



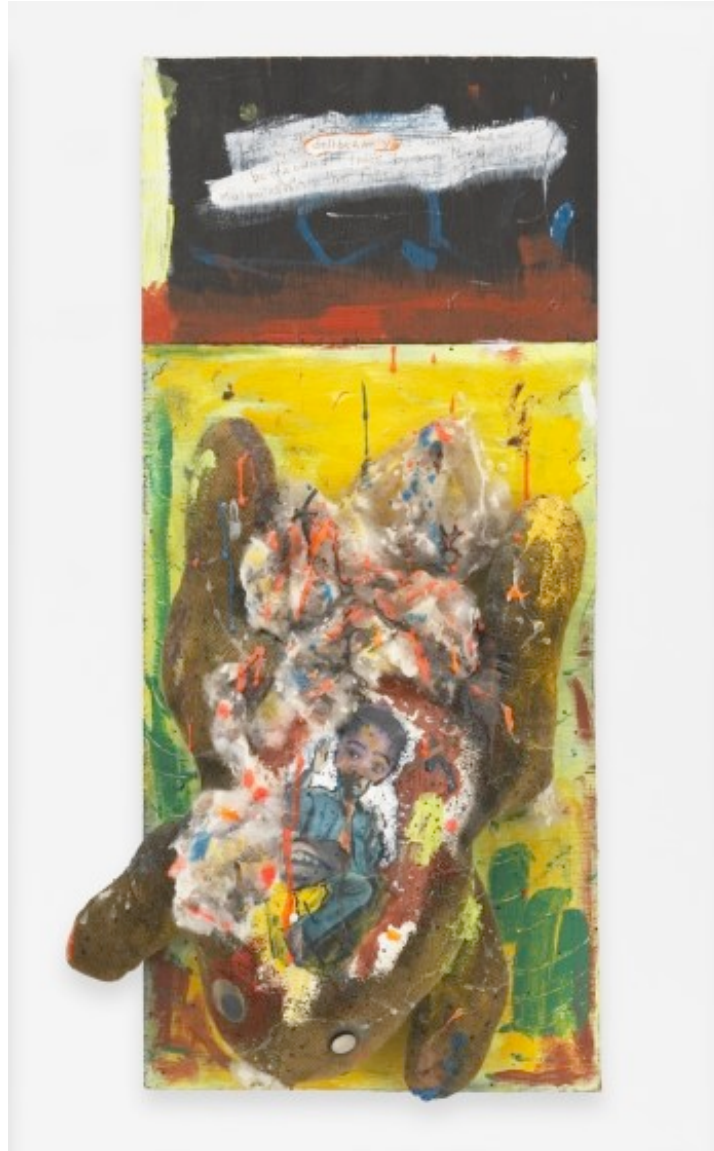
## May Exhibitions: Mark Bradford Reps U.S. at Venice Biennale, Martine Syms at MoMA, Plus Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Pope.L, Beauford Delaney, Kehinde Wiley, and More

by VICTORIA L. VALENTINE on May 8, 2017 • 8:58 pm

MUST-SEE EXHIBITIONS featuring some of the most interesting black female artists working today are opening around the world this month. The first solo museum show of Los Angeles-based Martine Syms opens May 27 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In the same city, an amazing show of new portrait paintings by British artist Lynette Yiadom-Boakye is already on view at the New Museum. Julie Mehretu is presenting her first show in Portugal, a 20-year survey at Serralves Museum, and Wangechi Mutu is showing works at Lehmann Maupin Gallery in Hong Kong.

Also of note, the Knoxville Museum of Art, the hometown museum of Beauford Delaney (1901-1979), is exhibiting 40 works by the artist from its collection. For his latest series of portraits at Sean Kelly Gallery in New York, Kehinde Wiley's subjects are fellow artists, including Glenn Ligon, Rashid Johnson, Mickalene Thomas, Kerry James Marshall, and Yiadom-Boakye.

And next week, the long-awaited debut of Mark Bradford's representation of the United States at the 57th Venice Biennale will be unveiled. "Tomorrow is Another Day," his socially charged, narrative exhibition at the U.S. Pavilion, opens May 13. Meanwhile, "Poolside Magic," the Chris Ofili exhibition inaugurating Victoria Miro's new Venice space coincides with the opening of the city's international biennale. A selection of exhibition opening in May follows:



POPE.L, "Crawling to Richard Pryor's House," 1994 (acrylic, ballpoint, collage, stuffed animal and wood glue on wooden board). | © Pope.L, Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, NY

**"Pope.L: Proto-Skin Set" @ Mitchell-Innes & Nash, Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. | May 23-June 30, 2017**

Generally made with pen and ink on graph paper, Pope.L's Skin Set works from the late 1990s and into the 2010s offer sharp, sometimes witty critiques of the absurdity of racial stereotypes and references to skin color (i.e "Black People are the Window and the Breaking of the Window," "Blue People Cannot Conceive of Themselves," "White People Are Angles on Fire"). This exhibition of early works executed on local newspapers, billboards, and advertisements anticipates the artist's Skin Set works. In a series of works dating from 1979-1994, Pope.L explores issues including race and masculinity and the function of language and materiality in his practice. The artist is also currently presenting work in the Whitney Biennial.