

NINO MIER  
GALLERY

# KAREEM-ANTHONY FERREIRA

*Vacation, home*

OCTOBER 16 - DECEMBER 18, 2021



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## KAREEM-ANTHONY FERREIRA

*Vacation, home*

October 16 - December 18, 2021

Nino Mier Gallery is pleased to present *Vacation, home*, an exhibition of ten new paintings by Kareem-Anthony Ferreira that will be on view at our location in Brussels, Belgium from October 16th to December 18th, 2021. Ferreira is known for his materialist, figurative paintings that depict re-imagined scenes of familial intimacy as captured by photographs taken by his loved ones, usually near their homes in Trinidad, sometimes near Ferreira's home in Canada. Adopting a compositional style that recalls vernacular photography and a material stance that harnesses the tactility of painting and assemblage, the works in the exhibition develop a practice that negotiates the weight of personal history and identity. But *Vacation, home* also engages with cultural identity, and the fraught status of Trinidad abroad.

Ferreira's composite worlds offer viewers a glimpse into the rich inner realm of memory, rife with both individualized personas and telling details about cultural identity. A first-generation Canadian with Trinidadian roots, the artist spent—and spends—much of his “vacation” time visiting his family in the Caribbean. The Caribbean, in the North American imaginary, is most often understood as a paradisaical locale that offers rest, relaxation, and beautiful beachside scenery for vacationers. But for Ferreira—and the 1.4 million citizens of Trinidad—it is a home just like any other, textured not just with platitudes and pleasantries, but with rich histories of daily contentments, the banalities of living, collective struggle, and colonization. Such intricacies are often power-washed in North American depictions of the country. *Vacation, home* explores the tension Ferreira feels, having roots in a place so often understood as a “vacation” destination full of resorts for tourists by his North American peers. With a characteristic marriage of sincerity and irony, his figures are often draped in fabrics depicting the floral motifs that recall the mass-produced tropical kitsch shirts that enrobe such vacationers everywhere.

The likenesses of Ferreira's subjects are drawn from a vast archive of family photographs. After selecting, scanning, and cropping particularly gripping, affecting photographs, the artist remixes their configurations, postures, and settings to construct his own compositions. For instance, *Same Restless Energy* is a composite of five different photographs. This is evident in the diptych structure of the work, which separates a young boy riding on a unicorn toy from a scene of three men and one young girl sitting on a wooden bench and chair. Less obviously, the figures in the bench scene on the left are not necessarily all from the same photograph, but rather culled from a smattering of photographs, all placed on the bench together in Ferreira's conglomerate composition. The faces of the men on the bench are sourced from other family photos, but function in this work as filling out the contours of a specific memory.

Despite the works' painterly final forms, their compositions reject preciousness and retain some of the spirit of casual photography. For instance, the highlights on the baby's torso and head in *Bath by Granny*, as well as the cropped arms which reach into the frame to hold the baby, suggest the flash and cropping of a candid photograph. The frontal composition, as well as the mischievous, arrested, snickering grins of the young boys playing in the sand in *Allyuh went Beach* recall the bursting joy of a snapshot. Through his paintings, Ferreira maintains the tenderness and joyfulness

of fleeting moments of familial unity, bringing the viewer into the scene by choosing compositions in which the sitters acknowledge the viewer-as-photographer.

But Ferreira also imparts upon his works a sense of permanence and material weight that a 4"x6" photograph cannot. The canvases on view in *Vacation, home* depict assemblages of both memories and materials. The artist cites a tendency in his Trinidadian family and friends to save everything, from scrap materials to fabrics. They preserve and repurpose material that others might discard wastefully. This is a prominent practice in Trinidad, to preserve and to reuse; but the artist also notes that sometimes this can result in a kind of excess of material, creating a sense of "negative ornamentality" in the home. But even such ornamentality has its pleasures, embedding within its layers a trove of recollections and attachments. Paralleling his family's tendency to conserve and recycle, Ferreira builds up layers of paper, fabrics, and other found materials on an unstretched canvas, then primes the heavy, dense, and layered canvas with gesso. The canvas, like the weight of the memories Ferreira probes, is heavy before the paint is applied. Afterwards, the faces of his family members – some of whom have passed away – gleam incandescently.

