

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

BRUSSELS

BRENNA YOUNGBLOOD

April 21st - May 20th, 2017

Rue Charles Decoster 8 - 1050 Brussels



Brenna Youngblood, *Tower of Power*, 2017. Papers and acrylic paint on canvas, 203,5 × 178 × 4,5 cm (80 1/8 × 70 1/8 × 1 3/4 in.).
Courtesy Brenna Youngblood & Galerie Nathalie Obadia Paris/Brussels.

Galerie Nathalie Obadia is thrilled to present, *The Game of Life*, the third solo exhibition by the American artist, Brenna Youngblood, following on from the exhibitions held in Brussels in 2013 and in Paris in 2011.

Born in 1979 in Riverside (California, United States), the young Afro-American artist has been living and working in Los Angeles since 2006. Today, Brenna Youngblood is one of the most prominent artists on the US emerging artist scene.

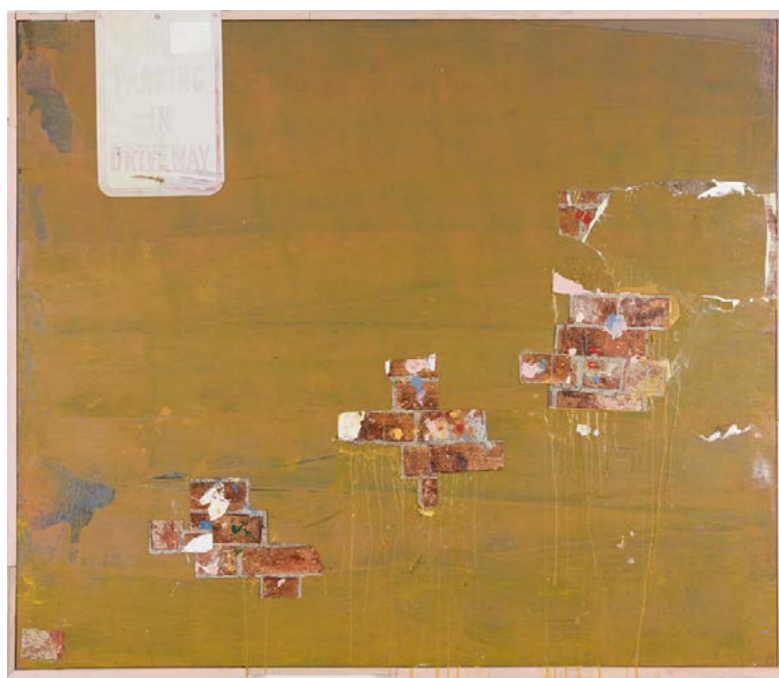
Over the past ten years, several institutional exhibition have been organised in her honour including three recent monographic exhibitions: *Abstracted Realities* at the Seattle Art Museum, Washington, and *Project series 50: Brenna Youngblood* at the Pomona College Museum of Art in Claremont, California, in 2015; and *Brenna Youngblood: Loss Prevention* at the Contemporary Art Museum in Saint Louis, Missouri, in 2014.

With her new exhibition, *The Game of Life*, Brenna Youngblood presents around fifteen previously unseen paintings linked to her daily life and urban surroundings. The artist is able to capture the pulse of the city and her paintings vibrate with the rhythm of the 'City of Angels'. Her work clearly shows the contrast between the two faces of Los Angeles, the glamorous Hollywood side and the trashy South Downtown, an area which was made famous through films, hip hop culture and gangsta rap.

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Brenna Youngblood gathers different elements in her work just like a city gathers populations of various social and cultural origins. From this mix, the artist sources the inspiration and force which characterise her work. She recycles and sticks different materials such as wallpaper, ribbon, cardboard, material or linoleum with fake wood and brick on the painted canvas. This forms an original blend which reminds us of the famous 'combine paintings' by Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008, United States). Another example of the Neo-Dada and Pop Art influence can be seen in Brenna Youngblood's work when she inserts manufactured elements like printed letters into the compositions. Just like David Hammons (born in 1943 in Springfield, United States), a leading figure of the Afro-American art scene, she creates work puzzling rebus. Brenna Youngblood steers away from figuration and moves towards conceptual art by choosing objects in a precise context.



Brenna Youngblood, *Turtle Tipping*, 2017. Found sign, wallpaper and acrylic paint on canvas with artist's frame 160,5 × 190,5 × 4 cm (63 1/4 × 75 × 1 5/8 in.).
Courtesy Brenna Youngblood & Galerie Nathalie Obadia Paris/Brussels.

The heterogeneous elements fixed upon the canvas disappear within the painting adding an abstract side to Brenna Youngblood's work. The artist effectively hides certain details to consequently bring attention to them. She even cuts and rips the surface of the paintings to unravel different layers. Just like an archaeologist discovers parts of the past, one can become immersed into the painting and discover deeper motifs, colours, textures and materials. In an honest manner, Brenna Youngblood leaves the traces of her paintbrush, conscious to maintain transparency.

