

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

GIDEON APPAH: *More Luck*

534 West 26th Street, New York

September 8 – October 15, 2022

Opening Reception: September 8, 6–8 PM



NEW YORK – (August 12, 2022) – Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to present its second solo exhibition of work by Ghanaian artist Gideon Appah (b. 1987) on view September 8 – October 15, 2022. Following his first U.S. museum solo show at ICA VCU, it will feature paintings and drawings that were made in Accra over the last three years, largely during the course of global lockdowns and collective upheaval.

In this new body of work, much of which debuted in his recent museum show, Appah pivots from his usual cooler tones and opts instead for a warmer palette of desaturated color in order to render emotionally impactful compositions, culling equally melancholic and auspicious scenes that detail the complexities of the human condition and natural world. There are looming skies, bedridden men and drowning women, but the artist also marks a deep courage revealed by several portraits of majestic horses in varying states of rest and motion.

On view is also a selection of fantastical charcoal drawings that depict landscape and still life scenes with a Surrealist tone. Evoking a similar sense of mystery and spirituality seen in the paintings, these works on paper isolate the line and give emphasis to Appah's acute draftsmanship. Here, his mark-making is bold and candid, playing charmingly against the subtlety of that in the paintings.

Critically recognized early in his career, Appah's compositional range has established him as one of the most inventive and intriguing painters working in Ghana today. From influences of Ghanaian film to post-independent architecture, he situates the contemporary within the historical while giving a stage to legend and myth. His familiar thick, rough applications of pigment lend shape to abstractions and figurations that use color and scale to evoke important signifiers of visual and emotional hierarchy.

About Gideon Appah

Born in Ghana in 1987, Appah lives and works in Accra. His most recent solo show, *Forgotten, Nudes, Landscapes*, was on view at the Institute for Contemporary Art in Richmond, VA in 2022. His works have also been exhibited internationally, including at Triennale de Milano, Milan; Casa Barragan, Mexico City; Ghana Science Museum, Accra; Goethe Institute, Accra; KNUST Museum, Kumasi and Nubuke Foundation, Accra. His work is included in the collection of the Absa Museum, Johannesburg; Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakesh and Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto as well as private collections. He was shortlisted for the 2016 Kuenyehia Art Prize and 2022 Henrike Grohs Art Award.

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About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, who previously headed the worldwide Contemporary and Impressionist & Modern Art divisions of Sotheby's, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context, revealing a continuity of ideas and aesthetic virtuosity from the Modern era through the present day. Lucy Mitchell-Innes is also a member of the selection committee of Art Basel and a former president of the Art Dealers Association of America. Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program fosters excellence within artistic practice, while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters, such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Jay DeFeo, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, Eddie Martinez, Pope.L, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

Caption: Gideon Appah, *Man on Bed*, 2021, Oil on canvas, 78 3/8 by 39 1/4 in. 199.1 by 99.7 cm.

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