*Kareem-Anthony Ferreira (b. 1989 in Hamilton, Ontario; lives and works in Hamilton, Ontario) completed his BFA at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario in 2012 and his MFA at the University of Arizona in 2020. Ferreira recently had a solo exhibition at Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles and has exhibited works at Johannes Vogt Gallery, New York; Alice Yard Gallery, Trinidad and Tobago; the Tucson Museum of Art, Arizona; DeFacto Gallery, Ontario; and the Workers Art & Heritage Museum, Ontario.*



Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels



Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Grandfather Snaggs*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
73 x 74 in  
185.4 x 188 cm  
(KFE21.004)





Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Breadfruit vendor*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media  
72 7/8 x 82 5/8 inches  
185 x 210 cms  
(KFE21.022)





Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Portrait of Raquel (Red Background)*, 2021

Acrylic and mixed media on paper

44 x 30 in

111.8 x 76.2 cm

45 1/4 x 31 3/4 inches (framed)

115 x 80.5 cms (framed)

(KFE21.017)





*Portrait of Reanna (Pink background), 2021*

Acrylic and mixed media on paper

44 x 30 in

111.8 x 76.2 cm

45 1/4 x 31 3/4 inches (framed)

115 x 80.5 cms (framed)

(KFE21.019)





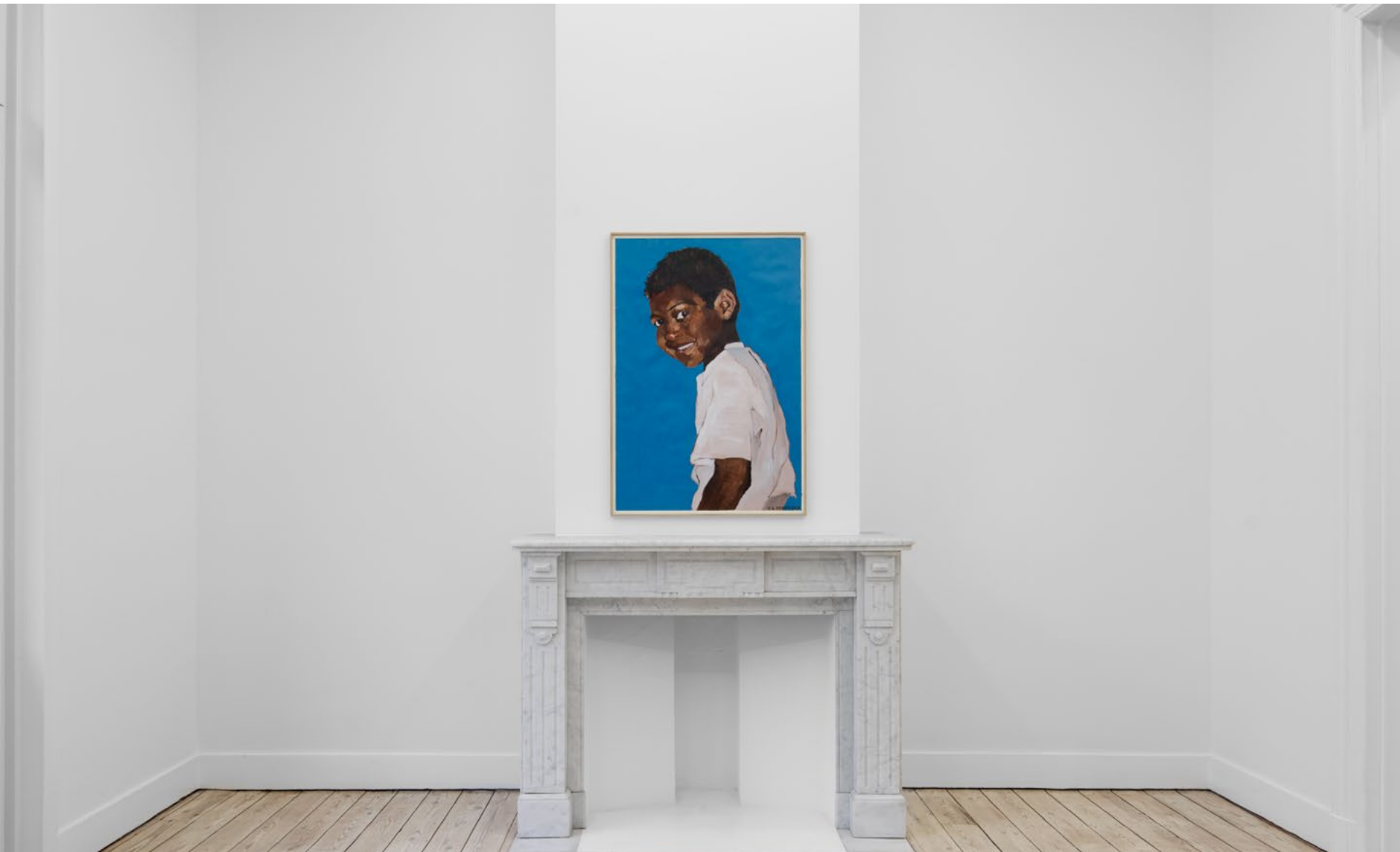
Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels





