

## **CONTEMPORARY ART AND EDITIONS**

**184 Essex Street, Millburn, N.J. 07041**

**contemporaryartandeditions.com**

# **AFRO**

**FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 5, 2017**    New Time! **OPENING RECEPTION February 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 10pm**  
**Featuring an installation/performance by Lumane Luma**

**David LaChapelle, Ralph Gibson, Kehinde Wiley, Ed Paschke, Sono Arima, Paul Aresu, Mickalene Thomas, Jeffrey Spencer Hargrave, Chi Modu, Shepard Fairey, Seydou Keita, Brian Ashley White, Helen Stummer, Ivan Wittenstein, Fiorentina DeBiasi, Barbara Beirne, Conrad Botes, Andre Cypriano, Arturo Toulenov, Greg Smith.**

**Contemporary Art and Editions** presents AFRO, an eclectic mix of works from outsider and street art to more well known artists of this generation. Almost all of the works in the show are from the personal collection of the gallerist Greg Smith and at least one included work, “In Memory Amadou Diallo”, which has been exhibited by the New Museum, was created by him.

Political themes of the struggle for freedom and freedom of expression are central to any exhibition celebrating African-American history. But there is very little in this show to evoke sadness. The collection tends to focus on positivity in lives already achieved and taken for granted in our culture. Thus we see Regina Carter gracefully embracing her cherished violin, Tupac Shakur the singularly talented poet as viewed through the eye of Tina DeBiasi, Michael Jordan rendered in a neoclassical profile amid the acid color energy of Ed Paschke, American cultural icons on the left and right in sparkling portraits of Michelle Obama, Condoleeza Rice and Oprah Winfrey by Mickalene Thomas, and exuberant renditions of Matisse classics inhabited by wild black beauty avatars in paintings by Jeffrey Spencer Hargrave. An addition to the show is the availability of a beautiful book by the famous photographer Chi Modu. A special closing party event is planned for the first week in March for an in-person signing of Chi’s classic coffee table photographic essay **UNCATEGORIZED**.

Yet also present are a few works that speak to a darker history or contemporary human experience including “Sonny” a 1989 portrait by the street artist Gunther Temech, a small group of works by the South African artist Conrad Botes and some touching, bittersweet pieces by Shepard Fairey, Andre Cypriano and Barbara Beirne. Wide ranging in mood, technique and sentiment, each of the 20 artists contained in this show have their own voice, be it soft or be it loud.

For further information, directions, and images, contact the gallery at [Contemporaryartandeditions.com](http://Contemporaryartandeditions.com) or call Greg Smith at (212) 343-0230

#### DIRECTIONS FROM NYC:

**By Train:** A 35 - 40 minute train out of Penn Station to Millburn on the Dover or Midtown Direct lines, which run frequently. From Millburn Station, walk toward the indoor parking building and turn right at the corner. The Gallery is a two minute walk along Essex Street on your left.

**By Car:** The gallery is a 35 minute drive out of the Holland **or** Lincoln Tunnel.  
Holland – take the **NJ Turnpike** toward Newark Airport (Exit 14) and continue in the left hand lanes through toward **Route 78W** express lanes then shift into the local lanes by following the sign to the Garden State Parkway. Stay in the local lanes **but do not get onto the Garden State Parkway**. After you pass by the GSP, stay to the right and get off at the first exit (50B) toward Millburn/Union. Turn onto Vauxhall Road and follow for 4 lights to Millburn Ave. Turn left onto Millburn Ave. and follow until it becomes one way (Essex Street). The Gallery will be on your left immediately after the second light. Park on the right – directly across the street from the Gallery.  
Lincoln – Take NJ Turnpike South to exit 14 and follow as above after the toll.