

glass

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Jacek J. Kolasiński and Edouard Duval-Carrié

"TRANSPARENCY AND OPACITY"

ROBERT LEHMAN GALLERY

AGNES VARIS ART CENTER AT URBANGLASS

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

APRIL 12-JUNE 16, 2023

CURATED BY ALPESH KANTILAL PATEL

Caribbean poet, theorist, and scholar Édouard Glissant writes that "opacity" is the right of the subject not to be known and is a condition for a creolized and ethical world to emerge. This exhibition, "Transparency and Opacity," brings together works by artists Jacek J. Kolasiński and Edouard Duval-Carrié that play with "light" to present gender, sexuality, religion, region, and nationality as always in transformation. Kolasiński presents parts of his ongoing *Kreyol Archive* (2015–present), which examines the connections between the dark-skinned, doleful Black Madonna of Częstochowa and the Haitian Vodou spirit Ezili Dantò, the patron saint of single mothers, lesbians, and those who identify as transgender and nonbinary, and known for her vengeance and rage. The Madonna is thought to have been brought to Haiti by Poles in the early 19th century. Through a wall of back-lit colorful plexiglass works, Duval-Carrié evokes Ezili Fréda, often connected to the glamour of mulattas before the Haitian Revolution. Fréda is the flamboyant Haitian African spirit of love, beauty, jewelry, dancing, luxury, and flowers. Both artists' works point to the emancipatory quality of opacity in the face of histories of violence and subjugation in the Caribbean.

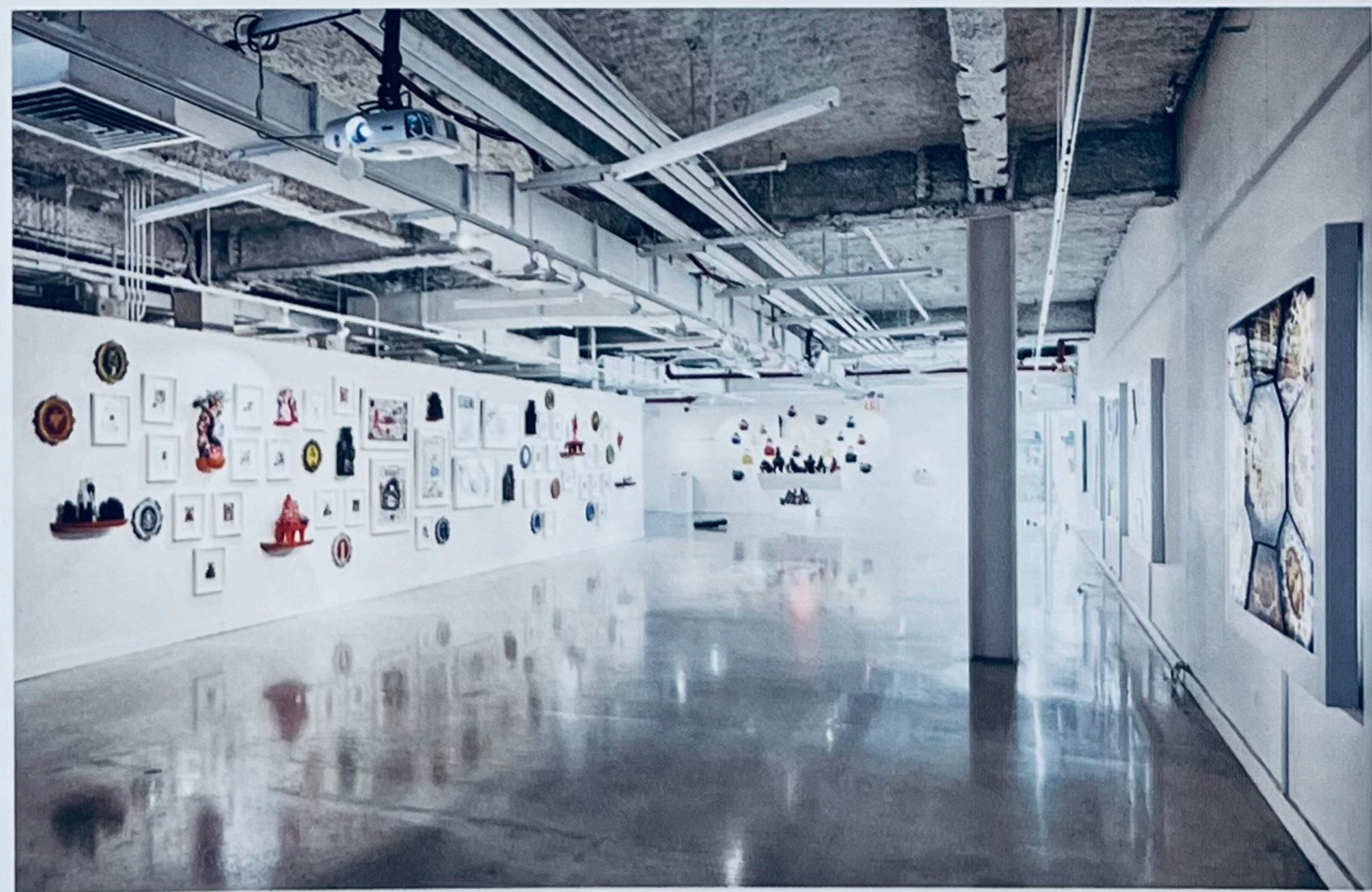
ALPESH KANTILAL PATEL is associate professor of contemporary art at Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Temple University, Philadelphia. His art historical scholarship, curating, and criticism reflect his queer, anti-racist, and transnational approach to contemporary art. He is the author of *Productive Failure: Writing Queer Transnational South Asian Art Histories* (2017) and is currently working on his monograph *Multiple and One: Writing Queer Global Art Histories*, under contract with Manchester University Press.



Jacek J. Kolasiński, *Kreyol Archive*, in the exhibition "Transparency and Opacity."

TOP *Ezili Dantò Altar*, 2023. 3D-printed mixed media.

ABOVE *The Window Installation*, 2023. 3D-printed mixed media.



This exhibition was made possible with the help of the Green Family Foundation and the Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance.

PHOTOS: BLAINE DAVIS

TOP A set of 2002 engravings on plexiglass in an embossed frame by Edouard Duval-Carrié.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT *Eskimo's Daydream*, *My Life as a Tree 7*, *My Life as a Tree 8*, *My Life as a Tree*, *My Life as a Tree 9*.

ABOVE Edouard Duval-Carrié, *The Colored Girls*, 2023. Mixed media on plexiglass.