

Ricardo Francis: A Search for Self a Search for Meaning



Ricardo Francis is originally from Houston, Texas but currently is based in Rockaway, New York. He is a painter committed to producing works of art that reflect, represent, and reanalyze present day socio-political issues. When interviewed for “The Wave” radio station Ricardo expressed that he is interested in uncovering truths and misconceptions about African–American people. In this solo exhibition Francis has created a series of portraits where the subjects are family and friends who often are dismissed upon appearance as “thugs”. In these painting Francis casts each model in front of an atypical backdrop to reexamine clichéd notions about men of color.

Mr. Francis is also a founding member of the alternative visual art group BLAFTCO, who since 1992 has created a variety of community based, innovative multi-media projects and exhibitions. Francis is owner of Apanamae (A-Pan-A-May) Productions, an independent fine art company that provides services and specialized art projects to the general public. Though Ricardo is a Houston native who attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, this will be the first exhibition of Mr. Francis’ work in Texas in over five years. Upon completing his education at the Maryland Institute College of Art he has shown his work in New York’s Anthem Gallery, the Longwood Art Gallery and Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture and Newark’s Aljira Center for Contemporary Art.

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