

Kristina Kite Gallery

Nicole Miller

For Now

December 1, 2018 – January 26, 2019

Nicole Miller's video installations explore the transformative possibilities of the moving image to reconstruct interpretations of identity and culture. Her film's subjects and their narratives often complicate notions of fact and fiction, especially in terms of African American identity. With a particular interest in the influence that music, movement and performance play in the lives of her subjects, Miller's work emphasizes the power of representation as a tool for reconstructing lost histories and identities.

Miller's most recent video, *Pino* (2018), documents her encounter with the Italian voice actor Pino Insegno. Insegno's voice is often used for the Italian dubbing of African American actors in American films, such as Jamie Fox's characters in *Django Unchained* (2012) and *Ray* (2014), and Will Smith's performance in *Ali* (2001). In an unscripted monologue, Insegno articulates, among other things, his thoughts as to why his vocal performances are often chosen to stand in for African American characters, while performing portions of dialogue from movies he has dubbed.

The video is intermittently interrupted by a laser piece titled *For Now* (2018). The laser animates the title phrase, which Miller describes as a sort of mantra or reminder of the unfixed nature of any given situation or condition.

In the gallery's backspace, the exhibition includes Miller's first foray into sculpture, *Michael in Black* (2018). Using molds made directly from Michael Jackson's body around 1986, Miller presents the life-size, kneeling form of the legendary artist in black patinated bronze and perched on the edge of a pedestal. In this solemn posture of humility and submissiveness, the unadorned, simple figure suggests a moment of vulnerability and contemplation. In *Michael in Black*, Miller's interest in representation and the performance of self is epitomized in one of culture's most complicated and compelling personas. *Michael in Black* is also the subject of a forthcoming publication featuring essays by Jared Sexton and Negar Azimi and published by Public Fiction.

Nicole Miller lives and works in San Diego, CA. Solo exhibitions of her work include *For Now*, Koenig & Clinton, NY (2018); *Athens, California*, California African American Museum, Los Angeles (2018); *Every Word Said: History Lessons from Athens and Tucson*, MOCA Tucson (2016); *Death of a School*, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneve (2014); *Artists' Film International: Nicole Miller*, Ballroom Marfa (2014); and *Believing is Seeing*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2013). Selected group exhibitions include *Los Angeles—A Fiction*, MAC Lyon (2017) and Astrup Fearnley Museet (2016), Oslo; *The Campaign for Art*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2016); *Portraits and Other Likenesses*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2015); *Made in L.A.*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2012); *Dallas Biennale*, Dallas Contemporary (2012); and *The Bearden Project*, Studio Museum in Harlem, NY (2011). In 2018, Miller was the recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Award and in 2016 she was awarded the Rome Prize and was a fellow at the American Academy in Rome for 2016-2017. Miller is currently assistant professor in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of California, San Diego.

Kristina Kite Gallery is located at 3400 W. Washington Blvd. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11am to 5pm. For images and additional information, please contact info@kristinakitegallery.la.

in Los Angeles