

For Immediate Release May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Looking Forward while Looking Back:

## Reassertions

May 15 – 28, 2020  
NARS Virtual Gallery

With works by **Helina Metaferia, Katya Grokhovsky & Julia Kwon**  
Curated by Elisa Gutiérrez Eriksen



**NARS Foundation** is pleased to present “Looking Forward while Looking back”, a series of virtual exhibition featuring the works of NARS Alumni, curated by NARS Program Manager & Curator Elisa Gutiérrez Eriksen.

The new iteration of Looking Forward while Looking Back: **Reassertions**, presents the works of NARS Alumni **Helina Metaferia, Katya Grokhovsky** and **Julia Kwon**.

The narrative in the works of Kwon, Metaferia and Grokhovsky is built upon differences nourished and empowered by expressions of identity, and methodical investigations of history -particularly cultural traditions- as the basis for discourse.

The works in this exhibition speak out against racial, ethnic and sexual violence, stereotypes, prejudices and injustice to create subversive actions and present them as gestures rooted in care and the empowerment of all identities.

Manifested mostly through patterns, collage, textures, installations, and performance, the works are open invitations to discuss civil rights, agency, oral history, stereotypes and identity politics. The results are performative gestures –strong statements that are loud, unapologetic, fearless and profound reassertions of the self.

This pandemic has made it crystal clear that we need to act in unison to overcome not only viruses but also racism, xenophobia, corruption, migration, hunger, health rights, climate change, gender rights... the list goes on; and that hatred, anger and fear often take more space than care, compassion and love.

Image: Helina Metaferia, "By Way of Revolution"

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This exhibition is part of the NARS **Mutual Support Network**, a platform that will host a series of virtual initiatives, based on NARS' social media accounts with the aim to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas between our Alumni and our virtual audiences.

With our social media platforms as meeting grounds for a creative dialogue, NARS will present these virtual exhibitions every two weeks with the work of 2 - 3 Alumni, and will be paired with written interviews with each showcased artist presented as a continuation in the second week of each exhibition.

About NARS: The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. NARS provides an array of creative support services and professional development opportunities for emerging and mid-career artists through short-term integrated residency programs, progressive exhibition programs, international exchanges, and engaging public programs that foster global understanding and dynamic cross-cultural dialogues. These services operate in conjunction with our community outreach initiatives to promote greater accessibility to contemporary art for the under-served local community in south Brooklyn. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.

Accessibility: NARS Foundation is only wheelchair accessible via prior arrangement - please contact [info@narsfoundation.org](mailto:info@narsfoundation.org) to arrange this. Free filtered water is available. Seating with backs is available. The closest train station is 0.3 miles away (R train at 45th Street). The closest wheelchair accessible train station is 3.2 miles away (Atlantic Avenue/ Barclays Center). On street parking is available. Please consider coming to this event scent free. For further questions regarding accessibility, please contact NARS directly at [info@narsfoundation.org](mailto:info@narsfoundation.org).



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