

Patricia Kaersenhout, *Objects of Love and Desire*, 6 February – 24 March, 2019

Wilfried Lentz is proud to present *Objects of Love and Desire*, a solo exhibition by artist Patricia Kaersenhout (b. 1966, lives and works in Amsterdam). This exhibition shows Kaersenhout's newest work, a series of large textile pieces; alongside work commissioned for Prospect.4 in New Orleans (US), shown for the first time in Europe.

Kaersenhout's new banner works depict women in action, based on Chinese propaganda posters expressing the glorification of the proletariat, as was common in most communist countries. She shows these women as heroic figures, now depicting important black scholars, journalists, poets, activists of Caribbean descent, such as Uma Marson. These are figures who were active in the second half of the 20th century, but who have been forgotten or erased.

The position of these women, as good and noble persons, form a strong dialectical contrast with Kaersenhout's work from Prospect: eight small, delicate portraits of typical 19th-century slave barons and trailblazers, depicted here as being harassed by insects, and veiled in fabric.

Kaersenhout's artistic practice has long been inspired by black activism, a project she passionately identifies herself with. It is not only the legacy of the Dutch colonial period that is important for her work, she is also addresses current developments associated with migrants from Africa. Kaersenhout, herself from Surinamese descent, works across a wide range of media, and often collaborates with others, presenting performances and public art projects as well as studio work on view at the gallery. The reception of her work coincides with a political wave of emancipation among younger activists and artists of colour worldwide, and where the response is more and more one of recognition.

Recent solo exhibitions and performances include: Prospect.4 in New Orleans (US) and Manifesta 12 in Palermo (IT) (2018), gHoltegaard (DK) and Museum Arnhem (NL) (2017); *Bell invites: Global Performance* at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, *BE.BOP* at the Volksbühne Berlin, and Van Abbe Museum Eindhoven (NL) (2016); Biennale Dakar (SN) and *Framer Framed*, Amsterdam (2014); Queens Museum of Art, New York the Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Art (MoCADA), New York (2012).

The opening takes place on Thursday 7 February from 6–8pm and coincides with Grada Kilomba's show *Illusions Vol. 1 and Vol. II* on the 4th floor. Both exhibitions run from 6 February (preview is a day earlier) until 24 March, 2019. The gallery is open Friday through Sunday from 1pm–6pm and by appointment. Extended opening times during Rotterdam Art Week Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 February from 10am - 6pm. For further information and visuals, contact the gallery: office@wilfriedlentz.com.

The artist is dedicating the show to Alanna Lockward (23/3/1961 – 7/1/2019)