

## PAINT IT BLACK

Faig Ahmed, Muriel Gallardo Weinstein, Themba Khumalo, Cow Mash

Inauguration: Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, 5-9pm

Special hours during Brussels Gallery Week:

Sept. 13-15, 2024, 11am-6pm

Exhibition: September 12 – October 26, 2024

Montoro12 Gallery is pleased to present *Paint it Black*, an exhibition featuring **Faig Ahmed** (1982 Baku, Azerbaijan), **Muriel Gallardo Weinstein** (1980, Santiago de Chile), **Themba Khumalo** (1987 Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa) and **Cow Mash** (1994, Limpopo Province, South Africa). The exhibition presents a collection of artworks that explore various themes, including the color black as a dominant color, medium or metaphor.

The idea for this exhibition was inspired by our fascination with the color black (for a long time *the* color of gallery attire) as well as the famous song by the Rolling Stones, *Paint it Black* from 1966. Many sources speak about the lyrics of this song referring to grief, to black as the color of mourning.

The color black has infinite connotations, it is the color of a race (Black is beautiful), the color that often stands for darkness and mystery, but also for power and elegance.

**Faig Ahmed** is an interdisciplinary artist from Baku, Azerbaijan who represented Azerbaijan at the Venice Biennale in 2007. He is best known for his conceptual artworks that explore the visual language of hand-made carpets in innovative ways. In *Paint it Black* he exhibits two videos, exploring the concepts of self-inflicted pain and enlightenment in Sufi spirituality.

**Muriel Gallardo Weinstein's** (from Chile, lives and works in Berlin, Germany) new series consists of tapestries inspired by two German movies: *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (1972) by Werner Herzog and the black and white film *Metropolis* (1927) by Fritz Lang. The series inspired by *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* critiques the repercussions of colonialism while the series inspired by *Metropolis* offers a dystopian landscape to highlight the power dynamic of society.

**Themba Khumalo's** (lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa) work looks to interpret life challenges through the lens of traditional African religions and spirituality. He explores how believers use the land as a space of refuge and how loss and hope are often found in transit between spaces. Khumalo works in different media, but is best known for his drawings with charcoal, pastel and sometimes coffee wash on paper.

**Cow Mash's** (lives and works in Pretoria, South Africa) creative process is guided by her self-given name, Cow: the artist deciphers her experiences and thoughts through cow metaphors and cow analogies. She exclusively uses the black and white palette in order to elevate black from its perception as a negative color to take its rightful place as an affirmative color. Her works are rich in Black African history.