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NEW YORK, REVIEWS AND PHOTO STORIES

“Pussy Don’t Fail Me Now” at Cindy Rucker Gallery

07/22/2015 by **GUEST WRITER**



Pussy Don't Fail Me Now at Cindy Rucker Gallery

On the ninth of July, we visited the Lower East Side and attended the opening reception at the Cindy Rucker Gallery on 141 Attorney Street, which presented a group exhibition called PUSSY DON'T FAIL ME NOW. The work of the three female

artists—Doreen Garner, Sophia Narett and Kenya Robinson—varies tremendously, but all convey powerful, feminist messages.

Cindy Rucker, the director of the space, noted that the artists participated and met at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Upon convening and connecting to one another they made it a goal to collaborate and display their art together; a year later (after proposing this idea), thanks to Cindy Rucker, they were able to accomplish this dream.



Artist Kenya (Robinson)

Wearing a vibrant, yellow hued dress, smiling ear to ear, artist Kenya (Robinson) was generous enough to speak to me for a few minutes about the notion behind her conceptual White Man in My Pocket project. One aspect of her sculpture that I was intrigued and confused about, was the sound box connected to the piece. After asking this question, she directed me to the work, grabbed a piece of white chalk and began “scribbling” on the chalkboard, which led to the sound box projecting the voice of a man, Tommy Martinez. She explained to me how she desired for the piece to be interactive due to the fact that she firmly believes that the audience has an important position as creators and reactors. She desires to be explicit about the relationship between the artist, artwork and audience because she finds that each function plays a vital role to the success of the work. The chalk, molded into a

model of a businessman holding a briefcase, acts as a “reminder that privilege is illusory and is available for those willing to accept it.” It also invites the audience to “take them [the chalk] as their own symbols of white male power...”



Artist Doreen Garner

I was also given the opportunity to speak to the wonderful artist Doreen Garner who explained how her inspiration for the beautifully grotesque ceramic sculptures are the foundation of the black female body and samples of tumors and replicas. With her artwork, she hopes to motivate people to do more research on the medical history of black women. Although the 3-dimensional sculptures are highly abstract, they resemble genitalia due to

the construction and the fleshy tones of the pieces. She mentions how her work represents the subtle difference between disgust and desire: the hair and teeth carry a sense of repulsion while the jewels, pearls and gold juxtaposes the gruesomeness, with its opulence and ornamental qualities.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the pleasure of speaking with Sophia but her compelling artwork made up for her lack of presence. On display were embroidered works as well as miniature clay figurines that “challenge misogynistic ideals found in fairy tales” with nude, highly sexualized figures of females and a distinct narrative that portray a profound tale. The embroideries are highly developed and intricately

woven together, while the clay forms are convoluted with female figures on top of one another, showing movement and rawness.

PUSSY DON'T FAIL ME NOW is thought-provoking exhibition expressing the voices of powerful women with equally dynamic artworks. The diverse range of pieces will force you to question the male dominated system and allow you to perceive themes of gender equality and racial privileges from a visual standpoint.

Pussy Don't Fail Me Now : Doreen Garner, Sophia Narrett, Kenya (Robinson)

July 9, 2015 to August 14, 2015

Cindy Rucker Gallery

141 Attorney Street

New York, NY 10002 +1.212.388.9311

info@cindyruckergallery.com

Writing by Ilsoon Jeon

Photographs Courtesy of Cindy Rucker Gallery and Arte Fuse



Pussy Don't Fail Me Now at Cindy Rucker Gallery



The crowd at the opening



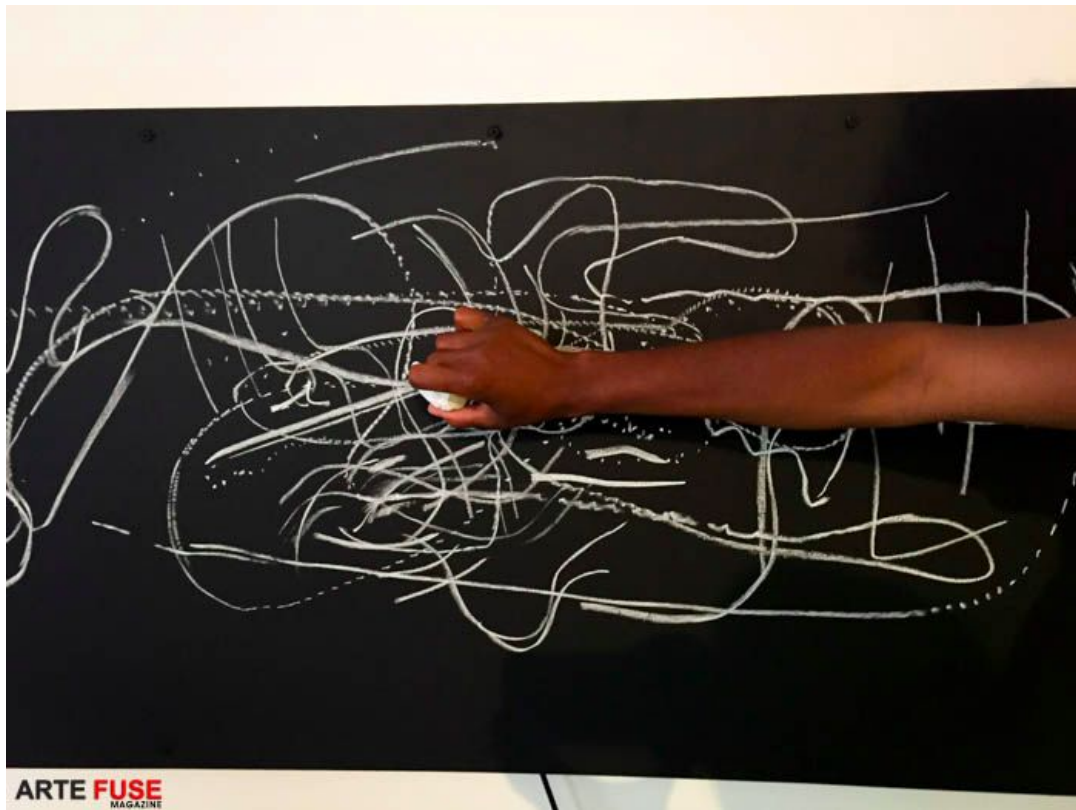
Installation shot of *Pussy Don't Fail Me Now* at Cindy Rucker Gallery



Opening night at Cindy Rucker Gallery for *Pussy Don't Fail Me Now*



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Close up to the work of artist Kenya (Robinson)



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TAGS: CINDY RUCKER GALLERY, DOREEN GARNER, KENYA ROBINSON, PUSSY DON'T FAIL ME NOW, SOPHIA NARRETT