

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Backseat Driver**

Piero Atchugarry Gallery presents a satellite exhibition at SAPAR Contemporary in the historic neighborhood of Tribeca, New York as part of their PA Takeover program.

- *Backseat Driver* joins works by Kameelah Janan Rasheed (1985, East Palo Alto, California) and Yuken Teruya (1973, Okinawa, Japan).

EXHIBITION DATE: September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 - October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

PLACE: SAPAR Contemporary Gallery  
9 North Moore, New York, NY 10013

Piero Atchugarry Gallery presents *Backseat Driver*, a dual exhibition joining works by Kameelah Janan Rasheed and Yuken Teruya. The exhibition unites two artists employing their personal narratives and US history as a basis for analysis and reflection on systemic issues in Western culture. While Teruya addresses the status quo in Western culture through a coded visual language composed of commercial icons, Rasheed embeds her work with overt phrases and archival records that, when presented together, create an image of the history of conflict in the United States. Teruya, hailing from Okinawa, which has a long history of US occupation, presents a biting commentary on the overreach of US power and the cyclical greed that its capitalist virtues perpetuate. In his installations, he dissects and reassembles icons of Western culture such as Monopoly money and sneakers. Rasheed, a writer, educator and artist hailing from East Palo Alto, California, applies her research and lived experiences to create visual accounts and responses to systemic oppression in the United States. Unearthing repressed narratives and combining conflicting histories, the artist formulates her own visual language. *Backseat Driver*'s presented works interlace two distinct voices examining the narratives of place and its sociological framework, while uncovering an underlying civil unrest in an effort to procure action.

Works by Teruya and Rasheed will come together to form an installation that occupies the two stories of **SAPAR Contemporary Gallery** in the historic neighborhood of Tribeca, New York. A satellite exhibition, *Backseat Driver* is the latest **PA Takeover** presented by Piero Atchugarry Gallery. Working in collaboration with SAPAR Contemporary Gallery, the PA Takeover establishes an exchange of culture, concept, creativity, and perspective between the vibrant art communities of the participating galleries. As such, the Piero Atchugarry Gallery will be welcoming artists from SAPAR Contemporary to exhibit at their Miami location in October of 2020. While New York begins its transition back into public life, *Backseat Driver* will be open by September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, with social distancing measures in place.

In December 2018, with a space established in Garzón, Uruguay, **Piero Atchugarry** expanded his program to North America to a 9,000-square-foot warehouse on 5520 NE 4th Avenue in Miami's renowned Design District neighborhood. The participation of the gallery in what is a boiling art community that connects Europe, Latin America and both coasts of the United States represents the commitment of the program to support and present the work of local and international artists with an institutional approach.

**PA Takeover** began in 2019, when the Piero Atchugarry Gallery held a solo exhibition by Túlio Pinto at Fondamenta San'Apollonia in Venice during the Biennale. The PA Takeover Program organizes satellite exhibitions across the globe. Working outside the walls of the Piero Atchugarry Galleries, PA Takeovers engage new audiences and communities. Exhibiting internationally and throughout the United States, the PA Takeovers are not travelling shows, but rather highly site-specific exhibitions. The program challenges the gallery's represented artists to think on their feet, adapting to and confronting new floor plans and sites. Each of these sites presents a unique history and architecture, which in turn brings about new associations between the viewer and the work. The diverse approach to exhibition design that the PA Takeover program encourages allows artists, curators and spectators alike to have an ever-evolving relationship to art.

**SAPAR Contemporary Gallery**, established in 2016, is the brainchild of **Raushan Sapar** and **Nina Levent**. In 2016 the gallery acquired a ground floor space at 9 North Moore Street and renovated the older traditional Tribeca space into a modern sunlit gallery that respects the architectural legacy of the neighborhood and retains its original charm. SAPAR Contemporary works with international artists who span three generations and five continents. They engage in global conversations and develop vocabularies that resonate as strongly in Baku, Almaty and Istanbul as they do in New York, Berlin, Paris and Mexico City. Their artistic practices vary from meditative traditional ink painting to writing programming code; what connects them are the artists' capacity for empathy, insight, and imagination, their whimsy and generosity of spirit, as well as the rigor and depth of their studio practice. The gallery program offers a unique lens that is immediate and global, future-oriented and accessible, multi-sensory and immersive.

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For more information, high resolution images, and to arrange an interview with Piero Atchugarry, please contact [bmcghee@pieroatchugarry.com](mailto:bmcghee@pieroatchugarry.com) or at (786) 3904725.

Visit the Piero Atchugarry Gallery at [pieroatchugarry.com](http://pieroatchugarry.com)