

GUCCIVUITTON

8375 NE 2nd Ave | Miami FL 33138

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PRESS RELEASE

Purvis Young

Quiet Riot

February 21st - April 04th, 2015

Vernissage: Saturday, February 21th 6:00 -10:00 P.M.

Guccivuitton is proud to announce Quiet Riot, a themed exhibition of the work of artist Purvis Young (1943-2010).

"There a lot of things I know. I keep my mouth shut and paint." - Purvis Young¹

From the McDuffie Riots of 1980 to more recent demonstrations resulting from the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner, Miami has been no stranger to forms of civil resistance due to race issues and discrimination. The title of the exhibition comes from a unique revolt that occurred shortly after South African anti-apartheid Nelson Mandela's visit to Miami was snubbed by Cuban American officials due to his refusal to repudiate the Castro regime. Seen as a diminishing gesture to the longstanding issue of race and discrimination in America, what resulted was an almost three year long nationwide black boycott of the Miami tourism industry, dubbed as a "Quiet Riot", which cost the city millions and raised African American pride.

Purvis Young often stated that he painted what he saw occurring around him in his life and community. Though Young's work is often referred to as being up-lifting and hopeful, he never shied away from depicting societal injustices and the darker side of humanity. Throughout his life and work, a common theme was the subjugation of African Americans in contemporary America. Images of the blue eyes of big brother, poverty, war and other pervasive societal oppressors like substance abuse were visited with repetition in his work.

In honor of Purvis Young's work and of our community the goal of this exhibition is explore themes in his oeuvre that deal with oppression and forms of revolt in painting as a form of resistance.

Guccivuitton would like to thank Gary Feinberg, Tamara Hendershot, Dan and Kathryn Mikesell and The Rubell Family Collection for their help making this exhibition possible.

For questions or additional information, please contact the gallery at office@guccivuitton.net

¹ Quote from, "Purvis Young: Contemporary Urban Painter", 1997