

## JACK SHAINMAN GALLERY

### *The Past is Present*

**Brad Kahlhamer, Turiya Magadela, and Hank Willis Thomas**

March 16– April 22, 2017

Opening reception: **Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM** at 524 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

Jack Shainman Gallery is pleased to announce *The Past is Present*, a group exhibition featuring the work of **Brad Kahlhamer, Turiya Magadela, and Hank Willis Thomas**. The installation highlights a distinctive series from each artist that speaks to materiality and contemporary culture.

Brad Kahlhamer's oeuvre of paintings, works on paper, and sculpture is a site of synthesis concerned with what the artist terms "the spiritual rebar" that under grids American culture, blending references as diverse as music, comic books, art history, and Plains ledger drawings from the nineteenth century. His *Super Catchers* (2014—ongoing) draw on the Native American tradition of dreamcatchers. Industrial metal wire and jingle bells come together in intricate constellations mixing the sacred with the commonplace. In *Untitled* (2017), the distinctive super catcher motif delineates the American flag, fusing two cultural icons into one hybrid symbol.

Turiya Magadela's work also engages and subverts the quotidian. Her abstractions stretch pantyhose across canvas, transforming an everyday feminine convention into gestural painting. The delicate nylon becomes distorted, pulling and puckering into compositions that allude to the human body and its orifices, yet the material's transparency and sheen renders each work distinctly exquisite. The specificity of the pantyhose invokes both the freedom that fashion represents, as well as the standardized flesh tones that reflect a narrow conception of race. Magadela's use of intimate undergarments speaks to these longstanding issues of gender, identity, and the role they play in the broad manipulation of the female body by external forces.

Hank Willis Thomas is similarly interested in the stereotypes and ingrained expectations surrounding race and perspective. His *Punctum* series (2014—ongoing) derives from Roland Barthes' term for the detail in a photograph that pierces or wounds the viewer, creating a direct, highly personal relationship with the image. Thomas expands this concept to reframe areas of an image which he translates into three-dimensional, photo-based sculptures, in a sense employing alternative media to articulate and illuminate photographic concepts. *Promise* (2016) draws from the artist's exploration of professional sports and the way in which they shape popular culture. Here the arm of a basketball player is isolated, the ball precariously balanced on his fingertips, frozen in a moment of suspense.

By bringing together these three artists and their multiplicity of styles and media, *The Past is Present* invites us to contemplate issues of power, identity, and otherness that are at the fore of today's society, yet have always been with us.

Brad Kahlhamer was born in Tucson, Arizona and currently lives in New York City. Recently, a solo exhibition, *Nomadic Studio* (October 29 - December 15, 2016) at The Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery, Reed College, Portland, Oregon brought together fifty volumes from his career-long sketchbook practice. An accompanying catalog will be released this spring.

Turiya Magadela lives and works in South Africa. Her work is also on view as part of *Home Room*, a group exhibition at the gallery's upstate location, The School, through April 2017. *The Past is Present* marks her Chelsea debut.

Hank Willis Thomas is based in New York City. His work is currently at the SCAD Museum in *Blind Memory* and *Freedom Isn't Always Beautiful*, on view through August 20, 2017.

Concurrently on view at our 20<sup>th</sup> Street space is the work of **Enrique Martínez Celaya**. Upcoming exhibitions at the gallery include **Becky Suss** at 513 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street and **Gehard Demetz** at 524 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street opening April 27<sup>th</sup> and on view through June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. For additional information and photographic material please contact Victoria Kung, SUTTON, [Victoria.kung@suttonpr.com](mailto:Victoria.kung@suttonpr.com), 212 202 3402.