

OCTAVIA

ART GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

E2: Elizabeth Kleinveld and Epaul Julien – The Art of Empathy

Tina Freeman – Artist Spaces: Close to Home

December 7 - 28, 2013

Opening reception: December 7, 6 – 8 pm

Octavia Art Gallery is pleased to present new work by artists E2 and Tina Freeman. Both exhibitions are held in conjunction with the 8th Edition of PhotoNOLA, an annual celebration of photography in New Orleans.

Under the artist name E2, photographers Elizabeth Kleinveld & Epaul Julien have embarked on a new body of work in response to the conditions that were exposed during Hurricane Katrina. Kleinveld & Julien, both from New Orleans, aim to bring about a discussion on the consequences of stereotypes. In order to bring about this dialogue, E2 decided to take iconic images from paintings, photography, film and even literature and remake them with a twist. Beginning with the Flemish Primitives and spanning almost 600 years of art history, this series is done in conjunction with the Dutch National Theatre, which generously provides many of the costumes, wigs and props for the historical images. Highlights of the series include works based on Titian's *Venus of Urbino* (1538), Velázquez's *Venus at her Mirror* (1647-51), Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (1665), David's *Death of Marat* (1793), Hayez's *the Kiss* (1859), and Manet's *Dejeuner sur l'herbe* (1863).

Tina Freeman is an established photographer of architecture, landscape, portraits, and interiors. Her series, *Artist Spaces: Close to Home*, which will be on view, highlights the homes of New Orleans artists. Few artists have the luxury of separate spaces, and life and work is often compressed into one singular "personal environment". This seamless life of the artist interests Freeman and with these works, she poetically captures an intensely personal portrayal of the artists and their spaces. The artists Freeman selected to photograph utilize a variety of media and their artwork is stylistically disparate and unique. Often, each artist's style is similarly reflected in the quality, character and aesthetic of their live/work environments, thereby illustrating just how deeply personal, all-encompassing and connected artists are to their work.

E2 photographers Elizabeth Kleinveld and Epaul Julien began their collaboration in 2010, while working together on the *Before During After* project (Louisiana Photographer's Respond to Hurricane Katrina). This body of work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at the Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, the Houston Center of Photography, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, Netherlands and the New Orleans African American Museum. The work is included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Museum Castelvecchio, Verona.

Tina Freeman was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and continues to live and work in New Orleans. She has exhibited nationally and her work is included in notable private and public collections, including the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Historic New Orleans Collection, and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

For more information, please contact Emily Siekkinen at 504-309-4249 or emily@octaviaartgallery.com.

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