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Beacon Gallery
524B Harrison Ave
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Ali Salaam and Sima Schloss *Soulfully looking into deepest self, drowning in memories*



(collaboration); Sima Schloss *Descent*

(L to R:
Ibrahim
Ali-
Salaam,
Male
Nude;
Ibrahim
my

BOSTON, MA (November 20, 2019) – Beacon Gallery is pleased to present its upcoming winter exhibition, *Body Language*, running from December 20, 2019 through February 2, 2020. There will be an opening reception on December 20th from 6-8:30 pm.

Body Language is a two-artist show featuring works by Boston-based artist Ibrahim Ali-Salaam and New York-based artist Sima Schloss.

Ali-Salaam and Schloss both focus on the human figure and aspects of the body in their artwork. Their techniques, approaches and final products are divergent yet complementary.

Ali-Salaam, a classically trained artist hailing from Boston's School of the Museum of Fine Arts draws articulated aspects of human anatomy often starkly in graphite and charcoal. His work calls to mind the hard-muscled contortions of Michelangelo and the sinuous hands of Schiele. Bodies fight against invisible objects and barriers, wrestling with emotions and the human condition. The viewer is drawn through the fourth wall with both titles and images that invite contemplation on composition and meaning.

Schloss approaches the human body as a canvas for her artistic vision. With a mixed media approach that translates the energy of the human mind onto paper; bright colors, and swirling forms ask the viewer to step into her world. Themes of eyes, vision and facial feature lead viewers questions of expectations of women (such as standards of beauty) as well as how one copes with the extreme emotions of human existence.

With individual works as well as collaborative pieces these two unique artists create a dialogue across questions of the human body and the mental landscape through meaning and media as they contemplate identity, emotion and society.

About Ibrahim Ali-Salaam:

Born in 1976, Ibrahim Ali-Salaam is a Boston native. He trained at Boston's School of Museum of Fine Arts and has been working as a professional artist for 20 years. His work is featured in private collections across the United States as well as in institutions including Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Frontier Science, and Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital.

Ibrahim's most recent body of work focuses on a series of nude self-portraits. These came out of a period of transition in his life, and he would like others to use them as an opportunity for self-reflection. Viewers may note that the artist often seems to be pushing against invisible boundaries or struggling against invisible restraints. This imagery is representative of how the artist often feels he is pushing against the boundaries of society; living in a culture that wants to classify him. For example, it wants to define him as a certain race, whereas he does not classify himself. It wants to classify him as a certain sexual orientation as well, based on the subject matter of his work, whereas his personal sexuality remains irrelevant to his art. Ibrahim wishes to convey this message of struggle to others, and to give others permission to deny labels as well.

About Sima Schloss:

Sima Schloss grew up in a Long Island suburb and has been a New York City resident for the last 25 years. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island and received her MFA in painting at Lehman College. Schloss is an adjunct professor teaching Art in Humanities at Hostos Community College in the Bronx.

Sima's work is in a number of private and corporate collections including those of Horned Dorset Inn and Miss Sixty Inc. She has shown her work in different venues all around the country - from The Prince Street Gallery in New York City, National Wet Paint MFA Biennial 2016 and 2018 at the Zhou B Art Center in Chicago, Illinois. Her work has been featured on the cover of Time Out NY, Artascent and 10010 Magazine. In 2018, she received The Wet Paint Biennial MFA Excellence in Artistic Achievement Award.

Sima's latest body of work explores relationships between people and within themselves. In order to truly know and understand a person takes years, and the unmaking of many layers. Sima's process involves creating blind contour drawings, disassembling them before putting them back together in different ways. This process of creation is similar to how human beings process emotions and construct their sense of selves and identities. Sima seeks to visually represent the stories that every person holds within themselves.

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For more information about Beacon Gallery visit: beaongallery.com