

Patrice Renee Washington

Spoil'd

Exhibition dates: January 18 – February 24, 2019

Reception for the artist: Friday, January 18, 2019, 6-8 pm

Marinaro is pleased to present *Spoil'd*, Patrice Renee Washington's first solo show with the gallery.

For the exhibition, Washington presents carved wall reliefs and sculpted crates that reference found imagery originating with historical advertisements. The original advertisements depict black and brown bodies with foods that are stereotypically associated with African-American culture.

Sourced from online auctions, memorabilia blogs, antique and thrift stores, Washington uses these relics to explore the way that history has used and exploited marginalized bodies and their relationship to food. Because of the underlying racist tones, these images are now unusable in their original context through the current lens on history. No longer good for consumption, they are damaged goods in terms of representation. Washington uses the act of visiting these past images as a way to connect the dots to our relationship with class, wealth and racism.

Works are rendered in clay, as an act of permanence, uncovering the part of history which chooses to be hidden. Gestural modes of production are evident in the construction of the imagery and labor is present within the works by the visual distinction of fingerprints on the surfaces. The tiled technique of the images points to public and private spaces that are often tiled, such as bathrooms and kitchens—those that inevitably become unsanitary and dirty and must be cleaned to return to their original state.

The tiles and their monochromatic renderings reference formalism and minimalism. This technique challenges the viewer to distinguish the images, the violence, and sometimes the beauty within the tone on tone compositions. These singular colors are all in ranges of skin tones, from cream porcelains to black glazes visually highlighting the ideological concepts in the work.

Patrice Renee Washington (b. 1987, Chicago, IL) earned her BFA from Metropolitan State University, Denver, CO and her MFA from Columbia University, NY. She has shown in solo and group exhibitions across the United States, including solo exhibitions at Underdonk Gallery, Brooklyn, NY and a 2018 solo museum exhibition at The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO. Group exhibitions include shows at We Buy Gold, Brooklyn, NY; Sculpture Center, Queens, NY; the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO; Abrons Art Center, New York, NY; 47 Canal, New York, NY; Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn, NY; and the LeRoy Neiman Gallery, New York, NY. She has been granted residencies at Abrons Arts Center, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Lighthouse Works, the Museum of Art and Design, and the Vermont Studio Center. Washington currently lives and works in Newburgh, NY.