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Milo Matthieu: *Family Ties*

Jupiter

March 31 – May 11, 2024

Opening reception: March 31, 6-8 PM

1217 71st Street, Miami Beach, FL 33141



Miami – March 26, 2024 – Jupiter is thrilled to present *Family Ties*, a solo exhibition by New York-based Haitian-American artist **Milo Matthieu**. *Family Ties* continues the artist's longtime practice of translating his cultural legacy into contemporary terms by drawing upon the rich artistic history of his family heritage, in particular the Haitian paintings and African masks that populated his childhood home. Following his inclusion in the 2023 group exhibitions *Gimme Shelter* and *Caribbean Revels*, this will be Matthieu's first solo exhibition with the gallery and will be closely followed by Jupiter's presentation of his work at Independent New York from May 9-12, 2024.

Through a creative process of psychic automatism, Matthieu has developed a distinctive visual language of bright colors and anthropomorphic forms that take shape as bold, highly textured portraits and abstracted scenes through which he translates his cultural legacy and ancestral whispers into contemporary terms.

Depicting the artist's experiences, both lived and inherited, this new series of never-before-seen paintings serve as a visual memoir of the moments that shaped Matthieu's journey of self-discovery. Each work is an abstract fusion of his family's stories, photographs, and vibrant artworks from their home—scenes of bustling markets, sweeping landscapes, and the faces of ancestors. Guiding Matthieu as he forged his own understanding of his Haitian heritage and identity, these sources of inspiration live on in his work, perpetuating the feeling of togetherness that defines his extended Haitian community of family and friends.

When immigrating to the United States, his family found connection, mutual support, and shared culture in Queens. Matthieu brings these relationships into the present via such paintings as *The Rendezvous*, *Ensemble*, and *Between two worlds* (all 2024). The latter not only reflects the experiences of his family, which effectively bridges two countries and cultures, but also visually suggests a fusion of two aesthetic traditions: one modernist, which can be seen in the treatment of the background—it's bold gestural swaths of color—and Matthieu's mode of representing the figures, in a manner reflective of Haitian masks and sculptures.

As the largest work in the exhibition, *The Parade* (2024) stretches out horizontally alongside viewers in a life sized procession, which unites elements of a celebratory event with those of a somber affair following a funeral. Ensnared in sun, sky, and small bursts of red and orange flowers,

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the figures on the right possess a clear, physical delineation in space, while those on the left appear to merge with their surroundings. While this formal trajectory reflects the vagaries of history and memory, if read from left to right, as people, places, and events become more defined in the present; it also echoes, if read from right to left, a naturally-occurring process of assimilation that unfolds over generations.

Each painting in the exhibition thus immortalizes fragments of distant memories, stories of ancestral migration, and defining features of the artist's cultural identity, which together reflect Matthieu's longing for connection, belonging, and a greater understanding of home. *Family Ties* urges us to embrace the fragments of our own narratives—to consider the echoes of our own ancestral whispers—the promise of connection, the longing for home, and the enduring allure of the human spirit.

About the Artist

Milo Matthieu (b. 1990, Los Angeles, CA) graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey in 2013 and has had solo exhibitions at M+B Gallery, Los Angeles; Sorry We're Closed, Brussels; Kravets Wehby Gallery, New York; The Cabin LA, Los Angeles. He has been featured in group exhibitions at the Historic Hampton House, Miami; Salon 94, New York; Ross-Sutton Gallery, New York; Blum & Poe, Los Angeles; Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles; Beers Gallery, London; and most recently at V1 Gallery, Copenhagen. Matthieu currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Caption: Milo Matthieu, *Story of a salesman*, 2024, Oil on canvas, 60.25 by 50.25 in. 153.04 by 127.64 cm. (MM027) © Milo Matthieu. Photo by Cary Whittier. Courtesy of the artist and Jupiter, Miami Beach, FL

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