*Aunt, Aunty, Auntie*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
72 5/8 x 83 7/8 inches  
184.5 x 213 cms  
(KFE21.005)





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Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Portrait of Kyle (blue background)*, 2021

Acrylic and mixed media on paper

44 x 30 in

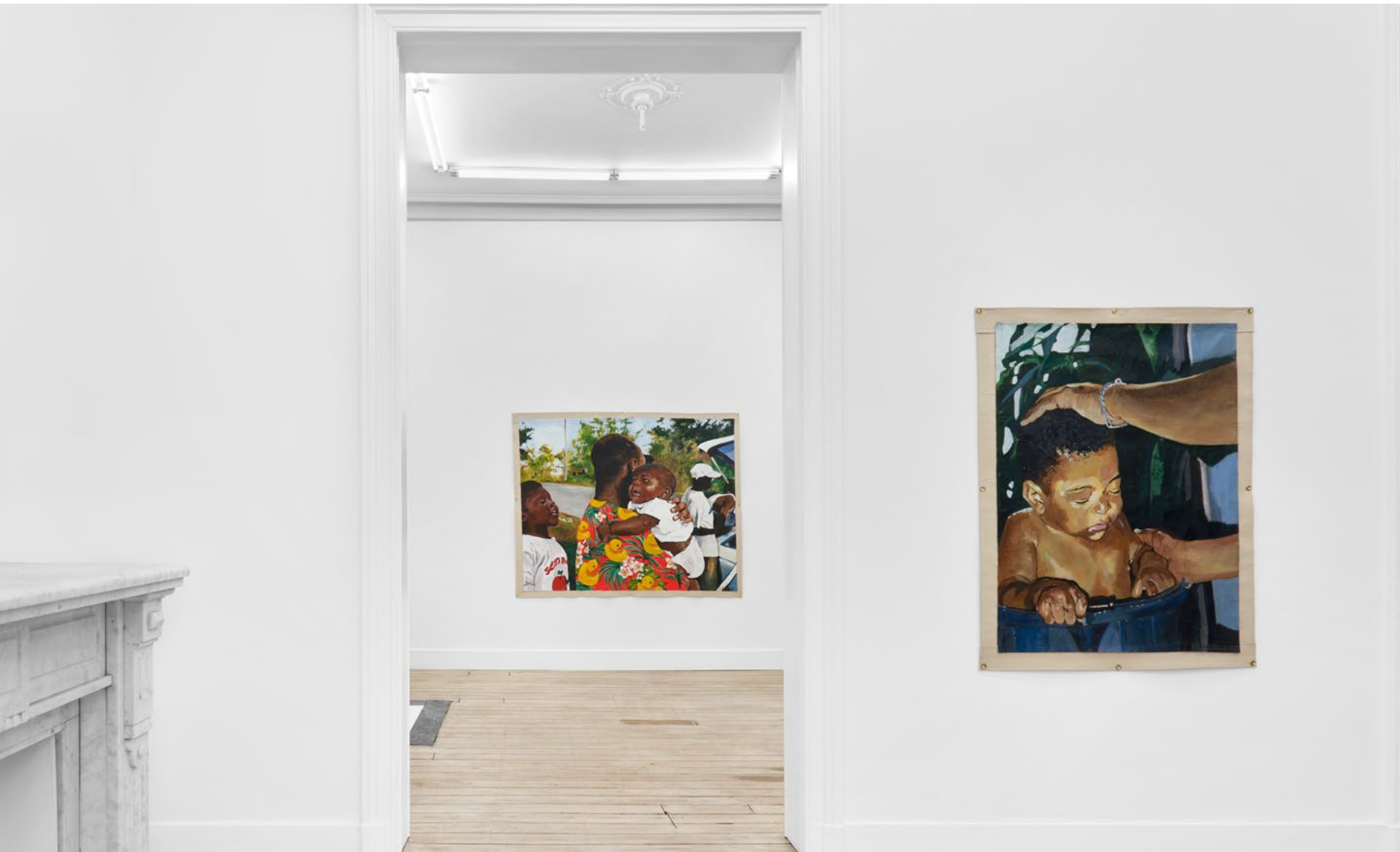
111.8 x 76.2 cm

45 1/4 x 31 3/4 inches (framed)

115 x 80.5 cms (framed)

(KFE21.016)





Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Bath by Granny*, 2021

Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
50 1/4 x 38 1/4 in  
127.6 x 97.2 cm  
(KFE21.009)







Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Meet By So and So*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
60 x 73 in  
152.4 x 185.4 cm  
(KFE21.007)





Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Portrait of mom and I (Yellow background)*, 2021

Acrylic and mixed media on paper

44 x 30 in

111.8 x 76.2 cm

45 1/4 x 31 3/4 inches (framed)

115 x 80.5 cms (framed)

(KFE21.020)





Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Same Restless Energy*, 2020  
Oil and mixed media on canvas  
72 x 140 in  
182.9 x 355.6 cm  
(KFE21.006)







Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Was the style back then, 2021*  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
73 1/2 x 101 1/2 in  
