

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.



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



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



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



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

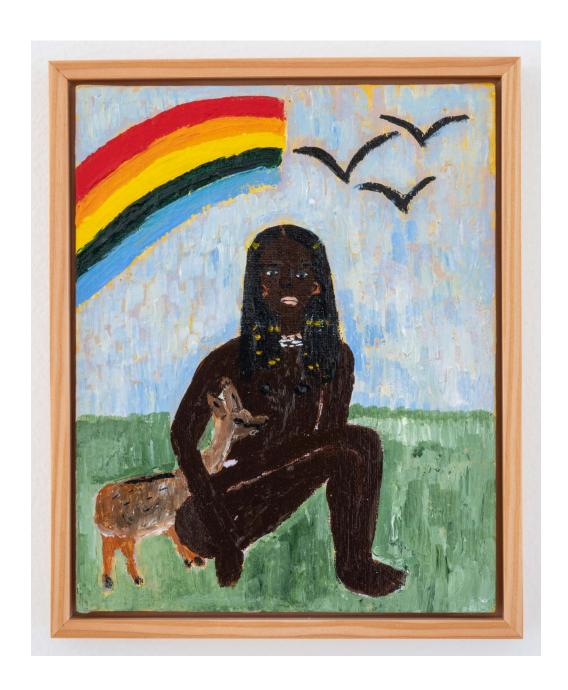




Sad Man With Roses (awaits his beloved), 2020 Acrylic on panel 11 x 9 in. \$3,500



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



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



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

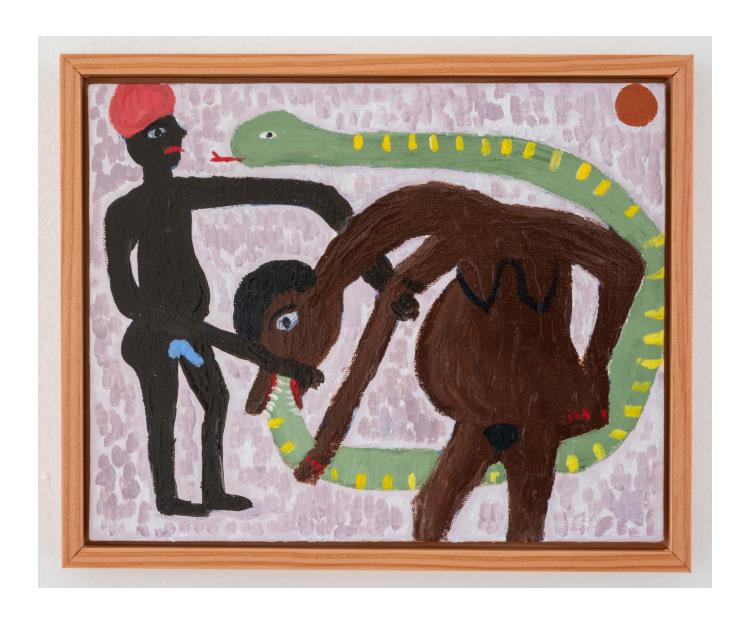




Pregnant Wife and Husband in Lamu in the embrace of the prayer, 2020 Acrylic on canvas 11×9 in. \$3,500



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



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





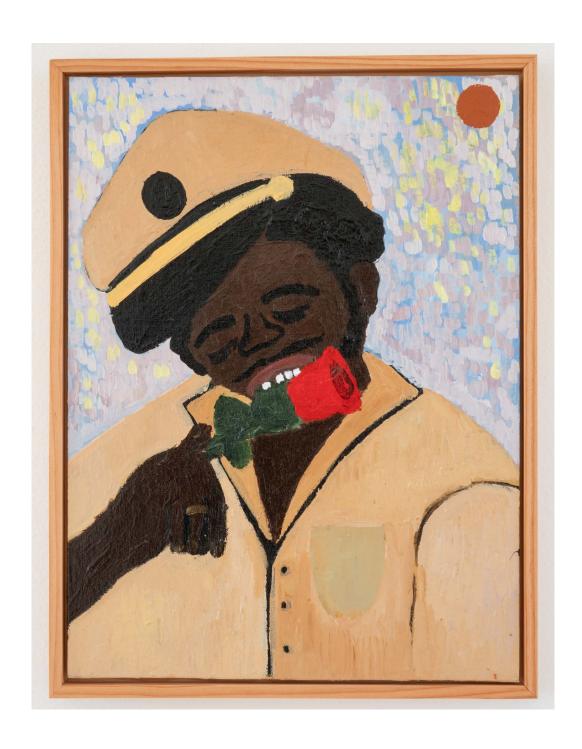


Love and light in Manicaland, 2020 Acrylic on panel 9 x 11 in. \$3,500





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



A moment of bliss (in the midst of confusion), 2020 Acrylic on panel 17×13 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 Ecstacy, Nicodim Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
	BioPerversity, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

COLLECTIONS

Perez Art Museum, Miami, FL

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