

## UMAR RASHID

Nel 2003, dopo essersi trasferito da Chicago, IL a Los Angeles, CA, Umar Rashid (Chicago, 1976), ha iniziato a scrivere e rappresentare la storia dell'Impero Franco-inglese (un insieme di Francia e Inghilterra) dal 1658 al 1880, partendo dal presupposto che la Francia e l'Inghilterra, storicamente antagoniste, avessero in realtà stretto una blanda alleanza e si fossero unificati in un solo, gargantuesco impero coloniale. L'Impero Franco-inglese governava su una vasta area del pianeta, spesso contesa dagli imperi tradizionali storici di Spagna, Portogallo, Olanda, Prussia, Austria (e stati "clienti" del Sacro Romano Impero), Russia e dall'Impero Ottomano. Ma il punto focale del suo lavoro è la storia reinventata delle persone di colore, che sono state spesso emarginate e omesse dalla grande storia, e la mescolanza di razza, genere, classe e soprattutto potere nel mondo colonial. Nel processo di riscrittura e rappresentazione di questa storia, l'artista ha creato narrazioni alternative che fanno riferimenti alla grande narrativa e alla cosmologia degli imperi, con un focus sulla religione e sulla spiritualità. E il filo rosso del suo lavoro è l'iconografia utilizzata come segno distintivo tra il passato, il presente e il futuro. Questo elemento si ritrova nelle opere attraverso il "Sistema Imperiale di tatuaggi" (un mezzanismo che l'artista utilizza per classificare, definire e differenziare i personaggi nelle storie) e attraverso mappe e diagrammi cosmologici. Il suo sistema narrativo è inoltre largamente influenzato dalla cultura hip hop della sua giovinezza (Età dell'oro), vari riferimenti passati e presenti alla cultura pop, alla cultura delle gang e dei prigionieri, e ai movimenti rivoluzionari nella storia. Umar Rashid attualmente vive e lavora a Los Angeles. Ha esposto le sue opere a livello internazionale in importanti istituzioni pubbliche e gallerie private.

In 2003, after moving from Chicago, IL, to Los Angeles, CA, Umar Rashid (Chicago, U.S.A 1976) began to write and illustrate the history of the Frenglish Empire (a portmanteau of France and England) between 1658 and 1880, based on the supposition that the historically antagonistic empires of France and England made a tenuous peace and unified into a single, gargantuan colonial Empire. The Frenglish Empire ruled over a large area of the planet, often challenged by the historical, traditional Empires of Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, Prussia, Austria (and "client" states of the Holy Roman Empire), Russia and the Ottomans. However, the main focus of his work are the stories and reinvented histories of black people, who are often marginalized and omitted from the historical record, and the intricacies of race, gender, class, and overall power in the colonial world. In the process of writing and illustrating this story, the artist created alternative narratives that has the main narrative as reference and focuses on the cosmologies of the Empires, with a focus on religion and spirituality. The narrative thread throughout the work (aside from the written narrative) employs iconography as a place marker between past, present, and future. This element is realized in the work "Imperial Tattoo System" (a classifying mechanism he uses to define and differentiate the characters in the story) and within the maps and cosmological diagrams. The narrative is also massively influenced by the hip hop culture of his youth (Golden age), various pop culture references (modern and ancient), gang and prison culture, and revolutionary movements throughout time. Umar Rashid currently lives and works in Los Angeles. He has exhibited his works internationally in important institutions and private galleries.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019

"The Fate of Empires", Studio d'Arte Raffaelli + Cellar Contemporary, Trento, Italy

2018

"What Is the Color when Black Is Burned? (The Cold War Part1)", The University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tuscon AZ, USA

2017

"The Free Radicals", Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA , USA

"The Messier Objects. (You get the Gods You Deserve). Part 3 of Americas 1795", Johannes Vogt, New York, NY, USA

"The Belhaven Republic (A Delta Blues)", University of Memphis - Galleries A and B, Memphis, TN, USA

2016

"That Ain't Gold, That's a Soul", New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2015

"Rampjaar. tbt to that time when we didn't let xenophobia get in the way of some sweet, mother-fucking payback. 1789", Galerie Cokkie Snoei, Rotterdam, Netherlands