186.7 x 257.8 cm  
(KFE21.013)







Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels





*Portrait of Eugene (Orange background), 2021*

Acrylic and mixed media on paper

44 x 30 in

111.8 x 76.2 cm

45 1/4 x 31 3/4 inches (framed)

115 x 80.5 cms (framed)

(KFE21.018)





Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*First Meal Together*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
73 5/8 x 55 1/2 inches  
187 x 141 cms  
(KFE21.002)





Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels



*Portrait of Kyle (Green background)*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media on paper  
44 x 30 in  
111.8 x 76.2 cm  
45 1/4 x 31 3/4 inches (framed)  
115 x 80.5 cms (framed)  
(KFE21.021)







*Mundane rehearsal*, 2021  
Oil and mixed media  
63 x 72 7/8 inches  
160 x 185 cms  
(KFE21.023)





Installation View of Kareem-Anthony Ferreira, *Vacation, Home* (October 16 - December 18, 2021)  
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*Life Jacket*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
49 3/4 x 36 3/4 in  
126.4 x 93.3 cm  
(KFE21.008)





*Give him a Kiss*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
57 x 73 in  
144.8 x 185.4 cm  
(KFE21.014)





*Allyuh Went Beach*, 2021  
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas  
73 x 83 in  
185.4 x 210.8 cm  
(KFE21.003)







