



LAVAR MUNROE

Father Alone

December 5, 2020 - January 16, 2021

M+B

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M+B

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



LAVAR MUNROE *Father Alone*

December 5, 2020 – January 16, 2021

Opening Reception

Saturday, December 5 from 12 to 6 pm

**By appointment*

M+B is pleased to announce *Father Alone*, Lavar Munroe's first solo exhibition at the gallery. The exhibition features new monumental mixed-media paintings and runs from December 5, 2020 through January 16, 2021, with an opening reception on Saturday, December 5 from noon to 6 pm.

Borrowing from Ike and Tina Turner's song "Father Alone" (1974), this exhibition examines the vulnerabilities and expectations associated with single fatherhood. Having been raised in a single father home (with my father recently deceased) and now myself being a single father, I am interested in examining misconceptions, gender role combination, and celebrating heroism associated with being a single father.

This work capitalizes on nostalgic and autobiographical references – ranging from my childhood, my religious upbringings in the Bahamas, my relationship with my father, and my current role as a father. Notions of masculine paternal love, protection, loss and faith are examined throughout this work.

Religion is referenced often, as it played an important role in my upbringing. I question and make stealthy comments about Christian teachings, through coupling religious iconography with images of suggestive disasters, violence, abuse, death and grief. I employ a consistent palette of gold, white and ghostly transparencies, alluding to the degenerative journey between birth, death and the afterlife as understood through my Christian upbringing.

I have been developing a colony of anatomical sinew-like figures that I refer to as "Redbones." Comprised primarily of exposed muscle fibers, the figures evoke strength, power and resilience. They also reference a harmony and sameness of mankind once stripped of race markings such as skin.

— Lavar Munroe (2020)

M+B

Lavar Munroe is an interdisciplinary artist whose work encompasses painting, drawing, sculpture and installation art. Munroe was born and raised in the impoverished and often marginalized Grants Town community in the Bahamas. His work functions as a reflection of the environment where he grew up, drawing from memory the crude graffiti on the walls that surrounded his street. Munroe maps a personal journey of survival and trauma in a world of gang violence, drugs, murder, self-discovery, development and overcoming obstacles through self-determination. Though inspired by the past, his energetic and unapologetic visual language confronts contemporary society and the difficult relationships between authority and the oppressed.

Lavar Munroe (b. 1982, Nassau, Bahamas) earned his BFA from Savannah College of Art and Design in 2007 and his MFA from Washington University in 2013. In 2014, he was awarded a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Munroe was included in *Prospect.4: The Lotus in Spite of The Swamp*, the New Orleans triennial curated by Trevor Schoonmaker, and the 12th Dakar Biennale, curated by Simon Njami, in Senegal. In 2015, Munroe's work was featured in *All the World's Futures*, curated by Okwui Enwezor as part of the 56th Venice Biennale. Recent group shows include those at the Nasher Museum of Art in Durham; Perez Art Museum, Miami; National Gallery of Bahamas, Nassau; MAXXI Museum of Art, Rome; Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco; Virginia Museum of Modern Art, Virginia Beach; and The Drawing Center, New York. Munroe was awarded residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, MacDowell Colony, the Headlands Center for the Arts, Joan Mitchell Center, Thread: Artist Residency & Cultural Center, a project of the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation and was an inaugural Artists in Residence at the Norton Museum of Art. He is a recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. Lavar Munroe lives and works between Baltimore, Maryland and Nassau, Bahamas.

Location:	M+B , 612 North Almont Drive, Los Angeles, California 90069
Show Title:	<i>Lavar Munroe: Father Alone</i>
Exhibition Dates:	December 5, 2020 – January 16, 2021
Opening Reception:	Saturday, December 5, 12 – 6 pm, by appointment
Gallery Hours:	Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm, by appointment

For inquiries, please contact info@mbart.com.

