

# MONYA ROWE GALLERY

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## For Immediate Release

## RAHN MARION

### *Medieval Jazz*

May 16 - June 14, 2024

Opening reception: Thursday, May 16, 6-8 PM

**Monya Rowe Gallery** is pleased to announce the first New York solo exhibition by Memphis-based artist **Rahn Marion** titled *Medieval Jazz*. The opening reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, May 16, 6-8 PM.

Marion's paintings incorporate a wide range of iconography, art history, American history, mythology and personal elements. *Hunter and His Dog* (2024) is a queer reinterpretation of a man proudly posing, firm buttocks to the viewer, in a Medieval military uniform. A sartorial preference chosen for the flamboyant and feminine design. His anachronistic hair is styled in a contemporary hi-top fade ala Kid 'N Play in the 90's, but also alludes to an Egyptian headdress. A faithful dog companion is positioned nearby in an adoring pose. A sword in one hand, and a flag in the other suggests ownership, or reclaiming, of the land. Art history is abundant with society portraits of white wealthy men modeling with their hunting dog in what is perceived as a prestigious atmosphere reserved only for the Leisure Class. Reclaiming and subverting common tropes is a symbol of power and rebellion. As Marion deconstructs Colonialism, American history, particularly the South, and preconceived societal notions about gender, he is changing the narrative and confronting oppression.

The artist was raised in Mississippi and Tennessee, and still lives in the American South. The influence of Folk Art and Gee's Bend quilts, founded in Alabama, is evident in the patterns that embellish Marion's work. Along with a Southern influence, Marion also looks to art history for inspiration, particularly Egyptian and Medieval Art. Although largely concerned with sociopolitical themes, Marion's approach is playful, optimistic and poetic.

**Rahn Marion** (b. 1993, Memphis, TN) received a BFA from *Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)*, Baltimore, MD. Recent exhibitions include *The Electric Shed*, Nashville, TN; *New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA)*, *Tone Gallery*, Miami, FL; and *Red Arrow Gallery*, Nashville, TN. Marion's work is included in the upcoming summer group exhibition at *Monya Rowe Gallery*. The artist lives and works in Memphis, TN.

#### Gallery hours

Tuesday – Saturday 12–6 PM

#### Summer gallery hours start June 1

Tuesday – Thursday 12-5 PM

Friday 12-3 PM

And by appointment