## **KAREEM-ANTHONY FERREIRA**

Born 1989 Hamilton, Ontario  
Lives and works in Hamilton, Ontario

### **EDUCATION**

2020 MFA University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, US

2012 BFA McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, CA

### **SOLO SHOWS**

2021 *Vacation, Home*, Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels, BE

2020 *First Foundation*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, US

2019 *Assembling Origins*, Johannes Vogt Gallery, New York, US

2018 *Open Studio, Alice Yard Gallery*, Port of Spain, TT

2017 *In Common & Far Between*, DeFacto Gallery, Hamilton, ON, CA

2016 *Crossed Paths, Hamilton Conservatory of Art, Hamilton*, ON, CA  
*Crossed Paths, 623 Artspace*, Winnipeg, MB, CA  
*Crossed Paths, DeFacto Gallery*, Hamilton, ON, CA

2015 *My Dog Joe Coffeehouse*, Hamilton, ON, CA

### **GROUP SHOWS**

2021 "MOCA Launches Triennial Exhibition of Toronto-Themed Art," Canadian Architect, September 29, 2021

2020 Paper & Clay Juried Exhibition, Tippetts & Eccles Galleries, Logan, UT, US

2019 *New American Paintings 2019 Review Pt 2*, Seven Zevitas Gallery, Boston, MA, US  
*The Barn Show*, The Barn, East Hampton, New York, US  
*The Summer Show*, St. Tammany Art Association, Covington, LA, US  
*New Art Arizona*, Shemer Art Center, Phoenix, AZ, US  
*Americana*, curated by Merryn Alaka, Modified Gallery, Phoenix, AZ, US  
*Positive/Negative 34 National Juried Exhibition*, Slocumb Gallery, Johnson City, TN, US  
*Paper & Clay Juried Exhibition*, Tippetts & Eccles Galleries, Logan, UT, US



- 2018 On and Off the Wall, Steinfeld Gallery, Tucson, AZ, US  
Hot Plate, curated by Ash Dalke, Lionel Rombach Gallery, Tucson, AZ, US  
Testing Ground, Lionel Rombach Gallery, Tucson, AZ, US  
Precarious, Lionel Rombach Gallery, Tucson, AZ, US  
Arizona Biennale, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ, US  
Furnishing, University of Arizona Graduate Gallery, Tucson, AZ, US  
Print, Printed, Printing IV, Biennial Print Conference, Las Vegas, NM, US
- 2017 Until the World Ends, Exploded View Gallery, Tucson, AZ, US  
Fluid Ground, Exploded View Gallery, Tucson, AZ, US  
Precarious, Lionel Rombach Gallery, Tucson, AZ, US  
We Want Trouble, Graduate Art Labs, Tucson, AZ, US  
Hamilton Biennale, Casino Artspace, Hamilton, ON, CA
- 2016 Salon of Inclusiveness, Workers Art & Heritage Museum, Hamilton, ON, CA

#### **SELECTED PRESS**

- 2021 "MOCA Launches Triennial Exhibition of Toronto-Themed Art," Canadian Architect, September 29, 2021
- 2019 "Kareem-Anthony Ferreira 'Assembling Origins'," NY Art Beat, October 4, 2019.  
New American Painting, No. 141 (Juror: Ruth Erickson), April - May 2019.
- 2018 New American Painting, No. 138 (Juror: Alison Hearst), October - November 2018.  
"Art & Life with Kareem- Anthony Ferreira," Voyage Phoenix Magazine, July 31, 2018.

#### **AWARDS & RESIDENCIES**

- 2021 Emerging Artist Residency at Centre3, Hamilton, ON, CA  
Nino Mier Residency, Cologne, DE
- 2019 Helen Gross Scholarship Award  
Arizona Watercolour Association-Del Decil Scholarship Award  
Best in Show, Positive/Negative 34 National Juried Exhibition  
Second Place, Paper & Clay Juried Exhibition
- 2018 Alice Yard Residency Programme, Port of Spain, TT  
Medici Scholar Award
- 2014 School of Visual Arts NYC Summer Residency Program, New York, US

