

MESTREPROJECTS

Press Release

Mestre Projects is pleased to announce the gallery's participation in the Third Edition of ART SG in Singapore, opening January 16th, 2025, with Master Bahamian Artist Stan Burnside. The gallery will be in the FOCUS Section at Booth FC35, with nine (9) paintings on display.



Stan Burnside, FELONUS FUNK, 2024, acrylic on canvas, 14 x 14 x 2 ¼ inches (35.6 x 35.6 x 5.7 cm)

Mestre Projects booth presentation underscores the significance of storytelling in preserving the cultural identity of Afro-Caribbean people and their enduring connection to African ancestry. This tradition of orality has been transformed into evocative visual symbols, archiving both fictional and factual narratives, fables, and truths that traverse African history and intersect with other cultures. The exhibition further delves into the complex interplay of familial, societal, and environmental influences and pressures, while tracing the delicate thread of hope that serves as a pathway to healing intergenerational traumas.

Stan Burnside's works transcend the boundaries of the figurative, incorporating abstract elements that add depth and ambiguity to his storytelling. His paintings blur the lines between entity and phantom, reflecting an intricate dialogue between past and present in communion with the landscape—or its notable absence. Burnside's art resonates with a deep spiritual sensibility, as

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he seeks illumination in all facets of life and relationships, even amid the afflictions of existence. This pursuit is poetically symbolized by recurring motifs, such as birds or the color yellow, which punctuate his compositions with optimism and renewal.

Through an enigmatic and rhythmic narrative approach, Burnside masterfully balances foreground and background, creating an interplay that invites viewers to meander through the layers of his work and arrive at their own interpretations. His use of abstraction enriches this journey, introducing forms and textures that evoke an emotional resonance beyond the tangible. The intense glare or stoic countenance on the figure's faces, expresses a certain seriousness; one can argue that this resting face camouflages the chaos in the mind. This juxtaposition of external apathy and internal turbulence offers a profound meditation on the human condition.

The works selected for the booth presentation are a continuation of Burnside's exploration in his solo exhibition Quarantino's Lullaby and Blacks and The blues at Mestre Projects Gallery and his recent show at Galerie Perrotin in New York. Together, they reveal the artist attuned to the intersections of memory, spirituality, and the abstract, weaving stories that are as layered and complex as the histories they embody.

Stan Burnside Biography (condensed)

Stan Burnside (b.1947 in Nassau), a highly acclaimed artist of local and international renown, was born to a dentist father and pharmacist mother, who prized their Bahamian culture and African heritage, a deep regard which was passed on to their children. It is a philosophy that has long infused the art of their sons Stan and his late brother, Jackson.

Stan was educated at Government High School in Nassau and abroad at Lincoln University (Pa.) and Pennsylvania Academy of The Fine Arts. This Ivy Leaguer earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

Burnside has been a driving force in the cultural landscape of The Bahamas, as an Educator, Painter, Editorial Cartoonist, Junkanoo Designer and Founder of B-CAUSE (Bahamian Creative Artists United for Serious Expression). He has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows across the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, the U.S.A., Europe and Asia, and his paintings can be found in important collections around the world.

Thematically, his paintings focus largely on Bahamian culture and African heritage and seminal human issues such as human rights, freedom and marginalization as relates most often to Black people and women of all ethnicities. In style, the works tend towards Surrealism in imbedding a

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wealth of thought and ideals in figuration that encourages deep reflection. Stan's colours and energy usually derive much from Junkanoo, inclusive of his impactful, repeated design motifs and strong colour contrasts symbolizing the resilience and vibrancy of Bahamian identity. In “Blacks and Blues”, he is experimenting with new colour chords, creating “new sounds”, new harmonies, new music.

Stan Burnside has received several awards and honours for his significant contributions in many areas of art and people development. He remains deeply grounded in his Bahamian roots and committed to his mission of representing his culture authentically. His journey and achievements as an artist are a testament to his unwavering dedication to his craft and his commitment to representing Bahamian culture as well as his take on global issues with integrity and passion. Through his vibrant and evocative works, Burnside continues to capture the spirit of The Bahamas, making him a cherished and influential figure in the nation's Art world. As he progresses in his career, his legacy as an artist, mentor, and cultural ambassador continues to grow.

#ARTSG

ART SG

January 16 – 19, 2025

Matina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Center, Singapore

FOCUS

Booth FC35