

Jasmine Gregory with Ian Wooldridge  
*Home Improvements*  
March 18 – April 17, 2021  
Brussels

*Sham-polish*

Bloating veil,  
behind witch  
A hyde  
I twitch,  
and cover my eyes.

*"More great and more better!"*

Bells peel,  
the dints grow smooth.  
swollen heels  
carry me  
just the same.

Peer over  
uhhh  
Eking, lumpen shoulder.

Nurse  
on my swollen, split tongue.  
Gently.  
Spilt,  
soon to burst.

*"The Devil is next after Jack as a culture hero."*  
jacked up,  
The details evade me  
don't make me say it twice...

Peek  
through tall fingers  
turn your cheek to check

Dust swarms  
my sobbing mouth,  
(a sobbing mouth)  
lapses away.

by Olamiju Fajemisin

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PARK VIEW / PAUL SOTO is pleased to announce *Home Improvements*, an exhibition of new paintings by American born painter Jasmine Gregory. The exhibition is in collaboration with British born artist Ian Wooldridge and is staged at our Brussels location, La Maison de Rendez-Vous. *Home Improvements* is the continuation of an ongoing dialogue between the two artists who explore identity, subjectivity, and consumption in their works, blending Black and queer positions in the exhibition through abstraction and pop.

Gregory and Wooldridge both explore hyperbolic motifs within traditional formal parameters, pushing deeply into illusionistic space in what have been described as history paintings of our time in Gregory's case, and glitchy televisual videos in Wooldridge's. Their shared experiences of screen-based life drive their practices, which utilize collage in their creation of comic juxtapositions that reflect the moment, and which disrupt traditional, *cis-white* visual symbolic orders in hyper-theatrical ways. Gregory is interested in depictions of Black and female subjectivity that take on comic, cryptic, and coded aspects in paintings which refuse to be easily instrumentalized and digested.

Like Wooldridge, Gregory employs collage techniques that often depict a central figure in the throes of a transformative moment. Her subjects are placed in traditional seeming perspectival or landscape space, but are warped by cartoonish bends of composition. Hyper-pop and garish builds of color in her grounds and outlines borrow from 1990s teen bedroom visual culture, but also drag culture and contemporary female-driven reality TV. Rococo and baroque flourishes abound in expressionist or minimalist painterly gestures which heighten the drama of her portraits in subtle and joking ways. Both paint and reality are turned upside down. Gregory's figures look out at us. These proxies are simultaneously alive and evaporating within the canvas's force field. The ensuing ambiguity opens up interpretive space that disrupts and refuses definition.

Jasmine Gregory was born in Washington DC in 1987, and currently lives and works in Zürich, Switzerland, where she teaches at Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (ZHdK). Her works have been exhibited at Les Urbaines (CH), Kunsthalle Zürich (CH), and Karma International (CH) among others. She has also participated in "Reimagining the Museum: Open Letters and a Decolonial Framework" a roundtable discussion hosted by the Hammer Museum (US).

Ian Wooldridge is an artist and writer based in Zürich. He has performed and exhibited at: ICA (London); Fri Art (Fribourg) Nuit Blanche (Paris Arts Lab 2019); The Cruising Pavilion (Venice Architecture Biennale 2018); LUX (London); Folkwang (Essen) and Istituto Svizzero, (Rome). And has written for Artforum (USA), Frieze (UK), Mousse (IT), Brand New Life (CH), Arcadia Missa (UK), Pilot Press (UK) and Le Temps (CH).

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