

CJE CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

969 CHUNG KING ROAD LOS ANGELES CA 90012 www.cjamesgallery.com 213.687.0844 info@cjamesgallery.com WED-SUN 12-5

Charlie James Gallery is delighted to announce our first solo show with 2019 Whitney Biennial artist Alexandra Bell titled *Counternarratives*, which opens Saturday, April 6th, 2019. This is Bell's first solo show in Los Angeles.

"It's imperative to show how a turn of phrase or a misplaced photo has real consequences for people at the margins who are still suffering under the weight of unfair and biased representation."

-Alexandra Bell

Presented as a series of boldly reworked New York Times articles, each of the six works exhibited in *Counternarratives* perform visual examinations that reveal news media's complicity in perpetuating racial prejudice in America. Through redactions of original text, revised headlines, and margins replete with red sharpie annotations, Bell reveals the implicit biases that control how narratives involving communities of color are depicted and in turn disseminated under the aegis of journalistic 'objectivity.' Bell identifies misleading frameworks and false equivalencies in journalism's coverage of events like the murder of the unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown by Ferguson, MO police officer, Darren Wilson in 2014, which is explored in her work "A Teenager With Promise." The series demonstrates the extent to which white-centered, sympathetic news coverage remains pervasive within even liberal news organizations. By arguing back and calling out these inequities, Bell gives voice to the ways in which power operates through language to articulate our lived, bodily experiences in the world.

Alexandra Bell (b. 1983, Chicago, IL) is a multidisciplinary artist who will exhibit this year in the 2019 Whitney Biennial in New York City. Her work has been exhibited at MoMA PS1, Jeffrey Deitch, We Buy Gold, Koenig & Clinton Gallery, The Nathan Cummings Foundation, Atlanta Contemporary, Pomona College Museum of Art, Spencer Museum of Art, and Usdan Gallery at Bennington College. She received the 2018 International Center of Photography Infinity Award in the applied category and is a 2018 Soros Equality Fellow. Bell holds a B.A. in interdisciplinary studies in the humanities from the University of Chicago and an M.S. in journalism from Columbia University. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY





A Teenager with Promise (Annotated) Triptych Edition of 3 with 2 AP Screenprints and Archival pigment print on paper Sheet - 44 x 35 inches/each 2018



Charlottesville Diptych Edition of 3 with 2 AP

Screenprint and Archival pigment print on paper with Chine-collé Sheet - 29.25 x 30 inches each 2019



Olympic Threat Diptych Edition of 3 with 2 AP Screenprint and Archival pigment print on paper Sheet - 33 x 36 inches each 2019



Tulsa Hate Crime

Diptych Edition of 3 with 2 AP Screenprint and Archival pigment print on paper with Chine-collé Sheet - 24 x 46 inches each 2019



Gang Leader (Large) Diptych Edition of 3 with 2 AP Screenprint and Archival pigment print on paper with Chine-collé Sheet - 44 x 25 inches each 2019

Gang Leader (Small) Diptych Edition of 5 with 2 AP Screenprint and Archival pigment print on paper with Chine-collé Sheet - 22 x 12.5 inches each 2019



Venus Williams (Large) Diptych Edition of 3 with 2 AP Screenprint and Archival pigment print on paper Sheet - 44 x 25 inches each 2019

Venus Williams (Small) Diptych Edition of 5 with 2 AP Screenprint and Archival pigment print on paper Sheet - 22 x 12.5 inches each 2019

Born in Chicago, IL, 1983 Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

EDUCATION

- 2013 M.S. Journalism (Print), Columbia University, New York, NY
 2005 B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- SOLO EXHIBITIONS
- 2019 Counternarratives, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Whitney Biennial 2019, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY The Value of Sanctuary, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY
- 2018 Punch, Curated by Nina Chanel Abney, Jeffrey Deitch, New York, NY
 - Original Language, Cue Foundation, New York, NY Cit.i.zen.ship: Reflections on Rights, Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, New York, NY

The Legacy of Lynching, Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, Haverford, PA

