

MEKIA MACHINE

Bio

Mekia Machine is a Jamaican-born artist who was raised in the USA for much of her life; she has a multidisciplinary practice that ranges across painting, sound, music and performance. Her work investigates aesthetic and societal norms through conceptions of time, identity, memory, and place, specifically in cultures where loss and trauma is a substantial part of daily life. In addition to exhibiting, Machine was one of the winners of This Art is Your Art, 2016 with Artsy, The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and the White House Historical Association, for her short film on painting artist Alma Thomas's portrait which was part of a 4-month installation and she was invited to join First Lady Michelle Obama at the Celebration of 20th Century Art in the White House. Additionally, Machine was awarded the fully funded Liquitex | Just Imagine Residency in 2021. Mekia graduated from Columbia University with a BA in Visual Arts (2019), and is currently living and working in Harlem, New York City, with her two children Taylor and Nola

Contact:

Website: www.mekiamachine.com

Email: info@mekiamachine.com

Instagram: [@mekiamachine](https://www.instagram.com/mekiamachine)

CV

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, New York B.A., Visual Arts, 2019

AWARDS

Program for Academic Leadership at Columbia University

One of five winners of "This Art is you Art", Artsy, 2016

The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and the White House Historical Association.

Twentieth Century Contemporary Art in The White House, Hosted by Michelle Obama,
The White House, Washington D.C.

RESIDENCIES

BAAR Art Journey, Artist Residency, Berlin, Germany, 2022

Liquitex | 2021 Just Imagine Residency, Fully Funded, East Orange, NJ, 2021

HONORS

Member of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society

Dean's List, Columbia University

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2022

Pantone Black, 11:Eleven Gallery, Washington, D.C.

Peel Off The Surface, The Tribeca Loft, New York,, New York

Electric, Art Car Boot Fair, Smithson Gallery, London, UK

w/o surrender, w/o stopping, Now You See, Ludlow Coffee Supply, New York, New York

Now You See, Blue Gallery, New York, New York

BAAR Art Journey, Artist Residency, Berlin, Germany

Vernissage, Stiftung Starke, Berlin Germany

Berlin Files, Bode Projects, Berlin, Germany

2021

Flora And Fauna, Art Car Boot Fair, Smithson Gallery, London, UK

Philoché Collection Artists, Chicago, IL

Still the sky is blue, Smithson Gallery, London & Bristol, UK

2021 Liquitex Residents, Manufactures Village Open Studio, East Orange, New Jersey

Queen & Country, Art Car Boot Fair, Smithson Gallery, London, UK

Polychromatic, Blue Gallery, New York, New York

2020

Mekia Machine, Private Virtual Auction, New York, New York

SPARK Art Exhibition, El Barrio's ARTSpace, New York, New York

New Black Future Art Exhibition, a collector's residence, New York, New York

2019

Negative Space Art Exhibition, The Black Un-Aesthetic, Fed 22 Sulz Parlor, Barnard College, New York, New York

Harlem Art Walk, Harlem, New York, New York

2016

This Art is Your Art, Artsy, The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and the White House Historical Association, The White House, Washington D.C.

2017

America Now, Salt Studios, Brooklyn, New York, New York

Visual Arts Thesis Exhibition (Fall Semester), LeRoy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, New York, New York

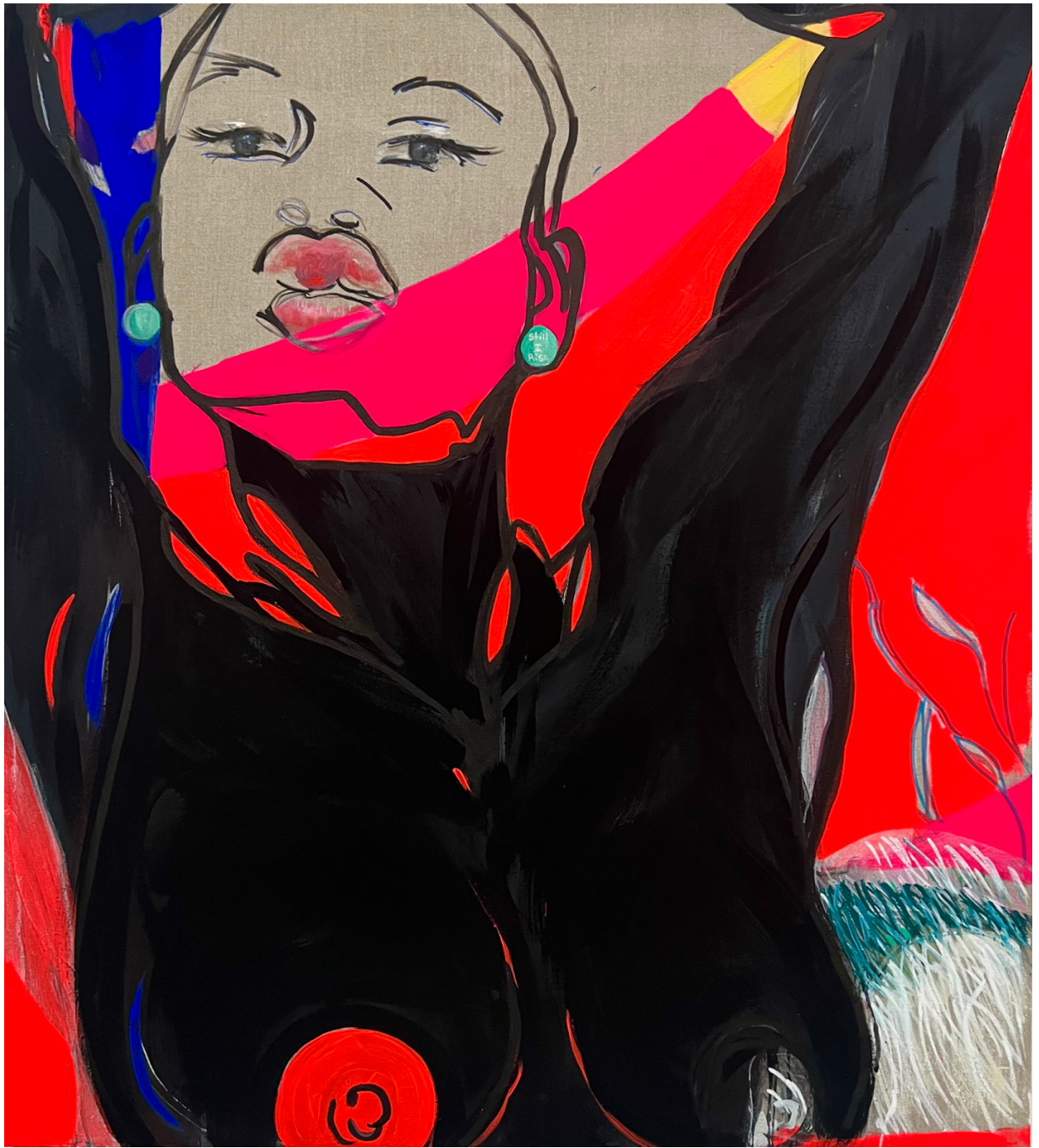
2018

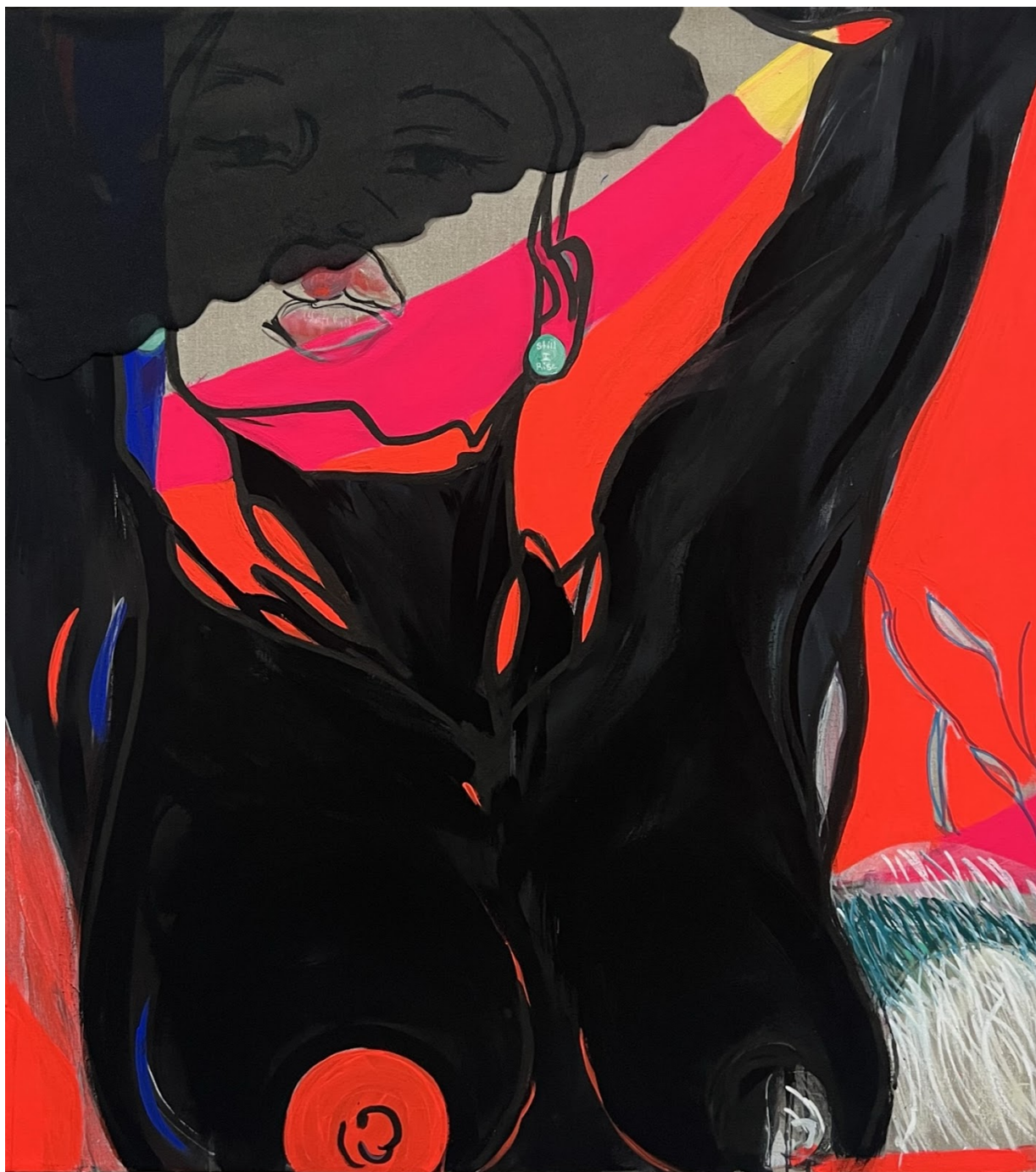
Visual Arts Thesis Exhibition (Spring Semester), LeRoy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, New York, New York

The Unspeakable, A Dark Show, Pfizer Building, Brooklyn, New York

Series Statement:

Portrait of Symbolism is a new painting and installation series being explored by the artist, which aims to represent a synthesis of figuration, form and feeling with live experiences.





Portrait of Symbolism --The Fire Starter Veiled or Unveiled (FIRST)

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe, charcoal, pen, chiffon fabric on linen

36 X 34 inches (91.44 X 86.36 cm)

2022

\$7,500



Portrait of Symbolism — *Play Subject Primed, Pink*

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe, charcoal, pen, chiffon fabric on linen

68 X 58 inches (91.44 X 86.36 cm)

2022

\$6,500

Series Statement:

Dead Lovers is a series of paintings consisting of a single image, the headless body of a woman wading in water. In actuality it is of a naked swimmer photographed from below, head above water. The image, at first glance, triggered memories and questions of the death of my childhood best-friend and first love. What happened to her body? She drowned 23 years ago trying to come to America illegally.

Compositionally, each painting represents a snapshot of memories at once, reading like the pattern of my habitual rumination--a single issue or thought reexamined to no end in my mind. The overlapping and falling, floating and dissipating of the body is the awful question I ask inwardly, of how did it happen? How did she fall? Where is she now? How does it look? What happened to her body? I was 11 years old when I saw her last before migrating to the US. I don't remember her face enough to paint it. However, I remember her body and how it felt, so drawing on a memory of a feeling, and my increasing obsession with painting dead people-- family, friends, ancestors who've died leaving no photographic evidence of their existence, over time an image emerges in my mind, at times triggered by a portrait. Allowing myself to sit with these painful thoughts of her brutal death contrasted with memories of a simple yet colorful life as island girls, I could finally mourn her. This series is an attempt to resurrect and spend time with an old friend as we did as kids.



Dead Lovers No. 2

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

35 X 35 inches (88.9 X 88.9 cm)

2021

\$4,500



Dead Lovers No. 6

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

72 X 50 inches (182.88 X 127 cm)

2022

\$12,000



Dead Lovers No. 12

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

66 X 48 inches (167.64 X 121.92 cm)

2022

\$9,000