"Kill Your Best Ideas, The Battle for New York and Its Lifeline, the Hudson River", Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY, USA

2014

"MATRIX 170: On Errythang (On Everything)", Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT, USA

"Solo presentation", Volta Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland

"Heartbreaking and Shit, But that's the Globe: The Battle Of Manhattan", Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2013

"We Don't Need No Water (Les Temps de la Chevauchée)", Narwhal Projects, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

"And Those Figures Through The Leaves. And Light Through That Smoke, Part Two to the Americas", Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV, USA

"You Can Fall: War of The Morning Arrows", Visual Arts Center of NJ, Summit, NJ, (also traveled to the Wellin Museum, Hamilton, College, Clinton, NY), USA

2012

"All Gold Etherething, An Elegy", Taylor De Cordoba, Los Angeles, CA, USA

"We Buy Gold, We Buy Everything, We Sell Souls", Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO, USA

"Every Winter Was A War, She Said", Heiner Contemporary Washington, D.C., USA

"It's Yours: Wars of the Frenglish Revolution and Other Conflicts (1792-1797)", Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2011

"The Edge of the Earth Isn't Far From Here", Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

"La Guerre De Machettes Danseuses (The War Of The Dancing Machetes), Crocodile Company, Part 1", Taylor de Cordoba Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2010

"The Wolf And Hawk War", with Morgan Lehman Gallery, PULSE Miami, Solo booth, Miami, FL, USA

2009

"Frohawk Two Feathers at Scenic", curated by Simon Watson & Craig Hensala, New York, NY, USA

"New York", Galerie Emmanuel Post, Leipzig, Germany

2008

"In The Court Of The Crimson King", Taylor De Cordoba, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2006

"Last Night, After the Lights Went Out, We Fell", Taylor De Cordoba, Los Angeles, CA, USA

"25 Bold Moves", curated by Simon Watson & Craig Hensala, House of Campari, Venice, CA, USA

"The Easter Seal", Bent Gallery, South Pasadena, CA, USA

"You and Me", Unitard Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2020

"Sympathetic Magic", Blum & Poe - Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA

"Under glass", Half Gallery, New York City, NY, USA

2019

"30 Years of Dutch Courage", Galerie Cokkie Snoei, Rotterdam, Netherlands

"Reimagining Colonial History", Sun Valley Art Center, Sun Valley, Idaho, USA

"Cape Town Art Fair", with Tyburn Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

"Forever, A Moment: Black Meditations on Time And Space!", SOMA Arts. San Francisco, CA, USA

"Personal Truth", El Camino College Museum of Art, Torrance, CA / Serpentine Fire Quotidian, Los Angeles, CA, USA

"191919191919", New image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2018

"Nada Art Fair", with Housing NY Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA

"Here", Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

"Cosmic Traffic Jam", co-curated, Zevitas Marcus Gallery, Culver City, CA, USA

"The Eye Sees Not Itself", Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

"Dress Up, Speak Up: Costume and Confrontation", 21C Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2017

"Our Moment Is Here", Zentis Mocoa, Cape Town, South Africa

"Unsettled (traveling exhibition)", Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada, USA

2016

"Summer Fling The Barn Show", Johannes Vogt Gallery, Southampton, NY, USA

2015

"A Primitive Future", Subliminal Projects, Echo Park, CA, USA

"Voces", Avenue 50 Studio, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2014

"Attunement", The Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA, USA

"Uncertain Terms", What If The World Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

"Based on a True Story: Duke Riley and Frohawk Two Feathers", Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH, USA

"Ritual and Residue: The Art of Drink", Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY, USA

2013

"Good Intention: Re-Imagining Rockwell's Boy Scouts", Subliminal Projects, Los Angeles, CA, USA

"June Group Show", Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA

"Rocky Mountain High", Gildar Gallery, Denver, CO, USA

"Seat's Taken", Burlington City Arts, Burlington, VT, USA

"In Case We Don't Die", Torrance Art Museum, USA

2010

"Stranger Than Fiction", Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA, USA

"Opening Ceremony", Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, NY, USA

"Elise", Titlon Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2007

"Basel", Spencer Brownstone Gallery, Basel, Switzerland

"Artforum Berlin", Spencer Brownstone Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2005

"Permafrost At Chettogloss", Chettogloss Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA