

P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E

I Never Really Knew You
11 May - 1 June 2024
Tonia Calderon, Swoon, Dionne Simpson,
Malik Roberts, and Calvin Clausell Jr.
Curated by Mashonda Tifere



Praz-Delavallade Los Angeles is pleased to present *I Never Really Knew You*, a five-artist group exhibition curated by Mashonda Tifere that features works from artists **Tonia Calderon**, **Swoon**, **Dionne Simpson**, **Malik Roberts**, and **Calvin Clausell Jr.** The exhibition opens on May 11th and will run through June 1st.

The exhibition revolves around the many layers of the ego and serves as a visual journal that offers a story of self-awakening and truth. Spanning various genres and mediums, viewers are invited into the minds of the artists, highlighting their individual creative processes, growth, vision, and diverse voices. "Our mental, emotional, and physical health are all victims of the lies our ego-selves whisper in our minds," Tifere said. "The ego is the master of disguise. But once you witness the ego, you realize that it never really existed. We are actually in control of our human story and that the only way to reveal our truths is by removing our masks and the many layers of fear they hide. Each work in this exhibition is a testament to the transformative power of self-realization to align us with life's potential wonders."

ABOUT MASHONDA TIFERE

Mashonda Tifere has created a multi-dimensional career that includes Music, Art, and Entrepreneurship. In music, Tifere has collaborated with some of the biggest names in pop music. In the literary space, she is the author of the 2018 Penguin Random House release "Blend: The Secret to Co-parenting and Creating a Balanced Family."

As an international curator and the Founder of Art Genesis, Mashonda is building a sustainable marketplace for entrepreneurial emerging and established artists/creatives. The Art Business graduate from Christie's Education in New York has partnered with Beyoncé's BeyGOOD, Gucci's Chime for Change, American designer Donna Karan, museums, galleries, and art fairs worldwide to curate exhibitions, and has shown more than 200 artists. Her work has garnered features in Forbes, The New York Times, Cultured Mag, Artnet, Whitewall, and Artsy.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CALVIN CLAUSELL JR.

Born in 1989, Calvin Clausell Jr., a resident of the vibrant city of Los Angeles, CA. His artistic journey has been a testament to the fusion of two distinct passions: acting and oil painting. From early sketches to creating large-scale, photorealistic oil paintings on wood panels, his work reflects a lifelong commitment to capturing the intricacies of human expression and the profound connection between humanity and the natural world.

DIONNE SIMPSON

As a painter, Dionne Simpson is of Jamaican descent, was raised in Toronto, and studied at Cooper Union in New York and OCADU in Toronto. In 2004, she became the first national winner of the RBC Canadian Painting Competition. In addition to architectural depictions, Simpson has also created portraits and abstract images, such as the work presented here. In her words, the canvas represents the underlying fabric of Canadian society, where she embeds fragments of our culture into the window frames.

MALIK ROBERTS

Malik Roberts (b. 1990) is a Brooklyn-based painter of fine art. Utilizing subject and theme reminiscent of predecessors within the vast Cubist tradition, Roberts' work characterizes the being and becoming of black culture, as well as the virtualities and dregs of human nature.

SWOON

Caledonia Curry / Swoon is an artist and filmmaker recognized for her pioneering vision of public artwork. Through intimate portraits, animated films, immersive installations, and multi-year community-based projects, she explores the potential inherent within the creative process to act as a catalyst for social change and interpersonal healing. Curry is a 2022 Sundance Directors Lab Fellow.

TONIA CALDERON

Tonia Calderon, Los Angeles-based visual artist, seeks poetry within life's complexities. Her layering process begins with a hand-written stance or couplet to serve as the work's title. Calderon's artwork blends natural materials, flower pigments, resin, and chemical elements to galvanize movement and function as a reflection of her continuous exploration of living.

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