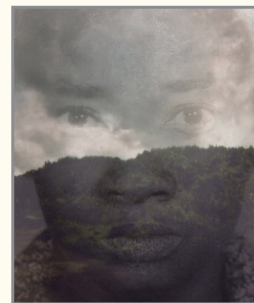


GALLERY SPACE AT WAGNER

Contact: Frankie Crescioni-Santoni
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Jacqueline Bishop's *Emma*
(21 x 15.5 in; digital print; 2012)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING 2015

New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service is pleased to announce the opening of *Two Artists, Two Visions*, the Spring-2015 exhibition and artist discussion at the **Gallery Space at Wagner**. Staged in commemoration of Black History Month, *Two Artists, Two Visions* features artwork by NYU-affiliated artists **Jacqueline Bishop** and **Alex Merchant**. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the NYU Wagner Black Student Association (BSA) and curated by NYU Gallatin's Ann Chwatsky and NYU Wagner's Frankie Crescioni-Santoni. The event will take place on **Tuesday, February 17**, starting at **6:30pm** with a conversation with the artists moderated by BSA's Beneque Cousin, and immediately followed by a gallery reception from **7:30pm to 9:00pm**. Both the discussion and reception are open to the public via RSVP at wagner.nyu.edu/events.

In her studio practice, Jamaican-born Bishop integrates the mediums of painting, drawing, and photography to explore issues of home, ancestry, family, migration, and connectivity. These themes are poetically explored through distinctive female narratives. The prints selected for the exhibit are part of her ongoing series *Childhood Memories*, an ethereal collection of photomontage images in which characters are often split between the realms of heavenly and earthly space. The overall effect is spectral, haunting, and deeply nostalgic.

While Bishop celebrates her heritage by reflecting on her family history and migratory journey, Merchant delves into his explorations of identity by recasting the role of the male Black athlete within the contemporary context of corporate America. His typographical prints and trading card-inspired paintings of professional basketball players are part of his latest project *Americans Doing Work*. The series examines the commercialization of athletes and the impact of the sport on young men in African American communities. The commanding, life-size canvases seek to confront stereotypes and the prevailing conundrum of simultaneously idolizing and fearing the dark body.



Born in Kingston, Jamaica, **Jacqueline Bishop** is a visual artist, writer, and educator. She has exhibited in Belgium, Italy, Morocco, and the United States and has five books to her name, including *Writers Who Paint/Painters Who Write: Three Jamaican Artists*. Bishop was a 2008-2009 Fulbright Fellow to Morocco and the 2009-2010 UNESCO/Fulbright Fellow. She holds an MA in studio art from NYU Steinhardt and teaches full-time in the Liberal Studies Program at NYU. Samples of her work can be viewed at jacqueline-bishop.com.



Alex Merchant was born in 1986 in St. Louis, MO. A New York City-based painter and photographer, his art is largely influenced by his upbringing in the Midwest and incorporates elements of media, historical documents, and pop iconography. He has participated in numerous exhibits in New York and Tennessee, as well as the *LDM Piazza del Mercato Centrale Showcase* in Florence. Merchant was the recipient of an MFA in studio art from the University of Tennessee and currently works as a residence hall assistant director at NYU. Samples of his work can be viewed at alexmerchant.net.

Two Artists, Two Visions runs February 17 through April 24, 2015. The Gallery Space at Wagner is located on the 2nd floor of the Puck Building, at 295 Lafayette Street, corner of Houston Street (B/D/F/M trains to Broadway-Lafayette, 6 train to Bleecker, or N/R trains to Prince Street). Viewing hours are Monday–Thursday 9:00am–9:00pm, Fridays 9:00am–7:00pm, and Saturdays 9:30am–6:00pm (closed on Sundays). For more information, including upcoming events and adjusted holiday hours, please contact Frankie Crescioni-Santoni at 212.998.7400 or wagner.gallery@nyu.edu.

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Alex Merchant's *Nothing But American* (63 x 46 in; mixed media on canvas; 2014)

For information on purchasing artwork, please contact the artists at:
jaj204@gmail.com (Jacqueline Bishop) or info@alexmerchant.net (Alex Merchant)



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