

Mickalene Thomas at Art Basel Unlimited 2017**Booth U16****June 15–18, 2017****Hall 1, Messe Basel, Messeplatz 10, 4005 Basel, Switzerland**

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Do I Look Like a Lady? (Comedians and Singers), 2016, two-channel HD video projection and installation, duration: 12 minutes, 33 seconds, dimensions variable; each projection: 72 x 132 in, 182.9 x 335.3 cm. Installation view: Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 2016. Photo: Jeff McLane. © Mickalene Thomas / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York. Courtesy the artist, Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong, and Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris.

Comprised of a limited-edition video and installation, *Mickalene Thomas' Do I Look Like a Lady? (Comedians and Singers)* collages together clips of female comedians and singers, shifting across the screen in an unpredictable, ever-changing pattern. Among the performers featured are Josephine Baker, Jackie "Moms" Mabley, Wanda Sykes, and Whitney Houston. The 12-minute, two-channel video presents a piercing, moving, and at times uproarious portrait of the diverse expressions of womanhood, building on Thomas' ongoing reconsideration of black female identity.

The immersive installation is meant to function as a space for viewers to experience inclusion, contemplation, and initiate communication. Furnishings are upholstered in brightly colored, vintage pattern fabrics, recalling Thomas' childhood surroundings and her familial textiles. Woven into the layout, are faux plants and carefully curated stacks of books, from past and present, relating to feminism and African American culture. This work highlights the artist's increasing focus on private, domestic spaces and their relation to a broader cultural framework.

The works have been included in Thomas' solo exhibitions at the Aspen Art Museum, CO; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; and Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA.

About the Artist

Mickalene Thomas (b. 1971, Camden, NJ; lives and works in Brooklyn, NY) received a BFA from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, in 2000 and an MFA from Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT, in 2002. Solo exhibitions of her work have been organized at The Dayton Art Institute, OH (forthcoming, 2018); Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA (forthcoming, 2018); Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, CA (forthcoming, 2018); Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA (forthcoming, 2017); Newcomb Art Museum, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA (2017); Spelman

College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA (2017); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2016); Aspen Art Museum, CO (2016); Aperture Foundation, New York (2016); George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY (2014); Brooklyn Museum, New York (2012-13); Santa Monica Museum of Art (2012); Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2012); Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (2011); and La Conservera Centro de Arte Contemporaneo, Ceuti, Spain (2009). Thomas' work is in numerous international public and private collections, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Art Institute of Chicago; MoMA PS1, New York; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Yale University Art Collection, New Haven, CT; and Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. Thomas has been awarded multiple prizes and grants, including the USA Francie Bishop Good & David Horvitz Fellow (2015); Anonymous Was A Woman Award (2013); Brooklyn Museum Asher B. Durand Award (2012); and the Timehri Award for Leadership in the Arts (2010).

About Lehmann Maupin

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

About Galerie Nathalie Obadia

Since 1993 in Paris and 2008 in Brussels, Galerie Nathalie Obadia has been exhibiting international emerging and established artists such as Rina Banerjee, Valérie Belin, Patrick Faigenbaum, Lorna Simpson and Jessica Stockholder. The gallery was joined in the past years by Brook Andrew, Edgar Arceneaux, Fabrice Hyber, Laure Prouvost, Andres Serrano, and Mickalene Thomas. Involved in the rediscovery of emblematical artists such as Martin Barré, Josep Grau-Garriga, Shirley Jaffe, Eugène Leroy, Sarkis and Agnès Varda, the gallery also accompanies the artists into numerous institutional exhibitions in France and abroad.

About Art Basel Unlimited

Curated by New York-based curator Gianni Jetzer, Unlimited is Art Basel's pioneering exhibition platform for projects that transcend the classical art-show stand, including massive sculpture and paintings, video projections, large-scale installations, and live performances.

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