

**JOHNSON
LOWE** GALLERY

NAVIN NORLING

b.1970; San Francisco, California

764 Miami Circle NE, Suite 210, Atlanta, GA 30324

O. (404) 352 8114 info@johnsonlowe.com johnsonlowe.com

NAVIN NORLING

(b. 1970; San Francisco, California)

In his ongoing practice, Navin Norling (b. 1970) examines classic Americana imagery and assembles miscellanea out of popular culture signifiers, sayings, folklore, and materialism.

During his upbringing, Norling would spend summers on his grandfather's farm in California's Central Valley, where all resources were reused without any waste. The impact of that rural setting led him to embrace salvaged components and eventually integrate assemblage and bricolage techniques into his formal training as a painter. But apart from those summers, Navin grew up in suburban California and spent his youth in wild exploration across the Bay Area; part of a generation committed to establishing a personal aesthetic framework, whether in the use of graffiti monikers or wheat paste messaging. He has been vicariously loyal to that urban grit and has maintained a street palette in his work.

The use of found objects and urban detritus plays a large part in Norling's continued investigation of a dynamic American cultural landscape and its sociopolitical nuances. Cast-off wood frequently makes an appearance in the artist's work, like the windowpanes in *Good to the Last Drop* (2005) presented at SculptureCenter in New York and in *Black Cats* (2003), held in the contemporary art collection of the Brooklyn Museum.

In 1995, Norling received a BFA in illustration from the California College of the Arts. It was here that he first encountered Raymond Saunders, whose studied collage process further reaffirmed his commitment to the found object. He later moved to New York in the early 1990s and received an MFA in fine arts from Hunter College in 2002. This shifting inhabitation across rural, suburban, and urban landscapes continues to shape his long-running survey of the country. More than that, the changes in scenery helped him develop a cheeky lexicon in addressing national issues of power, class, geography, capitalism, and inequality – a sense of humor accessible to varying demographic groups, each with their unique set of sensibilities.

Norling's body of work encompasses paintings, sculptural objects, and installations; melanges of cacophonous iconographies developed from urban graffiti and pop imagery. In his recent work and as an extension of his exploration of bricolage, the artist has been employing a stacking technique to unite disparate, totemic fragments – modular and self-contained – that, when put together, plot out an ambitious, cohesive genealogy of collective Americana chronicles.

Norling is currently a professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

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EDUCATION

- 2008 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture Skowhegan, Maine
- 2002 M.F.A., Hunter College Graduate Studies, New York, New York
- 1995 California College of Arts Oakland, California

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 – Present Professor of Foundation Studies and Painting Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta, Georgia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Navin Norling: Dirty Legacy*, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
MASCOT, Gallery Anno Domini, San Jose, California
- 2009 *White Wash*, Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
- 2006 *Bootleg Baby*, Gallery Anno Domini, San Jose, California
- 2004 *Black Star Blues*, RARE, New York, New York
Scope LA, RARE, Los Angeles, California
Scope NY, RARE, New York, New York
- 1998 *A Collection of Thoughts, Memories and Masks*, La Penà Cultural Center, Berkeley, California
- 1995 *Gumbo*, Isabel Percy West Gallery, California College of Arts, Oakland, California
- 1994 *The Listening Room*, Breer Library, Stanford University, Stanford, California
June is Dead, The Upper Room, San Francisco, California

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Spike Lee: Creative Sources*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York
- 2022 *The Alchemists*, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2021 *A Marvelous Black Boy Art Show*, Westside Cultural Arts Center, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2020 *The Time is Now*, The Vault Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
MMXX A.D., Gallery Anno Domini, San Jose, California
- 2018 *Rapid Eye Movement Guerrillas in the Midst*, New York, New York
- 2017 *the art of the revolution*, Rush Arts Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
The Art of Undoing Spells, Five Myles Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
- 2015 *Pop Up Guerillas in the Midst*, Brooklyn, New York
- 2006 *A Beautiful Game Roebbling Hall*, Brooklyn, New York
- 2005 *Make It Now: New Sculpture in New York*, SculptureCenter, Long Island City, New York
d' Afrique d' Asie curated by Koan Jeff Baysa Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, New York
- 2004 *Word*, curated by Paul Laster and Renee Riccardo Bronx River Art Center, Bronx, New York
Notorious Impropriety, curated by Franklin Sirmans Samson Projects, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2003 *Problematic*, curated by Robert Knafo Scope Miami, Miami, Florida
Stylin', curated by Ombreta Agro Design District, Miami, Florida
- 2002 MFA Thesis Exhibition Times Square Gallery, Hunter College, New York, New York

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- 2001 *It's Bigger Than Hip Hop Rush Arts Gallery*, New York, New York
2000 New York Area MFA Exhibition/ Collage Art Association Times Square Gallery, Hunter College, New York, New York
1999 *Weight as Real House Gallery*, Queens, New York
1998 *No More Scapegoats Norse Hall*, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco, California
1997 Reflections Center Visual Arts, Oakland, California
The Fifth Annual San Francisco International Art Festival American Arts Society, San Francisco, California
Cross Cultural Currents Vorpall Gallery, San Francisco, California
Contemporary African-American Art Lynn House Gallery, Antioch, Art
1996 One from Many La Penà Cultural Center, Berkeley, California
1994 Rage and Beyond the Pro Arts, Oakland, California

PROJECTS

- 2003 Project Room curated by Franklin Sirmans, Triple Candie, New York, New York

RESIDENCIES

- 2022 Artist-in-residence, Memeraki Limassol, Cyprus
2009 Emerging Artist Fellowship
Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, New York
2003 Artist-in-residence, The Center for Book Arts, New York, New York
Artist-in-residence, Art Omi International Artist Colony, Ghent, New York

PUBLICATIONS

- 2005 Make It Now, Sculpture Center Catalog
The New York Sun, Sunday July 28
Studio The Studio Museum in Harlem Magazine Summer
Time Out NY, June 2 - 8
Studio The Studio Museum in Harlem Magazine Spring
2004 BlackBook Art List, Oct/Nov
2002 Pour la Victoire
Surface to Air, Spoon Publishing, London, England
Roll Call – A Generational Anthology of Social & Political
Black Literature & Art
Medina Bashir Lansana, Third World Press, Chicago
1997 Ledger Dispatch, Thursday March 13
1994 Oakland Tribune, Wednesday, September 7

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