



Ryan's Featured Artist

Rakeem Cunningham

Rakeem Cunningham's series of painted collages are a vibrant and frenetic reflection of contemporary society—as seen through the lens of a Queer, Black artist. Material, Manga, and meaning intersect in this series of works, as fractured emotionality is explored through color, texture, and shape.

Body and battle are at the forefront of Rakeem's collection, echoing the Queered hybridization and segmentation experienced across contemporary macro-cultures. The paintings subvert the “comic book” cover—and our own “reality”—by exploiting the eyes' want for order and pattern. The Queering of the images is further enhanced by the repeated use of part-for-whole imagery across both the “found” and created images used within the series.

Rakeem is a visual artist and photographer based out of Los Angeles. Born in 1992, his work explores themes of self-acceptance, Queer and identity politics, and the navigation of body perception in a Queer landscape. Cunningham studied Design and Media Arts at UCLA and is a current member of Montevista Projects in Los Angeles.

Painted Collages. Mixed media on panel. Approximately 16x11, \$500 each. The artist invites viewers to touch the works.