

# NICODIM

Mosie Romney  
***ENERGY never***

Nicodim Upstairs, Los Angeles

March 25 – May 1, 2021



Mosie Romney, *The Dance*, 2020

It's time for jazz, blues, and all of their children. For their Los Angeles and Nicodim solo debut, Mosie Romney presents *ENERGY never*, an exhibition of new paintings, drawings, and sculpture. Each of their compositions presents a non-linear figure ground in relationships that recall transhistorical ancestry, chaos magic, and dreamscapes—worlds of several suns and many moons.

Spectres, bloodlines, glitter, Siamese cats, and bells are Romney's tools, their instruments of magic.

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Hauntological questions, colonial evidence, and an intimate conversation between figuration and abstraction emerge. Fluent in a lexicon inherent to their Black, non-binary psyche, Romney's paintings exist in the gray area between memory and the present, and tease-out their relationship to one another.

At the center of the exhibition, a replica of a small bell from Romney's personal collection is enlarged to monumental proportions and suspended from the ceiling with jute rope specific to Shibari. While the bell itself is in bondage, its voice rings free over a small herd of ceramic Siamese cats, and Nina Simone's voice enchants and expels the negative airspace. Romney's paintings expand the walls outward, like portals into the subconscious. In "The Dance," 2021, a childlike figure is center stage as two phantasmic elders boogie and shuffle into a glittery oblivion. Gestures of evolution and devolution are highlighted amongst bold brush strokes, spray painted lace, and references to the photographic. With "Wiped Down (nite nite)," 2021, a burst of white paint circled in yellow confuses the layered figures' relationships to their respective environments.

Within *ENERGY never*, bells ring, Simone sings, and cats play and mingle with Romney's technicolor, concurrent timelines of embodiment. The work breathes-in, holds that breath, and exhales its many simultaneous existences throughout the gallery space, alive with the energies of what was, what might have been, and what is to come.

— Sydney Vernon, March 2021

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Mosie Romney (b. 1994, New York) lives and works in Ridgewood, Queens, New York. A Jamaican-American artist, they received their education from SUNY Purchase, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Visual Arts in 2016. They have been an artist in residence at the Home School, Hudson in 2018. Exhibitions include *ENERGY never*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2021, solo); *Evening Lark*, Y2K Group, New York (2020, solo); *PAPA RAGAZZE!*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2020); *Mosie Romney and Juan Guiterrez*, Meredith Rosen Gallery, New York (2020); and *Materia Prima*, Gern en Regalia, New York (2019).

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## Mosie Romney

° Born 1994, New York, United States  
Lives and works in New York City  
they/them

### Education

2016 Bachelor of Science in Visual Arts, SUNY Purchase, New York

### Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2021 *Mosie Romney*, Almine Rech, Paris (*upcoming*)  
*Mosie Romney: ENERGY never*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles  
2020 *Mosie Romney and Juan Guiterrez*, Meredith Rosen Gallery, New York  
*Evening Lark*, Y2K Group, New York

### Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 *Touch*, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York (*upcoming*)  
*Friend Zone*, curated by Vaughn Spann, Half Gallery, New York  
*Different Strokes*, curated by Marcus Jahmal, Almine Rech, London  
*Speech Sounds*, More Pain, New York  
2020 *PAPA RAGAZZE!*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles  
2019 *Materia Prima*, Gern en Regalia, New York

### Residencies

2018 Home School, Hudson