

MONYA ROWE GALLERY

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For Immediate Release

April 2024

Monya Rowe Gallery is pleased to announce representation of Memphis-based artist **Rahn Marion**.

Rahn Marion's paintings incorporate a wide range of iconography, art history, American history, mythology and personal elements.

Marion's "Portrait of a 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 (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 will be on view at *Monya Rowe Gallery* in the upcoming summer group exhibition, and in a solo exhibition opening in May 2024. The artist lives and works in Memphis, TN.

Gallery hours

Tuesday – Saturday 12–6 PM