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CHAKAIA BOOKER *FUTURE EQUITY*

March 27 – May 1, 2021

Opening Reception

Saturday, March 27 from 12 to 7 pm

M+B is pleased to announce *Chakaia Booker: FUTURE EQUITY*, the inaugural exhibition at our newest location, M+B Doheny, from March 27 through May 1, 2021. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, March 27 from noon to 7pm. After a four-decade long career, this will be Booker's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles.

Throughout her career, Chakaia Booker has made a steadfast commitment to experimentation with everyday found materials, drawing connections on the relationship between humans and the environment. Booker is best known for her complex sculptures made from reclaimed rubber tires. In repurposing industrial materials, Booker fuses ecological and technological concerns with explorations of racial and economic differences. *FUTURE EQUITY* introduces Booker's vital visual language and features work in the artist's signature medium. On view will be a range of Booker's formats, including pedestal pieces, wall-mounted works and large freestanding sculptures.

Chakaia Booker began integrating cast-off materials into large sculptures in the early 1990s as a way to address the environment and issues of class, race and labor in the industrial world. For her, the varied tones of rubber evoke the complexities of black's human application, while the tire treads suggest images as varied as African scarification and textile designs. The patterns of the tires give the work a woven quality, yet the forms seem particularly anthropomorphic. Each tire's appearance alludes to its own history of production, use and abandonment. The surface finishes range from rich and lustrous to dried and cracking, the visible wear and tear a metaphor for the fatigue of one's life experiences.

To collect her materials, Booker excavated the detritus of city life—abandoned buildings, vacant lots and roadsides for discarded articles. Her process is enormously physical and her assemblages bear the traces of the intense labor applied in working with the rugged material. Booker exploits its formal qualities in the shearing, bending and folding of the tires. Influenced by the textures and techniques of Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence, Booker creates layered movement in her abstract forms. She twists and weaves them into radically new shapes and textures, unleashing its expressive power and potential for new meaning.

Chakaia Booker (b. 1953 in Newark, NJ) received her BA in Sociology from Rutgers University in 1976 and went on to receive her MFA from the City College of New York (CUNY) in 1993. In April 2021, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami will present a comprehensive survey of Booker's work. Her work has also been the subject of retrospectives at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO. Other solo exhibition venues include the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, Purchase, NY; Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA; Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI; and Storm King Art Center, Mountainville, NY. Booker was included in the 2000 Whitney Biennial gaining international acclaim for her sculpture *It's So Hard to Be Green*, a 12 ½ x 21-foot wall-hung sculpture. Recent

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public installation highlights include Millennium Park, Chicago, Garment District Alliance Broadway Plazas, New York, NY, and National Museum of Women in the Arts New York Avenue Sculpture Project, Washington D.C. Booker's work is represented in the collections of more than forty public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the National Museum of African American History and Art, Washington, DC; The Studio Museum of Harlem, New York; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Booker was an Artist-in-Residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem (1995) and is a recipient of the Joan Mitchell Award (1995), a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant (2002), and Guggenheim Fellowship (2005), among others. Chakaia Booker lives and works in New York City and Allentown, PA.

Location:	M+B , 470 North Doheny Drive, Los Angeles, California 90048
Show Title:	<i>Chakaia Booker: FUTURE EQUITY</i>
Exhibition Dates:	March 27 – May 1, 2021
Opening Reception:	Saturday, March 27, 2021, 12 – 7 pm by appointment
Gallery Hours:	Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm, by appointment

For inquiries, please contact info@mbart.com.

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