

Atmosphere of Certain Uncertainty

A Solo Exhibition by
Devin B. Johnson

Held in the Main Gallery
September 21st through November 16th
Opening Reception: September 21st 7-10PM

About The Exhibition

The work presented in *The Atmosphere of Certain Uncertainty* was created in response to Frantz Fanon's 1952 novel "Black Skin White Masks", in which Fanon attempts to break down and conceptualize the contemporary black male psyche. Johnson metaphorically reinterprets the "white mask" as white socks that serves as a reminder of that assimilation we walk into everyday just as much as the mask, as implied by Fanon.

Artist Notes

I wasn't aware of my blackness until someone told me that I was different. For me, the contrast of white against black skin speaks to a type double consciousness we navigate through everyday. In the series "White Nike Socks on Black Skin", I simply wanted to attach these concepts and ideas to a classic LA convention such as slides and socks. The bodies present in the work are always a non-violent body, a body that just wants to simply be.

Devin B. Johnson

Johnson is a multi-disciplinary artist living in Brooklyn. He works primarily in the language of painting. Johnson's work is based on fragmentation and reassembling of socio-cultural structures. He often paints from sourced images, urban landscapes, and a lexicon of familiar experiences. Johnson combines examinations of the black aesthetic, through gestural mark making and uncanny imagery. The paintings are an amalgam of exterior and interior moments of the black body within liminal spaces. Johnson is inspired by the textural quality of urbanity in which the materiality of the paint imitates the textual surfaces of facades found in the landscape. Those tactile moments in the landscape are often negotiated within paintings, sculptures, sound and mixed media collages. Through gestural mark making and uncanny imagery the figures both address a type of clarity and a type of erasure. His compositions speak to the fragmented nature of memory and how it is reshaped when it is revisited. The background and foreground of the paintings become heterogeneous hovering between the figurative and the abstract. Johnson obtained his BA in Fine Arts from the California State University of Channel Islands (2015) and received a Masters of Fine Arts at Pratt institute (2019). Devin B. Johnson is one of 16 artists from around the world selected for the inaugural year of the Black Rock Senegal residency program in March 2020. He has shown abroad and has shown in various group shows across Los Angeles including a recent group show this summer with Nicodim Gallery Trans World (2019). Devin B. Johnson was awarded the recent honor of being featured in the Northeast and MFA issue of New American Paintings (2019).



Lightness of Being (84 Degrees)

2019

Oil paint, oil stick, spray paint, collage on canvas

80 x 70in





Edges of the Mass Arise from the Femur

2019

Oil paint, oil stick, spray paint, collage on canvas

78 x 72in



Internal Sunshine of the Body's Mind

2019

Oil paint, oil stick, spray paint, collage on canvas

56 x 54in

Ashy and Classy

2019

Oil paint, oil stick, spray paint on canvas

40 x 50in



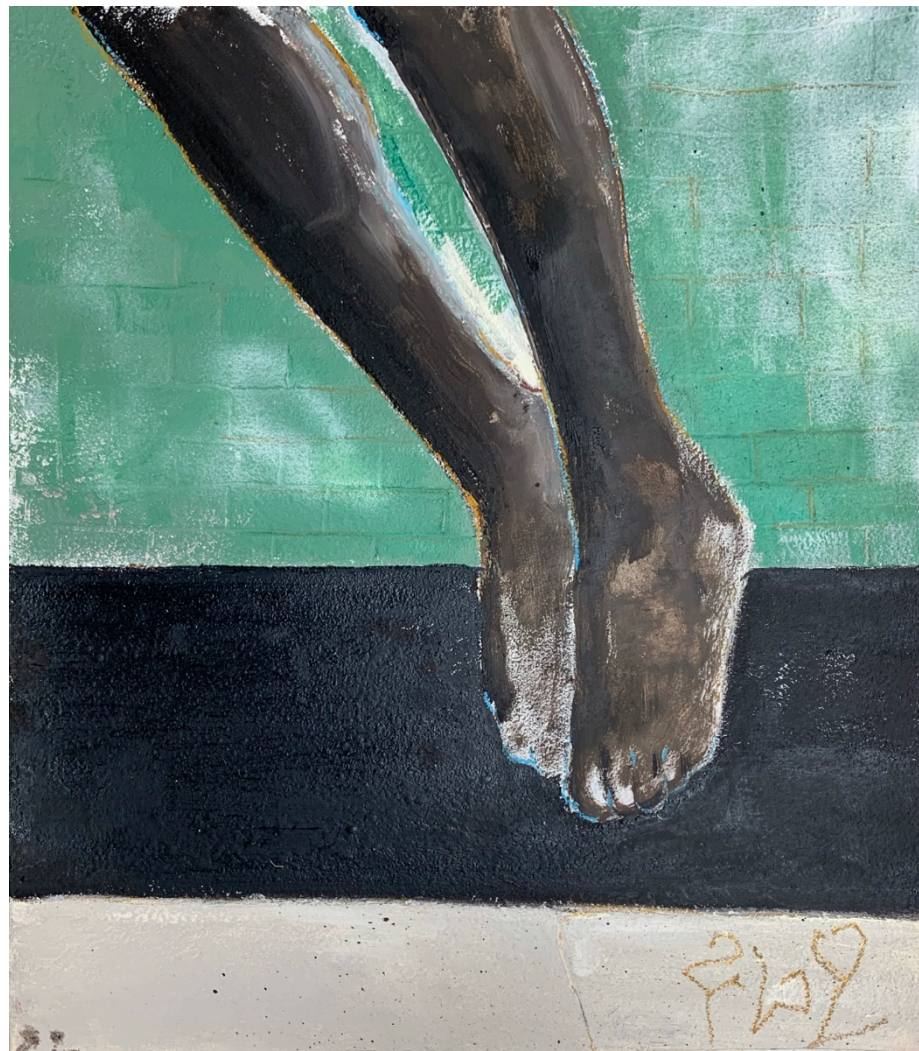
Black Slate
2019
Oil paint and spray paint on canvas
46 x 43in



