

# JOHANNES VOGT

**Kareem-Anthony Ferreira**

**“Assembling Origins”**

**October 10, 2019 – November 2, 2019**

Johannes Vogt Gallery is pleased to present Canadian artist Kareem-Anthony Ferreira’s first solo show, *Assembling Origins*. The exhibition explores the duality of the artist’s heritage as both a Canadian and a Trinidadian, and the constructed identities found therein. These large scale paintings become an amalgamation of disparate parts—detritus accumulated by various means. Fabric, papercollage, gel medium, and found objects are mounted on unstretched canvas as Ferreira sifts through imagery to arrive at a constructed whole.

Pliable, performative, unfurled and pinned to the wall much like grommets paintings on un-stretched canvas, memories are unfixed things. They change shape, they get tired, they get stretched out, like thoughts of home and projections of paradise memories too become new things—whether we’ve asked them to or not. Kareem-Anthony Ferreira’s paintings *Assembling Origins* are representations of people in places: as they were, as they could be and for all we know, how they are right this instant.

With imagery sourced from memory, family photographs and images taken by the artist, the paintings are negotiations deeply embedded in the spirit of migration. From the artist’s home in Hamilton, Ontario to his family’s native Trinidad and Tobago to even his current studio in Tucson, Arizona, just like the floorboards of any domestic space the paintings presented are sites covered in gatherings, patterns, coming and goings, secrets and conversations.

Like everything formerly-European and currently (mostly) brown-occupied, the surface is a deceptive truth. To be more concise: there is always an underneath. By incorporating screen-printing, and collaging patterned fabrics atop found and collected paper using gel medium and fixative and ultimately acrylic and wax crayon, each painting on view is an exploration. Greater still, each work is a potential metaphor for the Western Hemisphere Post-Colonial Experiment: people living among and atop arrays of visual material—some left behind (lovingly/absently/maliciously/all of the above) from the people who came before them (voluntarily or otherwise).

Exploring, disrupting and acknowledging mythologies of Caribbean leisure and its inaccuracies the paintings (some literally) are witnesses to journeys. The paintings are geographical, ancestral and residential links—tendons to places physically inhabited (for instance the artist’s former studio in Port-of-Spain) or critically imagined (the tropical-pastoral-holiday-‘*Ya Mon*’-scape in the non-Caribbean Resorting imagination).

Returning to geography, on a world map: *Tobago* is a miniature backslash (bloated), *Trinidad* a hovering stocking caught in the gravity of a Venezuelan coastline, *Ontario* either a dead fish or cartoon ham, *Arizona*, a misshapen unchecked box on a questionnaire and now *Manhattan*, a reptile’s tongue caught drying somewhere in a dead zone between this world and the next. One could argue the exhibition comes from this too— the artist and all of these occupied shapes, a carnival of smiling, working, thriving, sleeping, living and being faces set upon (and temporarily fixed) un-stretched canvases before him.

- Text by Justin Chance - an artist, writer and co-founder of the Collaborative Center for Storm, Space & Seismic Research.

958 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
[www.johannesvogt.nyc](http://www.johannesvogt.nyc)

# JOHANNES VOGT

**Kareem Ferreira** was born in Hamilton, Ontario. Ferreira completed his Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts at McMaster University in 2011, and will be finishing a Masters of Fine Art in 2020 from the University of Arizona. He has had shows in Hamilton, New York City, Tennessee, Utah, Phoenix, Winnipeg and Tucson in galleries such as DeFacto Gallery, Stienfeild Gallery, 623 ArtSpace, HAVN, Hamilton Conservatory of Art, Workers Art & Heritage Museum, the Tucson Museum of Art, and Johannes Vogt Gallery.

**Johannes Vogt Gallery** is committed to bringing attention to the complex artistic and cultural ties that bind New York to Europe, the Americas, and beyond. The gallery program features a strong roster of emerging to mid-career artists and has become known for reintroducing established artists to new audiences, including Garth Evans, Mernet Larsen, and Abby Leigh, among others. Founded in 2011, Johannes Vogt first opened at 526 West 26th Street in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood, where it resided before relocating to 55 Chrystie Street in the Lower East Side. In September 2018, the gallery relocated to the Upper East Side at 958 Madison Avenue.