

eric firestone gallery

For Immediate Release:

ABIGAIL DEVILLE: ORIGINAL NIGHT

Eric Firestone Gallery

4 Great Jones, 3rd Floor | New York, NY

October 28 – December 23, 2022

Opening Reception: Friday, October 28 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Eric Firestone Gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of paintings and assemblage wall works by Abigail DeVille (b. 1981). The show is concurrent with DeVille's major solo exhibition at the Bronx Museum of Art, which opens October 12 and will remain on view through April 9, 2023. DeVille is an American artist known for her large-scale sculptures and site-specific installations, which incorporate objects, materials, and narrative elements native to the site.

DeVille's work is attuned to the optimism, endurance, and ongoing struggles of African American communities. Found materials and detritus are used to unearth forgotten narratives of communities of color, including those of her own family - who were part of the Great Migration. She uses assemblage to reanimate, bring attention to, and amplify these voices.

For this exhibition, DeVille responds, with paintings and assemblage wall works, to poetry written by her Dominican grandfather, Francisco Antonio Cruz. The titular poem, "Original Night," is found in his book *Los Testamentos Infinitos* 1970-76. Dealing with the mysteries of the cosmos, as well as the relationship between Genesis and artmaking, this poem resonates with many of the artist's concerns.

Her paintings begin with found pieces of plywood and salvaged vintage canvases. These surfaces are modified, layered, and peeled back to reveal the stories of their genesis. DeVille spent the summer of 2022 in rural Maine where she taught at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. There, at secondhand shops, she discovered objects including African American dolls and antique tools. These objects are also incorporated into the assemblage paintings. Through its singular materiality, tactility, and devotion, DeVille's work gains poetic resonance.



Abigail DeVille | *The Brief Thread of a Star's Brilliance*, 2022
Masonite, paint, tulle, window shade, collage of the moon, rope ladder
96h x 96w x 15d in.

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About the Artist



Abigail DeVille | *Unameable Frame*, 2022
reclaimed door, window, mirror, paper,
charcoal, graphite, ceiling tile, sheetrock
85h x 45 1/2w x 3 3/4d in.

Abigail DeVille most recently was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Sculpture Center, Cleveland, Ohio, presented with FRONT International 2022, the Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art (July - October 2022). Her exhibition *Light of Freedom*, was organized by Madison Square Park Conservancy (2020-21), and traveled to the Momentary at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR (2021) and the Hirshhorn Museum Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (2021-22). Other commissions and solo museum shows include *The American Future*, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland (2018-19); *Lift Every Voice and Sing (amerikanskije gorki)* at Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (2017-2018); *Empire State Works in Progress* (2017) at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; *No Space Hidden (Shelter)* at Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2017-2018), and *Only When It's Dark Enough Can You See The Stars* at The Contemporary, Baltimore (2016).

Recent group shows have been held at the Swiss Institute, New York (2022); Pioneer Works, Brooklyn (2021); Wave Hill, Bronx (2019); National Museum of Women in Arts, Washington, DC (2018); Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens (2016), Sculpture Center, Queens (2014), El Museo del Barrio, New York (2011, 2014), CAMH, Houston (2014); The Bronx Museum of the Arts; (2013), The 55th Venice Biennale (2013), The Studio Museum in Harlem (2012, 2014); ICA, Philadelphia (2012); New Museum (2012); and the Stedelijk Museum (2011). DeVille was a 2018 United States Artists Fellow, 2017-2018 Rome Prize fellow at the American Academy in Rome, 2015 Creative Capital grantee, 2014-15 fellow at The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and 2012 Joan Mitchell Foundation grant recipient.

DeVille's work is in prominent collections, including The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx; Centre National des Arts Plastiques (Cnap), Paris; Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco; Kaviar Factory, Henningsvaer; Memphis Brooks Museum of Art (MBMA), Memphis; Pinault Collection; and The Studio Museum in Harlem (New York). DeVille received her MFA from Yale University and her BFA from the Fashion Institute of Technology. DeVille was born in New York and works in the Bronx.

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For further information and images, contact press@ericfirestonegallery.com