Brenna Youngblood applies paint with stains, colours and filling, sometimes the three methods at once in order to create various painting textures. When the canvas or paper is covered in pigment she says that her paintings « reacts like the skin of an old person ». This organic image reflects the rugged surface of Brenna Youngblood's paintings which appear to be worn down by the sun and wind. They provoke a deep and primitive emotion, like the American Great West with its abrupt deserts. Her paintings reflect the atmosphere of the rural scenes by David Hockney (born in 1937 in Bradford, United Kingdom).

Thanks to her talent and her investment in the world, Brenna Youngblood's historic and artistic references are integrated and expressed in a subtle way. She is perpetually inspired by the world around and her daily life. This is where she sources material which she recycles and where she finds ideas to express her street-life culture. This indeed is where the virility and the harsh reality of paintings comes from.

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Brenna Youngblood was born in 1979 in Riverside (California, United States). She currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

In 2002, Brenna Youngblood was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from the California State University in Long Beach, where her work was closely followed by the Afro-American artist, Todd Gray (born in 1954 in Los Angeles). In 2006, she was awarded a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from the University of California in Los Angeles, where she studied alongside famous acclaimed American artists such as John Baldessari (1931, National City, California); Catherine Opie (1961, Sandusky, Ohio), a photographer known for her work focussing on lesbian and trans couples; and the photographer James Welling (1951, Hartford, Connecticut). In 2012, Brenna Youngblood was awarded the 'Talent Award/Ahan Award' by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

Today, Brenna Youngblood is one of the most prominent artists on the US emerging artists scene.

Over the past ten years, several institutional exhibition have been organised in her honour including three recent monographic exhibitions: 'Abstracted Realities' at the Seattle Art Museum, Washington in 2015; 'Project series 50: Brenna Youngblood' at the Pomona College Museum of Art in Claremont, California, in 2015; and 'Brenna Youngblood: Loss Prevention' at the Contemporary Art Museum in Saint Louis, Missouri, in 2014. In France, in 2016, Brenna Youngblood was part of the exhibition dedicated to the emerging Californian art scene, 'Wasteland: New Art from Los Angeles', held at the Mona Bismarck American Center in Paris and at the Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery in Pantin.

Brenna Youngblood has also taken part in several key group shows including: in 2017, 'The future is abstract' at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte (North Carolina), and 'Magnetics Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960's to today' at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City (Missouri); in 2016, 'L.A. Exhuberance: New Gifts by Artists' at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and 'AFRICA FORECAST: Fashioning Contemporary Life' at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art in Atlanta (Georgia); in 2015, 'Hard Edged' at the California African American Museum in Los Angeles (California); in 2014, 'Selections from the Permanent Collection' at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), 'Point of View: African American Art from the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Collection' at the Flint Institute of the Arts (Michigan), 'Rites of Spring' and 'Black in the Abstract, Part 2: Hard Edges/Soft Curves' at the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston (Texas); in 2013, 'Murmurs: Recent Contemporary Acquisitions' at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); in 2012, 'Made in L.A.' during the Los Angeles Biennale organised by the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles and LAXART (Los Angeles), 'Fore' at the Studio Harlem Museum in New York; in 2011, 'Romare Bearden Centennial Exhibition' at the Studio Harlem Museum in New York; in 2009, 'With You I Want to Live' at the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale (Florida); and in 2008, 'Half-Life: Twenty Emerging L.A. Artists' at the LACE, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions.

Works by Brenna Youngblood are part of several prestigious, international private and public collections including, in the US, the Studio Harlem Museum in New York; in Los Angeles, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Hammer Museum, the Blake Byrne Collection, the Creative Artists Agency; the Art, Design, and Architecture Museum in Santa Barbara (California); the Eileen Harris Norton Foundation in Santa Monica (California); the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Collection, the JP Morgan Chase Art Collection; in Mexico, the Collection Jumex in Mexico.

Brenna Youngblood has been represented by the Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Paris and Brussels since 2013.

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For further information, please contact Constance Dumas.

constance@nathalieobadia.com / + 32 (0)2 648 14 05

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Brussels

Brenna Youngblood
The Game of Life
April 21 - May 20, 2017

Exposition d'été
June 1 - July 22, 2017

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Paris
Cloître Saint-Merri

Manuel Ocampo
Oeuvres: 1994-2016
March 18 - May 6, 2017

Jean Dubuffet et Fabrice Hyber
hyberDUBUFFET
May 18 - July 13, 2017

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Paris
Bourg-Tibourg

Shahpour Pouyan
*We owe this considerable land
to the horizon line*
March 9 - May 6, 2017

Jean Dubuffet et Fabrice Hyber
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May 18 - July 13, 2017