

THE LEVER HOUSE ART COLLECTION



Reginald Sylvester II

Premonition

***Lever House Art Collection, New York
19th October 2017 - February 2018***

The Lever House Art Collection is pleased to present *Premonition*, a solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Reginald Sylvester II (b. 1987, North Carolina). The exhibition delves into contemporary themes of identity, youth culture, and references to biblical scriptures in a raw and lively manner. The show's colorful figurative paintings reveal themselves through the artist's dreams as well as daily life – in moments of haste or inspiration, and reflect his struggle and torment in unveiling his true self. Sylvester II's canvas and fence installation brings the rugged environment of downtown Brooklyn to the clear-cut space of Lever House, breaking the mold of the architecture whilst de-contextualizing its identity. The exhibition introduces eight acrylic works on canvas, as well as a series of oil crayon sketches. Built up of innumerable layers of vibrant hues and pigments, the works displayed in this show illuminate the artist's repertoire of energetic gestures, textural depth and chromatic radiance.

Sylvester II describes, "*Premonition* embodies a set of works that reflect my physical energy and my truth. These images have been projected from my unconscious, through my hand, and onto the surface. When tapping into the unconscious I believe that you are tapping into your inner spirit, the soul. In this place, untainted truth and identity reside."

It is through this journey that Sylvester II articulately depicts his view of the world – achieving powerful proclamations of everyday life and trapped personal affliction that consume the viewer's gaze in an impenetrable turmoil of electric charge. The works are surrounded in a barrage of arresting iconography, connected through repetitive imagery such as the biblical references to chariots and the fences that point to feelings of imprisonment as well as the state of the world today. In *Premonition*, Sylvester II's paint application conjures a sense of organized chaos through violent yet controlled movement, which is meticulously rendered with rich layers of painterly gestures and complex arrangements. In this work, the artist evokes a dystopian future that leaves the viewer with a hostile foreboding and disheartening feeling of what is to come.

The artist concludes, "These works speak about myself and the times that we are in today. Touching on references that can be tied to biblical scripture as well as events that we see through mass media. These works for me are a sign of the times that we live in as well as the future that we have yet to physically see."

Roya Sachs, Curator

Reginald Sylvester II was born in Jacksonville (North Carolina) in 1987. He grew up in Oakland, California and attended the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, studying graphic design. Underpinning Sylvester II's body of work is a visceral and commanding pictorial form that lies between abstraction and figuration. His oeuvre is manifested through an exuberant and expressive use of paint and charged color palette, child-like scribbles as well as tangled disembodied limbs - all laden with connotations that convey the addictive and obsessive elements inherent in the digitalized world. Sylvester II has had numerous international solo exhibitions presented by Maximillian William and Pace Prints, New York. He recently has been the subject of a solo exhibition at the Fondazione Stelline (Milan 2017), where his work is also held in the Institution's public collection. Forthcoming solo exhibitions include: Artissima (Turin, 2017).

REGINALD SYLVESTER II

All works are acrylic and oil stick on canvas

Cup Of Her Fornication

76 x 100 inches

Demons After a Clean Soul

76 x 100 inches

A Righteous Woman

76 x 100 inches

Whispers Of Lust

76 x 100 inches

Premonition

76 x 100 inches

Rumors of War

76 x 100 inches

As a Thief in the Night

76 x 100 inches

Righteous Takeover

76 x 100 inches