

KOHN GALLERY

JARVIS BOYLAND

Born in Memphis, TN

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

Jarvis Boyland navigates intersections of black identity through portraiture. Based on photographic images which the artist then reconfigures to create specific compositions, his paintings focus on queer men of color within intimate spaces, sensitively highlighting the nuances of these complex interpersonal relationships, identities, and locales. Boyland received his BFA from the University of Memphis in 2017. In summer 2018, he attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME; and is currently the Artist-In-Residence for the Arts + Public Life and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics & Culture at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (2018-2019). Recent exhibitions include Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL (2018); Zevitas Marcus Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2018); and Blanc Gallery, Chicago, IL (2018).

I feel the need to explore the complexities of both blackness and queerness, and the ways in which their intersections have shaped my experience of loving and grieving—pain and pleasure. Themes in my work stem from highly charged and disjointed emotions as I come to terms with self-identity and unpack my interpersonal sentiments towards men. The process of rejecting my southern, conservative, and religious upbringing has shaped the evolution of my practice. Images of lifeless black bodies, consequences of injustice, violence and disease are traumatizing. I want, instead, to question what it means for the black body to be in repose—leisurely, even limp.

My work navigates intersections of black identity through portraiture. Caught between the rock of racism in queer communities and the hard place of homophobia and heterosexism in black communities, my paintings focus on queer men of color within intimate spaces. I am interested in the domestic space as the foundation of social ideologies. I think of the black home as an incubator that molds the facade of black masculinity.

Sensitively rendered, I emphasize the idealization of intimacy and favor the nuances of depicting men who show simultaneous moments of confidence, charisma, apprehension, and insecurity within these secluded spaces. Based on photographs—my paintings are embedded with complex sentiments, memories, essence, the figures and objects that inform my compositions become abstracted in the transcription of information. The correspondence between the two mediums, for me, expresses the awkwardness and discomfort felt in both fond and deeply intimate relationships.

--Jarvis Boyland

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EDUCATION

2017 Bachelor of Fine Arts | Art History Minor
University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
Magna Cum Laude

EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Viewing Room*, Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL
Cosmic Traffic Jam, Zevitas Marcus Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Intimate Encounters, Blanc Gallery, Chicago, IL

2017 *As I Am*, curated by Kathryn Cua, Sager Braudis Gallery, Columbia, MO
Synecdoche, BFA Thesis Exhibition, The Martha and
Robert Fogelman Galleries of Contemporary Art, Memphis, TN
NCUR Visual Art Exhibition, The Martha and Robert Fogelman Galleries of
Contemporary Art, Memphis, TN
34th Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Art Museum of the University of
Memphis, Memphis, TN

2016 *DO IT! AMUM*, Memphis, TN
Best of Memphis, Box Gallery, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
33rd Annual Juried Student Exhibition, The Martha and Robert Fogelman
Galleries of Contemporary Art, Memphis, TN

AWARDS

2015-17 Andrew W. Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship, Art Institute of
Chicago, Chicago, IL
Department of Art Creative Achievement Award, University of Memphis,
Memphis, TN

2016 RiverArtsFest Scholarship
Frances F. Austin Art Scholarship
Best of Show Award, Best of Memphis, Memphis, TN
Merit Award, 33rd Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Memphis, TN

2014 Donald K. Carson Leadership Scholarship

RESIDENCIES

2018-19 Artist-In-Residence Arts + Public Life and University of Chicago (CSRPC)

2018 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

2017 ACRE Residency, Steuben, WI