

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Sakhile&Me exhibits new series of paintings by Tajh Rust

The artist's first exhibition in Germany shows works influenced by his experience as an artist-in-residency at Black Rock Senegal

October 25, 2019

Frankfurt/Main, Germany – Sakhile&Me is pleased to present Eve - a solo show encompassing eight paintings by Tajh Rust that will run from 31 October until 21 December 2019 and is the artist's first exhibition in Germany as well as his inaugural show with Sakhile&Me.

In Eve, Tajh Rust introduces a new series of figurative oil on canvas paintings influenced by the artist's experiences during his residency at Black Rock Senegal in Dakar. The title is a play on the word "eve", referencing the time of day (eve-ning), the beginning point of an observed event (New Year's Eve), or the name of the biblical character in the Garden of Eden. The various meanings of the word, each suggesting action, the anticipation of action, or the reflection on an action that has already taken place, conjures up a feeling of expectation for the viewer in each painting.

Tajh Rust captures a strong sense of the people he paints, paying attention to their surroundings - whether indoors, outdoors or in an unmarked context or background - as an elemental part of depicting his subjects. In the painting Tabasky, for instance, six women are gathered together in a living room. Three of them are seated on one end of a long couch and in conversation with one another, while two are at the other end of the couch with the last woman standing to the far right of the room smiling and overlooking the gathering. Two windows in the room open out to a sky blended in hues of blue, purple, orange, yellow, and pink, suggesting the scene could be unfolding at dusk or evening time. This recurring allusion to motion and the passing of time invites the audience to bear witness to the idea of a much-awaited happening or event.

Tajh Rust (b. 1989) is a visual artist based in New York and New Haven and a recent MFA graduate from the School of Art at Yale University (2019). Rust received his bachelor's degree in Painting and Film from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York and he was in the inaugural group of artists participating in the Black Rock Senegal artist residency in August 2019. Since 2011, Rust's work has been exhibited at galleries and institutions like the August Wilson African American Cultural Center in Pittsburgh, the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA) in Brooklyn, the Bronx Art Space, Rush Arts Philadelphia, and Artspace in New Haven.

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About the gallery

Sakhile&Me is a contemporary art gallery based in downtown Frankfurt working with emerging and established international artists, creative entrepreneurs and curators, with a particular focus on Africa and its many diasporas. The gallery's two founders, Sakhile Matlhare and Daniel Hagemeyer, received bachelor's degrees from Hamilton College and master's degrees from the University of Sydney. Matlhare then pursued a doctoral degree at Northwestern University focusing on how contemporary artists work alongside curators, art historians, and other art experts in the gatekeeping process, within and beyond the rubric of contemporary African art. Hagemeyer has worked with his father, Achim Hagemeyer (Kunsthandel Hagemeyer), for the past four years, specializing in German Expressionist and classical modern art.

410 words. 2.357 characters.

Opening hours

Tuesday - Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm; Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm; by appointment.

Image Material

Tajh Rust. 2019. Portrait. **File name:** tajh-rust-large.jpg. **Caption:** Tajh Rust.

Tajh Rust. *In the Garden*. 2019. Oil on canvas. 137x183cm. **File name:** tajh-rust-in-the-garden-large.jpg. **Caption:** Tajh Rust: In the Garden (2019).

Tajh Rust. *Tabasky*. 2019. Oil on canvas. 107x198cm. **File name:** tajh-rust-tabasky-large.jpg. **Caption:** Tajh Rust: Tabasky (2019).

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