

Adia Millett Solo Exhibition

“You Will Be Remembered.” Curated by Jacqueline Francis

Exhibition dates: 9 November – 31 December 2022

Opening reception: 9 November 2022, Wednesday, 17:00 – 19:00 (Artist will be present.)

Venue: Galerie du Monde, 108 Ruttonjee Centre, 11 Duddell Street, Central, Hong Kong



“You Will Be Remembered.” (Patchwork) (2022)
Acrylic and glitter on wood, 91.5 x 122 x 4 cm

Playlist on
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HONG KONG – Galerie du Monde is delighted to present Adia Millett’s second solo exhibition in Asia entitled “You Will Be Remembered.”, curated by Jacqueline Francis from 9 November to 31 December 2022.

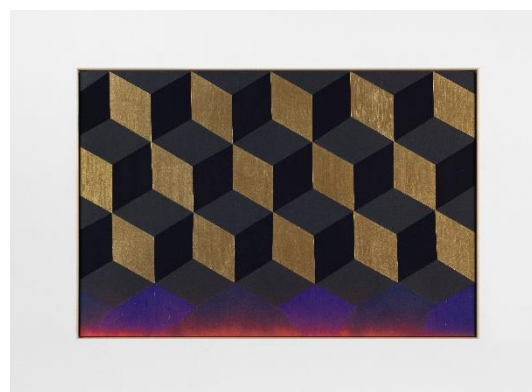
The 16 paintings featured project the power of mid-20th century jazz music into the future. Millett listened to the selected recordings over days and weeks, and she read the thoughtful writings about them. Subsequently, Millett created a body of buoyant abstract paintings which fully participate in the encounter between jazz and visual art – transmogrified forms are born. Millett embraces this kind of virality, reasoning the concept of the “new” does not have to exist. Instead, the process is one she describes as a “passing on” of knowledge and ways of experiencing the world.

In effect, Millett hosted a *listening party* across time and space.

Adia Millett (b.1975, United States) is an Oakland, California-based artist, acclaimed for her deep exploration of basic configurations, diverse expressive practices, and experimentations with mediums. Millett’s inspirations include built and natural environments, popular music from the past and the present, the integrity of ordinary materials, her own family history, and the complexity of lived experience. The geometries of domestic and industrial buildings are favorite starting points for Millett. She studies their structures, singly and together, and then moves to transform the whole of each single entity into an inventive recombination of shapes, line and planes.

Viewers will find many of Millett's long-favored geometries and signs in the new paintings – pyramids, triangles, prisms, arrows, that seem stacked, woven, and otherwise organized in close juxtapositions. Freshly considered symbols – rainbow-colored arches, tactics, and one-point perspective, are here as well. What is evident is Millett's interest, study and admiration of African American quilt making techniques, stained glass constructions, and thoughtful design patterns. In her painting process, Millett also courted the discoveries of improvisation and transcendent thinking, an attitude aligned with the jazz musician's mindset.

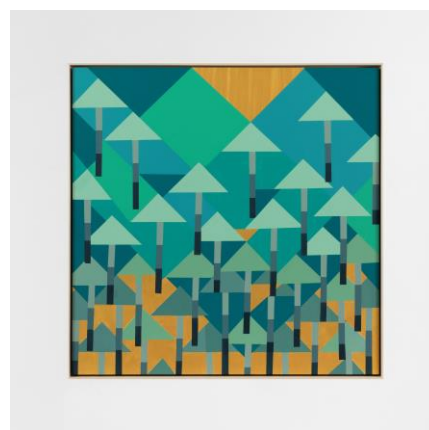
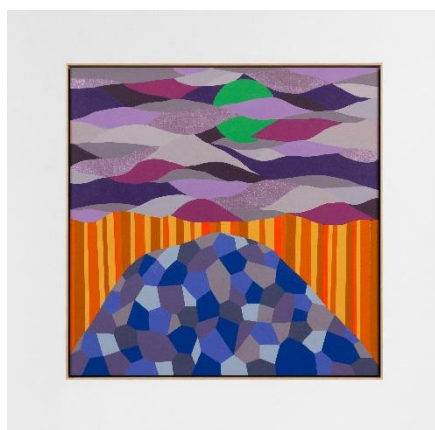
Black Diamond (2022), Acrylic on wood, 122 x 152.5 x 4 cm



Jazz is among the most influential languages. It has birthed countless subgenres of popular music. If jazz is a wellspring or rushing, mingling waters, then African Americans have been the designers, engineers, and sailors directing, constructing, and navigating these flows. Millett is a jazz fan. She has been a keen student of bebop which is a hard-charging style that emerged in New York during the 1940s. Bebop tempos move faster and more energetically than those produced by jazz swing bands that packed American concert halls in the interwar era.

Fire (2022), Acrylic on wood, 101.6 x 152.5 x 4 cm

In "You Will Remembered.", Millett pays tribute to great jazz musicians such as Vi Redd, Miles Davis, Melba Liston, Bud Powell, Eric Dolphy, Bill Evans, and more. She commissioned authors to correspond to them through writing – by Jacqueline Francis, Elena Gross, Rich Blint, Justin Desmangles, Brian Keith Jackson, and Teresa Moore.



Sweet Potato Sky (left) / *Gift* (right), Acrylic on wood, 91.5 x 122 x 4 cm each (2022)

Thinking about the relegation of jazz to the background of contemporary life, Millett sees parallels between abstraction in music, literature and visual art. Millett seeks to reframe the engagement with abstract expression in all the fields of creativity. She believes the generation of varied and numerous interpretations of abstract art is a measure of its success.

About the artist – Adia Millett (b. 1975)

Born in Los Angeles, Adia Millett received a BFA from the University of California at Berkeley, and an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. In 2001, she moved to New York for the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, followed by a residency at the Studio Museum in Harlem. She lived and worked in New York for a decade, exhibiting in high-profile group shows among them “Freestyle” (Studio Museum in Harlem, 2001), “Living Units” (Triple Candie, 2003), “Black President” (The New Museum, 2003), and “Greater New York” (Museum of Modern Art PS1, 2005), and recently in “Where is Here” (Museum of African Diaspora, 2017), and “Black Refractions” (Studio Museum in Harlem, 2019).



Recent solo exhibitions include “Breaking Patterns” (California African American Museum, 2019), “The Privilege to Breathe” (San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, 2019), “A Matter of Time” (Galerie du Monde, 2020), and “A Force of Nature” (di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, United States, 2022).

Millett has also been actively involved in public art and supporting social welfare, recent projects include a large-scale mural commission for Facebook HQ addressing the rising issue of homelessness in California, and the Antiracist Community Library for non-profit organization Rise Up Against Racism.

About the curator – Jacqueline Francis



Jacqueline Francis, Ph. D., is a writer, curator, art historian, and educator. She is the author of “Making Race: Modernism and “Racial Art” in America” (2012). She curated the contemporary art exhibition “Where is Here” for the Museum of the African Diaspora in 2016-2017. Francis presently serves on the Advisory Boards of “Panorama: Art and Visual Culture of the United States”, “Third Text: Critical Perspectives on Contemporary Art and Culture”, and San Francisco’s Luggage Store Gallery. She is also the Board President of the Queer Cultural Center, a

resource and site for LGBT artistic expression in San Francisco. Francis is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Graduate Program in Visual and Critical Studies at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

About Galerie du Monde

Founded in Hong Kong in 1974, Galerie du Monde has been specializing in modern and contemporary works by internationally established Chinese artists for 48 years. The gallery also nurtures and promotes emerging talent, presenting a varied program of solo and group exhibitions with a strong focus on works of art on canvas, paper, sculpture, photography and new media. To celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2014, Galerie du Monde introduced the GDM Project series to strengthen the gallery’s support to a wider group of artists from different geographical regions, providing them the opportunity to exhibit outside of their own areas.

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Galerie du Monde opens from Monday to Saturday, 10am – 7pm