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Lavar Munroe

FAITH HOPE & LOVE, 2020

acrylic, spray paint, mirror, beads, doll,
faux birds, plastic and staples on canvas
78 x 51 1/2 inches (198.1 x 130.8 cm)
(LMu.20.003.78)



Lavar Munroe

FAITH HOPE & LOVE, 2020

acrylic, spray paint, mirror, beads, doll,
faux birds, plastic and staples on canvas
78 x 51 1/2 inches (198.1 x 130.8 cm)
(LMu.20.003.78)





Lavar Munroe
FAITH HOPE & LOVE, 2020
(detail)



Lavar Munroe
FAITH HOPE & LOVE, 2020
(detail)



Lavar Munroe

Virgin and Child, 2020

acrylic, spray paint, mousetraps, bubble gum,
pearls, bath towel, thread and needle on canvas
70 1/2 x 40 1/2 inches (179.1 x 102.9 cm)
(LMu.20.002.70)



Lavar Munroe

Virgin and Child, 2020

acrylic, spray paint, mousetraps, bubble
gum, pearls, bath towel, thread and needle on canvas
70 1/2 x 40 1/2 inches (179.1 x 102.9 cm)
(LMu.20.002.70)





Lavar Munroe
Virgin and Child, 2020
(detail)



Lavar Munroe
Virgin and Child, 2020
(detail)



Lavar Munroe

Bathwater, 2020

dollar bills, sandwich bag, stem, staples,
blunt, spray paint and acrylic on canvas
83 1/2 x 68 1/2 inches (212.1 x 174 cm)
(LMu.20.001.83)





Lavar Munroe

Bathwater, 2020

dollar bills, sandwich bag, stem, staples,
blunt, spray paint and acrylic on canvas
83 1/2 x 68 1/2 inches (212.1 x 174 cm)
(LMu.20.001.83)



Lavar Munroe
Bathwater, 2020
(detail)



Lavar Munroe
Bathwater, 2020
(detail)



Lavar Munroe

Scripture Readings, 2008 - 2020
 marker and pencil on paper
 11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 21.6 cm)
 (LMu.20.009.11)



Lavar Munroe
Stand, 2008 - 2020
 marker and pencil on paper
 11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 21.6 cm)
 (LMu.20.007.11)



Lavar Munroe

Feeder, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper

16 3/4 x 11 inches (42.5 x 27.9 cm)

(LMu.20.014.16)



Lavar Munroe

Baby Doll, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper

11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 21.6 cm)

(LMu.20.005.11)



Lavar Munroe

Burial Ground, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper

11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 21.6 cm)

(LMu.20.006.11)

Lavar Munroe

Birthdays, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper

11 x 7 1/2 inches (27.9 x 19.1 cm)

(LMu.20.004.11)





Lavar Munroe

Duchess, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper
10 x 10 inches (25.4 x 25.4 cm)
(LMu.20.015.10)



Lavar Munroe

Feast, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper

7 1/2 x 11 inches (19.1 x 27.9 cm)

(LMu.20.012.07)



Lavar Munroe

Guard Dog, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper

11 x 8 1/2 inches (27.9 x 21.6 cm)

(LMu.20.011.11)

Metamorphosis, 2008 - 2020
marker and pencil on paper
11 x 8 1/4 inches (27.9 x 21 cm)
(LMu.20.008.11)



Lavar Munroe

Run Away, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper

8 1/2 x 11 inches (21.6 x 27.9 cm)

(LMu.20.013.08)



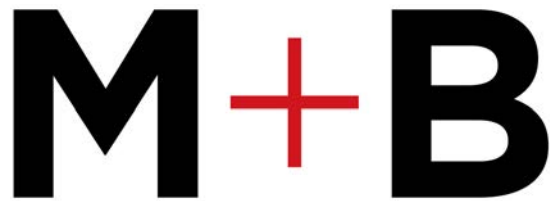
Lavar Munroe

Coronation, 2008 - 2020

marker and pencil on paper

11 x 8 inches (27.9 x 20.3 cm)

(LMu.20.010.11)



LAVAR MUNROE

BORN

1982, Nassau, Bahamas
Lives and works between Baltimore, MD and Nassau, Bahamas

EDUCATION

2016 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill, NC
2013 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine
2013 MFA Studio Art: Washington University St. Louis, St. Louis MO
2007 BFA Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 *Father Alone*, M+B Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Laird Street Apostles: Jack Bell Gallery, London

2019 *Strangers in the Night*: Jack Bell Gallery, London England

2018 *Lavar Munroe: Return - Magic Flight*, The National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas
Lavar Munroe: Son of the Soil: a 10 year Survey, The National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas
Lavar Munroe: Devil in a White City, Meadows Museum, Shreveport, LA
Lavar Munroe: Rudeboys Like We, Jack Bell Gallery, London, England
VOLTA NY: New York, NY

