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Press Release

Cornelius Annor: Lost But Found

November 11 - December 18, 2021

Opening: Thursday, November 11th, 2021

Venus Over Manhattan
120 East 65th Street
New York, NY 10065



(New York, NY) – Beginning November 11th, **Venus Over Manhattan** will present an exhibition of new works by **Cornelius Annor**, whose collaged paintings of family photographs draw upon his personal history in Ghana. Entitled “**Lost But Found**,” the artist’s debut solo exhibition in the United States features twelve works, including new portraits, images of his relatives, and complex narrative scenes. **Cornelius Annor: Lost But Found** will be on view at Venus through December 18th.

Cornelius Annor paints portraits and figurative works that picture moments of community and intimacy, set in domestic spaces. The artist has a longstanding fascination with the human face, and his works show a focused attention to the expressiveness of various faces and figures. Annor’s paintings typically incorporate segments of fabric, adding to the intimacy and evocativeness of the portraits. The backgrounds of the works often integrate Ghanaian textile patterns, which Annor achieves by transferring a fabric’s dyes onto canvas, establishing an atmosphere of layered memories, emotions, and experiences.

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Annor's subjects have traditionally stemmed from memory and personal history in Ghana, and for this exhibition, Annor draws primarily from images found in his family's photo-albums. Discussing the relationship between photography and memory, the artist describes:

The advent of photography [allowed for the] archiving of history, memory, testimony and identity [as] pictures. In post-independence Africa, specifically Ghana where I come from, photography became a new tool to archive our family history, from celebratory moments to [moments where we] part ways. Every family house [has] a photo album that at least tells the untold stories of the family. New generations grow up [with these] memories of the past, [and experience] the joy, pain, happiness, and sad moments their family encountered. [This] project seeks to reenact those past memories which seem lost, absent, forgotten or unknown, [and] to present a certain presence of [them] now."

Many of the paintings in the exhibition depict members of Annor's immediate and extended family, rendered in moments both casual and significant. Annor derives his compositions from this personal archive of family photographs, each of which was originally framed, composed, and shot by a participant or close observer of the situation depicted. Layered with skeins of paint, bolts of fabric, and rigorous draughtsmanship, Annor's paintings renovate these referents, merging history with the present. The works on view excavate a personal photographic vernacular, and taken together, telegraph the past through an intimate painterly vision.

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ABOUT CORNELIUS ANNOR

Cornelius Annor was born in 1990 in Accra, Ghana. Annor studied at the Ghanatta College of Art and Design. His work has been featured in exhibitions in Accra, London, and New York. His work is held in the permanent collections of The Bunker Artspace, West Palm Beach, and Espacio Tacuari, Buenos Aires. In 2022, Annor's work will be featured in "Contemporary African Portraiture," curated by Florian Steininger, at Kunsthalle Krems. Annor lives and works in Ghana, where he established C. Annor studio, a space dedicated to encouraging and supporting young artists.

Venus Over Manhattan

120 East 65th Street
New York, NY 10065

Gallery hours

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Press contact

Andrea Schwan
Andrea Schwan, Inc.
info@andreaschwan.com
+ 1 (917) 371-5023

For further information about the exhibition and availability, please contact the gallery at info@venusovermanhattan.com

To ensure the health and safety of staff and visitors, masks and social distancing will be required in accordance with public guidelines. Maximum of six people admitted at a time.

Image credits:

Cornelius Annor, *Obiaa beko*, 2021. Diptych: fabric collage, fabric transfer, and acrylic on canvas; Overall: 72 1/4 x 72 1/4 in (183 x 183 cm) Each panel: 72 1/4 x 36 1/4 in (183 x 91.5 cm). Courtesy the artist and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.

Cornelius Annor, *Obaatan*, 2021. Fabric collage, fabric transfer, and acrylic on canvas; 59 3/4 x 49 1/2 in (152 x 126 cm). Courtesy the artist and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.

Cornelius Annor, *Mmaa mpaninfoo nhyeamu*, 2021. Fabric collage, fabric transfer, and acrylic on canvas; 59 3/4 x 83 3/4 in (152 x 213 cm). Courtesy the artist and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.