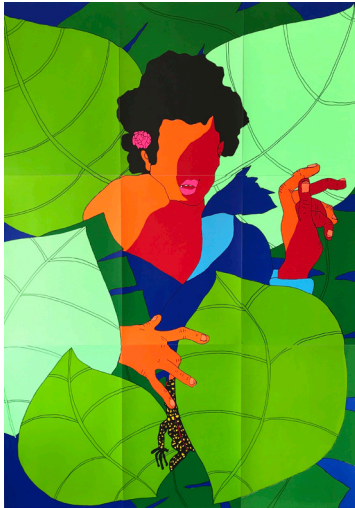


# LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Caravage Créole, Version 1, serigraph print on paper, edition 4/15, 87.4" x 65.4"



MMDC5 (Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio #5), acrylic on paper, 12.6" x 9.4"



MMDC10 (Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio #10), acrylic on paper, 12.6" x 9.4"

# FRANÇOISE SÉMIRAMOTH

## Color As A Territory

January 14, 2023 – March 11, 2023

Opening Reception Saturday, January 14, 6-9pm

SANTA MONICA, CA - Lois Lambert Gallery presents *Color As A Territory*, the most recent exhibition of work by French Créole artist Françoise Sémiramoth.

Sémiramoth's work is inspired by the vivid colors and history of her native island Guadeloupe. She uses flat color and stylized shapes as her vocabulary, seeking to eliminate all traces of brush and gesture. For Sémiramoth, color is the most important element of her work.

Honoring her native Guadeloupe, Sémiramoth predominantly works with hues of green and red, which are prevalent on the island. She assigns them symbolic value: reds and oranges refer to the Amerindian peoples, the first inhabitants of Guadeloupe, and green to the land and its geography. Blue, also prevalent on the island, is used purely ornamentally. Tropical leaf patterns in her paintings and silkscreen prints relate the work back to the island and its foliage.

Sémiramoth's research led her to the Italian Baroque painter Caravaggio, who is known for his use of chiaroscuro, the extreme contrast between light and shadow. She, however, sought to create shadow without darkness. In addition she was drawn to Caravaggio compositions, which she began reinterpreting, challenging herself to simplify the master painter's complexities and precision using only his most essential shapes.

Using her own bright palette, Sémiramoth completely eliminates the narrative content of Caravaggio's paintings. Instead, she substitutes her own narrative for Caravaggio's and infuses them with the identity and history of the Guadeloupean people.

Sémiramoth received her Master 1 with Honors, from the School of Fine Arts in Lyon, France and her Master 2 with Honors from the Higher School of Art, in Aix en Provence. Her work has been shown across France, Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland and Guadeloupe. Sémiramoth's work was included in *The Friendships of Maryse Condé 2022* exhibition, at the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations in Marseille, France and *It's Urgent! 2020* exhibition, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, at The Luma Foundation in Arles, France. Her work is part of permanent collections at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Martinique, France and the FRAC Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur in Marseille, France. *Color As A Territory* will be Sémiramoth's first solo exhibition in the United States.