies, she challenges conventional representations of women in Islamic art, reclaiming their narratives and agency. Central to the series is Essaydi's use of beer bottle caps to construct colonial dresses for her models, a powerful metaphor for the intersection of tradition and modernity, East and West.

Meanwhile, Shanequa Gay's "Gateway to the South" offers a poignant reflection on family history and Southern Black traditions. Drawing inspiration from her maternal great-grandfather's photographs, Gay celebrates the resilience and creativity of her ancestors while exploring themes of identity, heritage, and spirituality. Through a rich tapestry of multimedia works, Gay blurs the lines

between past and present, weaving together narratives of joy, candor, and myth. Her collaged panels feature hybrid characters that embody the complexities of human existence, offering a profound meditation on the power of art to illuminate the past and shape the future.

Together, "Conflicted Identities" and "Gateway to the South" create a compelling dialogue between cultures and continents, inviting viewers to reconsider preconceived notions and engage with the complexities of human experience. Both Essaydi and Gay offer nuanced reflections on the intersections of identity, memory, and imagination, challenging viewers to explore the boundaries of tradition and the fluidity of feminine identity.



Shanequa Gay, *Past Present*, 2024

"Conflicted Identities" by Lalla Essaydi and "Gateway to the South" by Shanequa Gay will be on display at Jackson Fine Art **April 11 — June 29, 2024**. A public opening reception with both artists present will be held on the evening of **Thursday, April 11th** from **6:00 to 8:00pm**. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in this thought-provoking dialogue between two visionary artists and explore the rich tapestries of personal experience and cultural heritage woven throughout their work.

In the viewing room, discover an exhibition of works by iconic photographers Walker Evans, Arthur Rothstein, and Ben Shahn from the 1930s. Through their lenses, these renowned artists captured the essence of America during a pivotal era, offering glimpses into the lives of ordinary people and the social landscape of the time. From Evans' evocative portraits to Rothstein's powerful documentation of the Dust Bowl and Shahn's poignant images of rural life, this selection presents a compelling visual narrative of the Great Depression era.

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Notes to Editors

Press contact:

Coco Conroy
coco@jacksonfineart.com

About Lalla Essaydi

Moroccan-born artist Lalla Assia Essaydi has gained global recognition for her powerful portraits of Arab women, rooted in her rich Moroccan heritage. By incorporating Arabic calligraphy, henna, and textile art into her photographs, Essaydi offers a nuanced portrayal that challenges Western stereotypes of the veiled Arab woman. Born in 1956, the year of Morocco's independence, Essaydi's work delves into the complexities of postcolonial identity, navigating the intersection of East and West. In her recent series, "Conflicted Identities," she creates dresses from beer bottle caps, symbolizing the clash between Morocco's Muslim identity and the prevalence of alcohol. With a background in traditional Muslim society and Western art education, Essaydi bridges cultural divides, inviting viewers to resist stereotypes and embrace pluralism in her art. Her work is included in many private and public collections, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Spelman Museum of Art, Atlanta; The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; the Louvre Museum, Paris; and the Arab Museum of Modern Art, Qatar, among many others.

About Shanequa Gay

Artist Shanequa Gay's practice spans painting, illustration, video, performance, and monumental sculpture, offering a multidisciplinary exploration of tradition, place, and storytelling. Liberating art historical tropes, Gay creates new visual languages and narratives, particularly focusing on the visibility and representation of Black bodies in art. Exhibiting internationally, Gay's work has been featured in esteemed institutions such as the Chattanooga African American Museum, the Hunter Museum of American Art, and Le Musée Des Beaux-Arts De Montréal. Her pieces are housed in permanent collections at institutions including The Georgia Museum of Art, The Ackland Museum, and The Oglethorpe University Museum, as well as private collections including those of Michelle Obama and Arthur Lewis. Gay holds a BA from the Savannah College of Art and Design and an MFA from Georgia State University, currently residing and creating in Atlanta, Georgia.

About Jackson Fine Art

Jackson Fine Art has a storied history which began in 1990 when Jane Jackson opened the gallery specializing in 20th century and contemporary photography. The gallery quickly became an important voice in the South as well as the international market. In March 2003, Ms. Jackson became the director of the prestigious Sir Elton John Photography Collection and sold the gallery to Anna Walker Skillman, her director of six years. Ms. Skillman, a loyal and active participant in the arts community for the last 25 years, graduated in Art History from the University of Georgia. She began her career working at the Haines Gallery, a leading contemporary art gallery in San Francisco and was directing Todd Murphy's studio in Atlanta before joining Jackson Fine Art in 1998.

In addition to 9-12 exhibitions annually, Jackson Fine Art participates in international art fairs including: Paris Photo; The Photography Show (AIPAD) in New York; Art Miami; and Intersect Aspen. The gallery is a member of the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD), and Ms. Skillman is a former member of the board of directors.



Photo credit: Rob Knight

Jackson Fine Art has placed work in numerous important private and public collections such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art; High Museum of Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Des Moines Art Center; Telfairs Museums; Ham Museum of Art; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA), San Diego; Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair; Black Gold Museum, Riyadh; and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; among others. Additionally, the gallery works with many corporate collections including Coca Cola Company; Delta Airlines; Microsoft; Target; Saks Fifth Avenue; Chanel; Banana Republic; Oppenheimer & Company; Capital One Corporate Collection; Citibank; Morgan Stanley Corporate Collection; Amall, Golden & Gregory; Loews Hotels; and Norwegian Cruise Lines.

Jackson Fine Art is now located at 3122 East Shadowlawn Ave. NE. Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10AM – 5PM.

More information:

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