Fikra Graphic Design Biennial, Sharjah, UAE

2017 An unassailable and monumental dignity, CONTACT Gallery, Toronto, ON Lack of Location Is My Location, Koenig & Clinton Gallery, Brooklyn, NY Hold These Truths, The Nathan Cummings Foundation, New

York, NY

INSTALLATIONS

2017 A Teenager With Promise, Annotated, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY Olympic Threat, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY

PUBLIC WORKS

2017 A Teenager With Promise, Sincerely, Tommy, Brooklyn, NY A Teenager With Promise, We Buy Gold, Brooklyn, NY Olympic Threat, Sincerely, Tommy, Brooklyn, NY Tulsa Hate Crime, Sincerely, Tommy, Brooklyn, NY Venus Williams, Sincerely, Tommy, Brooklyn, NY A Teenager With Promise, Annotated, AFROPUNK, Brooklyn, NY A Teenager With Promise, Bennington College, Bennington, VT Olympic Threat, Bennington College, Bennington, VT Tulsa Hate Crime ,Bennington College, Bennington, VT Venus Williams, Bennington College, Bennington, VT Charlottesville, Sincerely, Tommy, Brooklyn, NY

ARTIST TALKS, PANELS

 2019 Panelist, Accelerator Series, Tang Teaching Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY
 Panelist, Art and Activism, The Jewish Museum, New York, NY
 2018 Speaker, The Merits of Micro-sabotage, SFMOMA, San

Francisco, CA Speaker, Brooklyn Talks, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY Speaker, Material + Meaning Conference, Baton Rouge, LA Guest Lecturer, School of the Art Institute Chicago, Chicago, IL Speaker, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH Speaker, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN Panelist, Women in Focus, London, England Panelist, Counting on the Aesthetic, Haverford College Haverford, PA Panelist, False Flag: The Space Between Paranoia and ' Reason, Stamford, CT Speaker, MAMI presents: Sunday Service, Knockdown 2017 Center, New York, NY Panelist, For Freedoms presents: Art x Activism, MoMA PS1 | New York, NY Guest Lecturer, Academy of Innovative Technology, New York. NY Guest Lecturer, Teen Academy, International Center of Photography | New York, NY Artist Talk, Graduate Program in Media Studies, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY Guest Lecturer. First Year Studio Research Seminar. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Panelist, Artist and the Archive, Schomburg Center for Research, New York Public Library, New York, NY Speaker, PolicyLink, New York, NY Speaker, Bennington College, Bennington, VT Panelist, Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Masks, BAM,

Brooklyn, NY Guest Speaker, Media Portrayals, New York University, NY Panelist, Sunday Sessions, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY Panelist, Reflections on Liberation: American Civil Rights Past, Present, and Future, Humanities New York New York, NY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Instructor, Counternarratives: Disrupting Media Bias, Bennington College, Bennington, VT

RESIDENCIES

2018 Recess Assembly Guest Artist Elizabeth Foundation of the Arts - Summer Intensive Program Fellow

FELLOWSHIPS

2018 Open Society Foundations - Soros Equality Fellow Bard at Brooklyn Public Library Fellow

AWARDS

2018 International Center of Photography - ICP Infinity Award - Applied Category

SELECTED PRESS

- Bryant, T., "This Public Art Project Makes a Powerful Statement about "Fake News"", NYLON
- Garcia, K., "The Powerful Michael Brown Protest Piece that Will Stop You in Your Tracks", POPSUGAR
- Trouillot, T., "How a Trained Journalist Is Using Public Art to Expose Media Racism", artnet
- Navas, F."'It feels important': the counter-narrative artist challenging how news is reported", Guardian
- Neason, A., "This Brooklyn Artist is Taking on the Media" The Village Voice
- St. Felix, D. "The "Radical Edits" of Alexandra Bell" The New Yorker
- Chang, A., "Prints in a Time of Political Madness", Art in Print
- Baxter, M., "Racial Bias in News Media", Freq. Magazine
- Stevenson, S., "Analyzing Race and Gender Bias Amid All the News That's Fit to Print", The New York Times