

MONTI8

LANISE HOWARD – CHAMELEON

Opening:

6th July

Through 31st July

Monti8Vista

MONTI8 is delighted to announce “**Lanise Howard –Chameleon**“, first solo show at the gallery. *Chameleon* starts a new project of MONTI8 called VISTA, born to host special exhibitions, which will enrich the gallery programme.

Lanise Howard’s practice focuses on spirituality censorship and assimilation as well as hidden or marginal stories expressed through a mixture of realistic and digital style. The core of her research, is still based on her experience as a woman of color in today’s society.

She chooses to paint black bodies in apparently sacred locations, always related with a luxurious flora, to investigate her roots. Her ancestors’ approach to nature before slavery, in fact, was built on a strong and deep respect for earth, sun and stars, and they actually used to worship these natural elements.

Her portraits and allegorical representations have a strong narrative structure, mainly based on contemporary climate. Paintings represent the way Howard creates a meditative space and an alternative reality. As an African American woman, she aims to re-write history, trying to change the ones who constitute the main characters of it, according to traditional canons.

The juxtaposition of digital and analogous languages are meant to highlight this process of re-writing new narrative which Howard sets in a non-defined time, between present and past. For this reason, the coexistence of pixels, or digital distortions, and realistic bodies gains a significative value, highlighting this critical rework on history.

BIOGRAPHY

Lanise Howard (b.1933, Southern California, US), is an African American figurative artist, currently based in Los Angeles, US. After the graduation at the Los Angeles City College, Howard achieved in 2020 the BFA from the Otis College of Arts and Design. She has been selected as an Axa Art Prize finalist, in 2019.