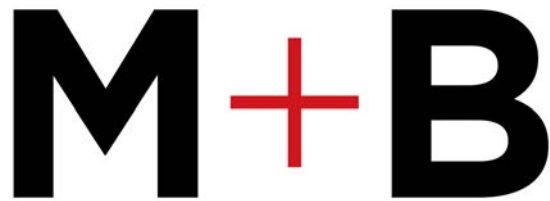
2017 *GUN DOGS*, Jack Bell Gallery, London, England
Never Again Human, NOMAD Brussels, Brussels, Belgium

2016 *DEVIL IN A WHITE CITY*, Jack Bell Gallery, London, England
Journey Elsewhere: Musings from a Boundless Zoo, Gutstien Gallery: Savannah, GA
Journey Elsewhere: Musings from a Boundless Zoo, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA

2015 *Zoo At The Edge of The World*, Art League of Houston, Houston, TX

2014 *Grants Town Trickster*, Jack Bell Gallery, London, England

2013 *Where Heroes Lay*, Emerge Art Fair, Washington DC
The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, Good Children Gallery New Orleans, LA

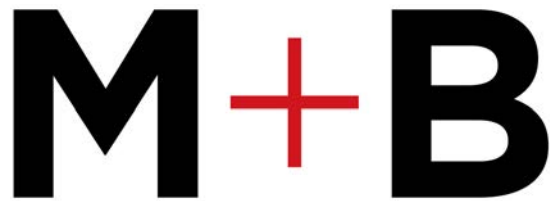


2011 *Strength and Struggle: Haiti Continued*, Dadian Gallery, Washington DC
INVASION: Popopstudios, Nassau, Bahamas

2010 *Yes We Can*, King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation, Savannah GA
LIFE after LIFE, The Central Bank, Nassau, Bahamas

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Kampala Biennale*, Kampala, Uganda
100 Drawings Now, The Drawing Center, New York, NY
SHOW ME THE SIGNS, Blum & Poe Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Shifting Gaze: A Reconstruction of The Black & Hispanic Body in Contemporary Art,
Virginia Museum Of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA
- 2019 *Ultrasanity: On Madness, Sanitation, Antipsychiatry and Resistance*, SAVVY
Contemporary, Berlin Germany
PAINTING IS ITS OWN COUNTRY, The Harvey Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC
When the Bough Breaks, 937 Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
Coffee, Rhum, Sugar & Gold: A Postcolonial Paradox, Museum Of African Diaspora, San
Francisco, CA
The Other Side of Now, Perez Art Museum, Miami Florida
Get Up Stand Up NOW, Somerset House, London England
- 2018 *Shifting Gaze: A Reconstruction of The Black & Hispanic Body in Contemporary Art*,
Mennello Museum of American Art, Orlando FL
Off Biennale Cairo: Something Else, Cairo, Egypt
Becoming American, Studio e (Seattle, WA) and English Camp (San Juan Island, WA)
African Mètrópolis MAXXI | Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Rome, Italy
The Eye Sees Not Itself, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Lavar Munroe & Rodrigo Valenzuela: Disobedience Jenkins Johnson Projects: Brooklyn
NY
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair: Pioneer Works, New York, NY
All the World's Futures, 56th Venice Art Biennale, Venice, Italy
Area 919, Nashar Museum of Art, Durham, NC
- 2017 *"Medium: Practices and Routes of Spirituality and Mysticism"* The National Art Gallery of
The Bahamas, Nassau Bahamas
Prospect New Orleans 4, New Orleans, LA
To Journey Where There Is No North Star?, The Museum of Contemporary African
Diasporan Arts, New York
Devil in Disguise, Jack Bell Gallery, London, England
Afriques Capitales, La Villette, Paris, France
- 2016 *Viewpoints*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

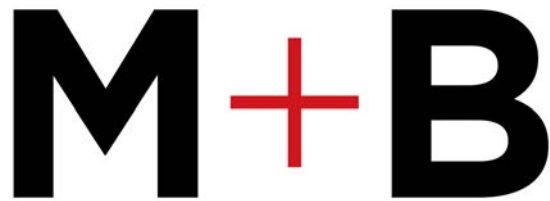


Ontology of Influence: Ron Leax and Alumni Exhibition, Des Lee Gallery, St. Louis, MO
Material Matters: Water, Pigment, and Light Van Every, Smith Galleries at Davidson
College, Davidson, NC
12TH Dakar Biennale, Senegal, West Africa

