

# MARIANE IBRAHIM



## Clotilde Jiménez: *THE CONTEST*

July 11 - August 22, 2020

July 9, 2020 (Chicago) - Mariane Ibrahim is delighted to present Clotilde Jiménez's newest body of work, *THE CONTEST*, from July 11 - August 22, 2020. It will be his first solo show with the gallery. There will be no opening reception for this exhibition. The artist will be present in the gallery from July 9 - 11. To schedule a viewing please visit our website.

His practice is rooted in conceptions such as the fragmentation of queerness, and in this series, his relationship to his father and athleticism. Through these techniques, Jiménez examines the way the intersection of athleticism and queerness relate to himself as a Black male.

*THE CONTEST* unravels Jiménez's own queer imagination to physicality. The works grapple with his deeply personal and once estranged relationship with his father, a bodybuilder and boxer. Jiménez adopts the boxer and bodybuilder as motifs, recalling early ideas of the body, specifically the Black male body.

Placed within each 'pose' or boxing ring, the large scale boxers and body builders brawl, their positions mighty, next to bronze sculptures of heads with colorful boxing headgear. He finds beauty in the color and sculptural physicality of boxing headgear and the groin protector that transforms the body into something strong, powerful and guarded.

As a progression of Jiménez's work, the latest iteration of his colorful collage materials allude to Western culture through the reuse of everyday materials such as wallpaper, popular clothing brand names, magazine clippings and papers of Mexican craft. The materiality of charcoal allows the artist to construct statuesque marble-like figures that make reference to Greco- Roman sculpture, and the ways male beauty has been interpreted through the lens of a Western art historical canon.

Through physically cutting these materials out, and piecing them back together Jiménez permits the reconstruction of memories by using the material fragments of imagery which were literally part of his, possibly his father's, and maybe even our own memories.

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*"I want to be a storyteller for people who look like me. The people whose stories have been marginalized and ignored. What I want to do is be the person that I needed when growing up— someone who depicts the complexities of Black life, what it means to be queer, and how it is OK. I aim to provide greater representation of my people within the art historical canon."*

- Clotilde Jiménez

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### **Artist Biography:**

Clotilde Jiménez is a visual artist, born in Honolulu and based in Mexico City.

Jiménez's work celebrates the nuances of being a queer and Black hispanic male while exploring the limitations placed on the body in light of race, gender and sexuality. Although the experience behind Jiménez's work is subjective, a level of universal symbolism is present, ultimately exploring rigid definitions of 'Blackness.'

The artist emphasizes, "the work became a tapestry of my life that transcribes and reconstructs the societal *idée fixe* of the black body in popular culture, while also undermining the notions of gender normativity within a black subjectivity."

Jiménez has exhibited at The Mennello Museum of American Art, Orlando; Phillips, New York; the Slade School of Fine Art, London; and the Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Seattle. He earned his MFA from The Slade School of Fine Art, and his BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art.

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