

# GUCCIVUITTON

8375 NE 2nd Ave | Miami FL 33138

<http://guccivuitton.net>

## PRESS RELEASE

***The Look***

April 19<sup>th</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Vernissage: Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 -11:00 P.M.

Guccivuitton is pleased to announce a group exhibition **The Look**. A survey of artworks that addresses the perceptions and expectations of Haitian Culture through the awareness of artists and their audience.

In the 2005 French drama, *Vers le sud (Heading South)*, Charlotte Rampling, coined "The Look" by Dirk Bogarde for her mysterious yet tragic gaze, plays Ellen, a member of a group of middle aged white women that visit a sleepy seaside hotel on the coast of Haiti with the sole purpose of sharing companionship with young male locals. The film portrays the illicit yet discreet exchange between the women's desire to supplant their unfulfilled romantic needs and the local boy's need to escape their political and socioeconomic status.

Likewise Haiti's cultural output has been steeped in a romance of sorts between the expectations of tourists and visitors looking to acquire a memento of their experience in Haiti and the perceptions of the indigenous artists and artisans that produce to meet this demand. This exhibition hopes to introduce an archeological & phenomenological examination that has led to an aesthetic cross pollination of possibilities from this unique artist/consumer paradigm.

**Gabriel Bien-Aimé** (1951) is a Haitian metal sculptor born in Croix des Bouquets. He studied under Georges Liautaud, Murat Brierre and Janvier Louis-Juste and is now considered one of Haiti's leading sculptors in metal. He now lives and works in Despinas where he built a bakery.

**Murat Brierre** (1938-1988) is a painter and metal sculptor. He studied at the Centre d'Art where he was influenced by the metal artworks of Georges Liautaud, though Brierre's work acquired its own more experimental style. His metal sculptures often depict religious scenes & symbols from either Vodou or Christianity.

**Lafortune Felix** (1933) is a Haitian painter born in the Artibonite region, who is now an artist, a farmer and an initiated Houngan practicing in Saint-Marc, Haiti. Though his work is considered under-appreciated compared to that of his peers, collectors have long sought after his depictions the natural and supernatural world in vivid color.

**Pablo Gonzalez-Trejo** (1973) is a Cuban painter that lives and works in Paris, France. He received an MFA from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'art de Dijon, France in 1999. In 2013 he had an exhibition of paintings at The Floor, Barcelona, that depicted well known images from Central and South American dictators whose faces had been greyed and washed out.

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*The Look*

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**Guyodo** (1973) is a Haitian sculptor born and practicing in Port-au-Prince. He is a founding member of the artist group, Atis Rezistans, who incorporates junk and other discarded materials into sculptures often depicting Vodou deities. In 2006 he collaborated in the building of a Freedom Sculpture for the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, UK.

**Georges Liautaud** (1899 - 1991) Born in Croix de Bouquets, he is widely considered one of Haiti's most well known sculptors for his simple yet elegant metalworks. He also spawned numerous apprentices, like Murat Briere, who became renowned artist in their own right.

**Marron et Masqué** is a collective...

**Tomm El-Saieh** (1984) born in Port-au-Prince of Haitian Israeli descent who now lives and works in Miami, FL. His grandfather, Issa El-saieh, was a patron and renowned collector of Haitian art. Following the family tradition, he founded the artist run gallery, Tomm El-Saieh presents, as well as managing the family collection back in Port-au-Prince. His abstract paintings meld contemporary american sensibilities with traditional Haiti pointillist textiles patterns.

**Serge Toussaint** (1964) Haitian muralist living in Miami, FL. He is widely known in Little Haiti and Liberty City as a larger format commercial and political muralist. He claims to have painted hundreds of murals and that he began as an artist at age 12.

**Robert St.Brice** (1893-1973) Born in Petionville into an Episcopalian family he eventually became a Houngan. He did not begin to paint until he was over 50 years of age, when American artist, Alex John, introduced him to French Impressionism. Jean-Marie Drot, the Haitian art historian, places St. Brice second only to the legendary Hyppolite in the pantheon of Haitian artists who received their inspiration directly from the Vodou spirits.

**Rick Ulysse** (1983) is Haitian painter born in Port-au-Prince, who presently lives and works in Sunrise, FL. His subject matter varies from Haitian and Caribbean ethnography and historical fiction to the investigation of painting as a transcendental medium. In 2012 he exhibited a suite of drawings at the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami and has participated in the Fountainhead Residency program.

Special thanks goes to the El-Saieh Family Collection and to Diego Singh for their support and involvement with this exhibition.

For questions or additional information, please contact the gallery at [office@guccivuitton.net](mailto:office@guccivuitton.net)