- 2015 *drawing: rachel farbiarz, lavar munroe, deb sokolow*, G Fine Art, Washington D.C.
The Nothing That Is, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2014 *Fete*, Martha Collective, Johannesburg, South Africa
Made in Africa and the Diaspora, NOMAD Gallery (ARTHAUS Miami), Miami Shores, FL
The Footprints Go This Way and Then They Return, NOMAD Gallery (Emerge Art Fair):
Washington D.C.
Cash and Carry, Good Children Gallery, New Orleans, LA
And Then: Varied Approaches to Narrative, Marlboro Gallery, Prince George's
Community College, Largo, MD
- 2013 *Forty Years*, The National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, Nassau Bahamas
On | Off the Wall, Acadiana Center for the Arts, Lafayette, LA
MFA Thesis Show: Kemper Museum, St. Louis, MO
1000 Words, Acadiana Center for The Arts, Lafayette, LA
- 2011 *Forever Forged. Forever Becoming: African and African-Caribbean Design Diaspora*
Festival, London, England
About Change: The World Bank, Washington DC and Paris
- 2010 *National Exhibit 5*: National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, Nassau Bahamas
City States: 2010 Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool England
Sudden and Violent Change: The Hub, Nassau Bahamas

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2018 Indiana University SoAAD Travel Fund Recipient
Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Sam Fox School of Art and Design: Washington
University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- 2016 Benny Andrews Fellow – The MacDowell Colony
- 2015 Postdoctoral Award for Research Excellence, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill,
NC
- 2014 Finalist: Headlands Center for the Arts Chiaro Award
The Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity Fellowship, University of North
Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2013 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant

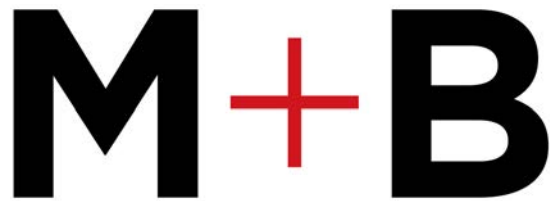


Mary Beth Hassan Fund
Travel Grant: Washington Univ. St. Louis

- 2012 Joan Mitchel Foundation Scholarship
Ernestine Betsberg Scholarship Recipient: Washington Univ. St. Louis
Arthur Osver Scholarship Recipient: Washington Univ. St. Louis
- 2011 Teaching Assistantship: Washing University, St. Louis
The Mildred Suibur Dennis Memorial Scholarship Recipient: Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri
Kraus Family Foundation Award
The National Endowment for the Arts Grant: Nassau, Bahamas
Nominee: Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Graduate Scholarship
- 2009 The Central Bank Award: Central Bank of The Bahamas Art Competition/Exhibition
Artist Grant Recipient: Yes We Can: A New Vision for the Arts, Savannah, GA

VISITING ARTIST AND LECTURES

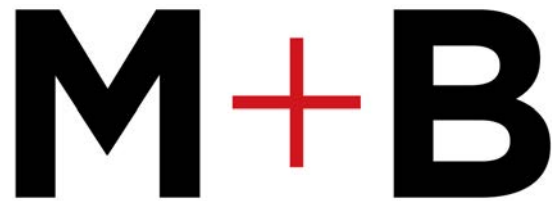
- 2019 Visiting Artist: Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont
Visiting Artist and Talk: Pratt Institute, New York NY
Visiting Artist and Talk: University of Pennsylvania
- 2018 Visiting Artist and Talk: Studio Art Program at America University, Washington DC
Visiting Artist Professor of Paintings: Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Visiting Artist and Talk: UC Berkley, Berkeley, CA
Visiting Artist and Talk: Cranbrook Museum of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 2017 Panelist: RACE AND REPRESENTATION IN CONTEMPORARY INSTITUTIONS, EXPO
Panelist: IN/SITU CHRONOTOPOLOGICS, EXPO Chicago, Chicago IL
- 2017 Visiting Artist and Talk: Flying Horse Editions (University of Central Florida), Orlando, FL
- 2016 Visiting Artist and Talk: University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
Panelist: 'FORM-FUNCTION-FREESTYLE, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA
- 2015 Artist Talk: Zoo at the edge of the World: A Continuum of the Exotic, Art League of Houston, Houston, TX
Artist Talk: Zoo at the edge of the World: A Continuum of the Exotic, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2014 Visiting Artist: University of North Carolina Greenville, Greenville, NC
Visiting Artist: Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
Lecture: Lavar Munroe Presents Lavar Munroe: Penn State University School of Art, State College, PA



