

BRILLIANT
CHAMPIONS
GALLERY

Water Me

Solo exhibition by Kwesi Abbensetts

On view: July 7 through August 5, 2017

Brilliant Champions Gallery thrilled to present "*Water Me*" a solo exhibition by Kwesi Abbensetts. In his debut solo exhibition the artist presents a vast body of cinematic photographs spanning from 2009 to 2017.

Kwesi Abbensetts (b. Guyana, 1976) is a New York based artist whose images wield a deep, bold, and extravagant look into the limitless beauty of blackness. "My work is tightly bound to my identity and consequently the work and subjects become a rendered celebration of my culture. My work is concerned with I call "Revisionary Self Appropriation." It is a work that seeks to build new context and representation of self and not relying on direct posited contemporary references. It relies on "blood" memory, invention and experimentation via the process of intuitive force performance."

Although photography has been Abbensetts' main artistic foundation, he is also a painter and filmmaker. Melding modern contemporary aesthetic and enhanced by his Caribbean origins, the saturated color, lush patterns and the striking natural beauty of his subjects create a world of fantasy, escape and imagination. A drug that endlessly feeds the psyche.

Self proclaimed as an "Intuitionist", Abbensetts' divine moments are captured in the artist's call and response practice. He relies on waiting, spontaneous inspiration and happenstance instead of trained formalities of art making and practice. "*Water Me*" presents a variety of photographs varying in style and composition. Throughout the exhibition, the work unites in themes of blackness, spiritual space, nature and the human form.

Kwesi Abbensetts hails from South America off the Corentyne coast of Guyana. Currently living and working in New York. He's recently been awarded the 2016 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow in Photography Award as well as the 2016 Film Africa Artwork Competition. He has been included in art fairs, museum and gallery exhibitions such as A Center for Contemporary Art, Newark (2017); Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore (2011); African and African-Caribbean Design Diaspora Festival, London (2011); Aljira, Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, New York (2010); and the Nathan Cummings Foundation, New York (2010).

Brilliant Champions Gallery celebrates "*Water Me*" with an opening reception on July 7, 2017 from 6 - 9pm and is open to the public. The exhibition runs through August 5, 2017 with open hours Thursday through Saturday from 11am to 5pm and by appointment or chance. Visit us at 5 Central Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206 or on the web at <http://www.brilliant.gallery>

For more information on "*Water Me*" solo exhibition by Kwesi Abbensetts, please contact Jillian Mackintosh, Gallery Director, at jillian@brilliantchampions.com.