



Nina Johnson

Cassi Namoda:
Dog meat, cat meat, God-knows-what meat
May 22nd - July 18th, 2020

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DOG MEAT, CAT MEAT, GOD-KNOWS-WHAT MEAT

Nina Johnson gallery is pleased to announce that from May 22 to July 18, a group of small-scale works by Mozambican artist Cassi Namoda will be on display in a collection entitled *Dog meat, cat meat, God-knows-what meat*. Drawing from an intuitive reading of the proverbial African expression, Namoda offers tableaux rooted in something of a jazz sensibility—an intuition directed firmly toward the stylings of impromptu, fugitive arrangement.

Composed between a 2020 residency in Lamu, Kenya and Namoda's studio in Long Island, New York, *Dog meat, cat meat, God-knows-what meat* represents both meditation and caprice; a sweet serenade and a eulogy also—tracking disparate geographies, metaphors, and imaginations.

The initial concern with format—small-scale painting—communicates a foundational sentiment for the collection: incarnation of the anti-monument, the anti-melody, and reinvestment in softness, obscurity, and aberrance. The notion of obscurity, or rather, opacity appears central in scenes like the title-piece, where Namoda depicts an ambiguous and organic wrestle between vague, monochrome animal figures; observation of the background in this and other pieces—a mélange of hazy brushwork layers—reveals the transfiguration of air itself into heady, saccharine gauze: a veil, or threshold of sorts.

Namoda's exploration of ambiguity and of the threshold extends to her subjects, who exhibit their own obscure, visceral transfigurations: in lovers' embrace, a woman's mouth transforms into an emerald serpent and stares languidly at its beneficiary—coaxed from shetani witchcrafts.

Elsewhere, family figures stand before a valley sunrise in bizarre isolation, testament to Namoda's own penchant for the compositionally grotesque. A man in ochre dress and cap grimaces with a rose in his mouth. At once he is familiar and romantic, though perhaps in his strange company he means to consume the flower in ritual or vague prostration.

Dog meat, cat meat, God-knows-what meat renders a transient subspace of dusk and deferral—perpetual estrangement. In coloration alone, initial softness and comfort of shade belie a warm, underbelly seething and sensuality. Namoda's distant figures enmesh themselves in the contours of a queer borderland, perhaps as the custodians of its threshold—a pantheon of small, purgatorial martyrs and deities inscribed in bas-relief around a doorway. Conjoined twins sit in innocence atop a plush, white down with daffodils and embroidery hearts. Yet they do not hesitate to return the viewer's gaze; their symbolic transfiguration is apparent, and yet their sharp self-exhibition jeopardizes the viewer's endearments. In shaded, rhapsodic verse, Namoda veils the viewer's safe passage with ciphers. Step toward the man hidden behind colored balloons and the girl in crutches and eyepatch, perhaps to discover fraternity, and perhaps to confront your own peripheries and transfigurations in the process.



ABOUT CASSI NAMODA

Born in Maputo, Mozambique, as the daughter of a Mozambican mother and an American father, Cassi Namoda spent most of her childhood traveling around the world, being exposed to a variety of ideas, cultures, and stories. She would return to Maputo in her early twenties before permanently settling in Los Angeles. With dream-like elements and folkloric references, her painting calls forth an evocative and intimate recollection.



ABOUT NINA JOHNSON

Nina Johnson is a contemporary art space in Miami, Florida. Opened as Gallery Diet in 2007, the gallery has produced exhibitions by emerging and established artists from around the world, including Terry Allen, Anna Betbeze, Judy Chicago, Ann Craven, Jim Drain, Awol Erizku, Derek Fordjour, Nicola L., Nicolas Lobo, Nevine Mahmoud, Jonas Mekas, Cassi Namoda, Eamon Ore-Giron, Genesis Breyer P-Orridge, Peter Shire, Katie Stout, and Betty Woodman. The gallery is located at 6315 NW 2nd Avenue Miami in the Little Haiti district.

Nina Johnson



Earthy guidance before Dusk in Manicaland, 2020
Acrylic on panel
7 x 7 in.
\$3,000

Nina Johnson



*Four legged girl awaits her beloved in melancholy, letters are exchanged,
lonliness has replaced pining, 2020*

Acrylic on panel

11 x 9 in.

\$3,500

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Sad Boy With Balloons, 2020
Acrylic on panel
9 x 11 in.
\$3,500

Nina Johnson



Earthy Guidance after sunrise, 2020
Acrylic on panel
7 x 7 in.
\$3,000



Nina
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Sad Man With Roses (awaits his beloved), 2020
Acrylic on panel
11 x 9 in.
\$3,500

Nina Johnson



Dog meat, cat meat, God-knows-what meat, 2020
Acrylic on panel
9 x 11 in.
\$3,500

Nina Johnson



Young woman awaits womanhood, 2020
Acrylic on panel
11 x 9
\$3,500

Nina
Johnson



Red Belly Bush Squirrel of East Africa, 2020
Acrylic on panel
11 x 9 in.
\$ 3,500



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Pregnant Wife and Husband in Lamu in the embrace of the prayer, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
11 x 9 in.
\$3,500

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Untitled, small painting of fisherman in Bazarto, 2020
Acrylic on panel
6 x 5 in.
\$3,000

Nina Johnson



Untitled, lovers, 2020
acrylic on panel
9 x 11 in.
\$3,500



Nina Johnson



Love and light in Manicaland, 2020
Acrylic on panel
9 x 11 in.
\$3,500



Nina Johnson



Baby girls/conjoined, 2020
Acrylic on panel
9 x 11 in.
\$3,500

Nina
Johnson



A moment of bliss (in the midst of confusion), 2020
Acrylic on panel
17 x 13 in.
Not For Sale



CASSI NAMODA

b. 1988, Maputo, Mozambique
Lives and works in New York, NY and Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION

Academy of Art University, San Francisco, California BFA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Dog meat, cat meat, God-knows-what meat, Nina Johnson, Miami, FL
Little is Enough for Those In Love, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
- 2019 The Day a Monkey is Destined to Die All Trees Become Slippery, François Ghebaly, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 Outside the Witch Doctor's House, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2017 Meat is Meat & Our Nightly Bread, OOF Books, Los Angeles, CA
Cassi Namoda, Harper's Books, Hamptons, New York, NY
Bar Texas, 1971, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI
Cassi A Namoda: Island of Earth, Front Room Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 American Women, La Patinoire Royale-Galerie Valérie Bach, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 L.A. Dreams 2, CFHILL, Stockholm, Sweden
Sister Sister, The National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 2018 Coping Mechanisms, Library Street Collective, Detroit, MI
The Adderall and the Ecstasy, Nicodim Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
BioPerversity, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

COLLECTIONS

Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL

Nina Johnson

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