- 2011 Visiting Artist Lecture: School of Art and Design at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC
- 2011 Lecture: Strength and Struggle: Haiti Continued, Dadian Gallery, Washington DC
- 2010 Lecture: Yes We Can: Beach Institute, Savannah, GA
Visiting Artist: Redefining the line: Lyford Cay School, Nassau, Bahamas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2016 Tyler Starr, Exhibition Catalog, *Material Matters: Water, Pigment And Light*, p. 18. 2016
Dakar Biennale Catalog, *REENCHANTMENTS: The City in the Blue Daylight*, "Lavar Munroe Bahamas", p. 230-233. 2016
- 2015 Venice Biennale Catalog, *All The World's Futures: Biennale Arte 2015* p. 518-19. 2015
Betsy Huete, *Glasstire Magazine*, "Lavar Munroe: Zoo at the Edge of the World," September 4, 2015
Molly Glentzer, *Houston Chronicle*, "Perspective hangs by a thread or two in these shows," August 28, 2015
Claudia Tvrdon, *Artcollector*, "Die Picks der Profis," June/July Issue, p. 36. 2015
Nicole Smythe-Johnson, *Caribbean Beat*, "The Anti-expected: Lavar Munroe," Issue 133, June 2015
Kim-ling Humphrey, *The Culture Trip*, "Lavar Munroe | The Artist-Trickster," April 2015
Daria Daniel, "Human Zoos at VOLTA, Brought to You by Artist Lavar Munroe," March 4, 2015
Amanda Coulson, *The Nassau Guardian*, "Bahamian artist to be shown at Venice Biennale," May 2, 2015
- 2014 Lavar Munroe, *SPACE/LAUNCH*, "Shit for Brains," Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, 2014, ed. of 500, p.15. Newsprint
PRŌTOCOLLUM 2014/15, "Global Perspectives on Visual Vocabulary," Lavar Munroe, Bahamas, pg. 161 - 163 (DICKERSBACH KUNSTVERLAG, Berlin)
Michael O'Sullivan, *The Washington Post*, "(e)merge art fair at the Capitol Skyline Hotel: Making A Return," October 2, 2014
Stacia Yeapanis, *Other Peoples Pixels*, "Other Peoples Pixels Interviews Lavar Munroe," 2014
- 2013 Alicia DeBrincat, *ARTFILE Magazine*, "Myth and Transformation: Lavar Munroe in conversation with Alicia DeBrincat," February 16, 2013
The Nassau Guardian, "Where Heroes Lay," September 21, 2013
ARC Magazine, "Lavar Munroe, Where Heroes Lay: (e)merge Art Fair," September 20, 2013
Clelia Coussonnet, *Uprising Caribbean Art*, "Exclusive Interview: Lavar Munroe," April 2013



New American Painting, "MFA Annual", Issue #105, 2013

Aaron Nachmann, *Beautiful Savage Magazine*, "Profile: Lavar Munroe," February 26, 2013

- 2012 Dr. Erica James, "The Dawn Davies Collection," 2012
Ines Azar, "About Change: in Latin America and the Caribbean," 2012, p. 275
- 2011 *The Washington Post*, "Strength and Struggle: Haiti Revisited," August 19, 2011 p. 40
Sonia Farmer, *The Nassau Guardian*, "Getting Read for An Invasion," July 2, 2011
Ja. A. Jahannes, "Lavar Munroe: Portrait Of A Twenty-First Century Artist," *ARC Inc*, pg. 48-61, August 2011
- 2010 *Savannah Tribune*, "Beach Institute Presents New Works by Lavar Munroe," April 14, 2010
Allison Harsh, *The Savannah Morning News*, "The spirit of Haiti," April 24, 2010
- 2008 Thea Rutherford, *The Nassau Guardian Newspaper*, "The Wait is Over," 2008

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas