

JAS KNIGHT

b. 1997, Connecticut, US. Lives and works in New York, US.

Jas Knight depicts and celebrates contemporary African-American experience through the historical language of portraiture, still life and genre painting. Through masterful use of 16th and 17th century painting techniques, Knight translates his love of French and Dutch traditions into portraits of people doing everyday 21st century things, focusing on the lives of everyday New Yorkers, as well as some settings far from home. Playing with the lines between reality and fiction, Knight's paintings demurely subvert historical depictions of black subjects in academic painting, foregrounding the presence, personality and surrounding environment of everyday lives. His fascination with the role of draughtsmanship, perception and memory is honed through an ongoing series of master copies from Gérôme to Velázquez, which allow him to not only refine his technique but embody the perception of other artists, a way to truly see a painting and establish forms of communion with history, its many challenges and discoveries.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024

Terrain, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2015

Jas Knight: Euhemerized, Bill Hodges Gallery, New York, US

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

GIRLS. On Boredom, Rebellion and Being In-Between, MoMu, Antwerp, BE

2024

Flight into Egypt: Black Artists and Ancient Egypt, 1876–Now, The Met, New York, US

2023

In Search of Juan de Pareja: From Arturo Schomburg to Jas Knight, Hispanic Society Museum & Library, New York, US

2019

Blackface: A Reclamation of Beauty, Power and Narrative, Galerie Myrtis and The Agora Culture, New York, US

2017

Expanding Tradition: The Journey of the African-American Artist, Grenning Gallery, New York, US

Holiday Gifts under \$3,000, Grenning Gallery, New York, US

2016

Miracle on Madison Street, Grenning Gallery, New York, US

Another Look: A Hand Selected Group Show, Grenning Gallery, New York, US

2015

50 Under \$5k, Bill Hodges Gallery, New York, US

2014

Painted Portraits, Rush Arts, New York, US

2005

New Philadelphia Realists, Seraphin Gallery, Philadelphia, US

COLLECTIONS

Studio Museum Harlem, New York, US

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, New York, US

Yale University US Department of State Collection, New Haven, US

Leonard E.B. Andrews Foundation, Dallas, US

University of Hartford, West Hartford, US

DeWitt Collection, West Hartford, US

RESIDENCIES/AWARDS

Greater Hartford Arts Council Innovation Grant (award)

Leonard Andrews Foundation Scholarship (award)