MOCADA
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN DIASPORAN ARTS

ARTIST BIO

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Daveed Baptiste is an interdisciplinary artist whose work incorporates fashion, textiles, and photography. He draws his inspiration from his migration from Port au-Prince, Haiti to Miami, Florida. Through collaborative projects like, Haiti To Hood and Between Lands, Baptiste investigates the notion of race, gender and class within the Haitian community and the larger Caribbean diaspora. He was awarded a year-long apprenticeship with Converse, where he co-designed the Black Joy Collection, and a new colorway/material design for the Energy basketball team. Baptiste earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design in New York. His photographs have been published in The New Yorker, The New York Times, and American Vogue. He has participated in exhibitions at New York University and the Aperture Foundation. Baptiste is currently an artist-in residence at the Silver Arts Project in lower Manhattan.

Follow Daveed Baptiste on Instagram:

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DAVEED BAPTISTE: TI MACHÉ

MUSEUM NOTES: QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

What memories or associations arise when you think about denim in a traditional sense? How is it worn, when, and by worm?

Why is the deconstruction/reconstruction of denim so important in this show?

How does denim occupy space in your wardrobe?

How does the artist's technique and approach to fashion construction and photography (use of texture, color, layering, and creation in collaboration) give greater depth to the subject matter?

Why are the photos large, as opposed to smaller, framed works?

Who determines the value of Black cultural production?

Does the value of Black cultural production shift based on where a person is born?

What is the value of an immigrant's cultural contribution versus an American's?

What do you know about Haiti, its diaspora, and or the Haitian-American experience, specifically? How does this presentation shift your awareness/understanding of it?

What is Haiti's relationship with its natural resources? What similarities do you see across the African diaspora?

How often do you think about the impact of your consumption and its potential effects on the people/nations responsible for producing the things that you consume? What influences how and when you think about it?

If *Ti Maché* is Daveed Baptiste's "marketplace", what important cultural markers, products, items, etc would you include in your marketplace?

Think of a few places that center you and allow you to be your complete self (and all of the identities you occupy). What and where are your safe spaces? When were you first exposed to them?

What makes you feel safe and seen in your community? Who is there with you?

Nostalgia is rooted in safety and belonging, which can be seen as a central theme of this exhibition, as are the ideas of reinvention and reclamation. What do you hope to reclaim? What are you visioning for?

What are some other themes that you think are relevant to this exhibition?

Learn more about this exhibition and explore additional resources, click HERE