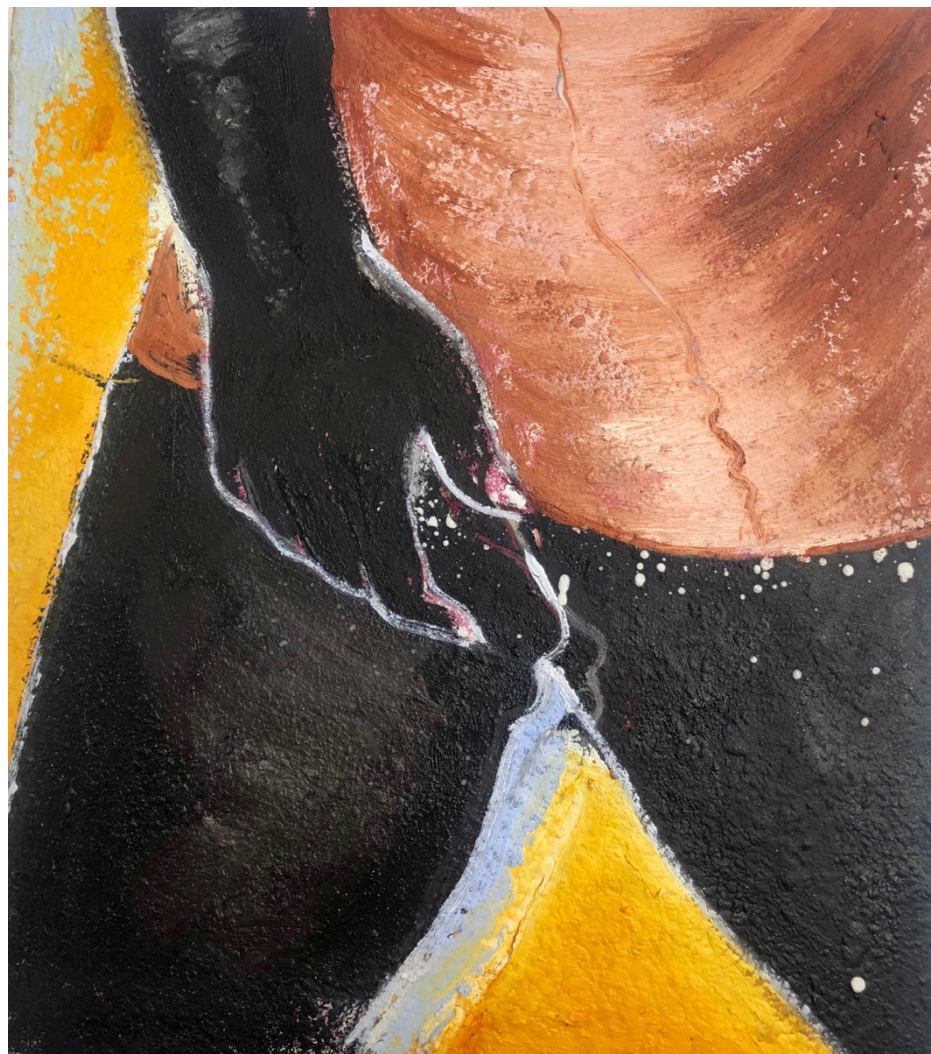
Rise Above (Live)
2019
Oil and pastel paint on paper (Framed)
26 x 30in



Rise Above (Fly)
2019
Oil and pastel paint on paper (Framed)
26 x 30in



Walk the Walk 2
2019
Oil and pastel paint on canvas
15 x 17in



Walk the Walk
2019
Oil and pastel paint on canvas
9 x 12in

