

rachel uffner



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Curtis Talwst Santiago: *Drawings and Miniatures*

November 13, 2016 – January 8, 2017

Opening Reception: Sunday, November 13th, 2016, 6 – 8 pm

Rachel Uffner Gallery is pleased to present new sculptures and drawings from Curtis Talwst Santiago. His practice explores issues of transculturalism, memory and ancestry in the contemporary Diasporic experience. Talwst's *infinity series* of miniature dioramas in reclaimed ringboxes consider the absence of certain narratives in dominant culture and draw on the tradition of storytelling to question the production of historical understanding. The ringboxes are unusually mobile artworks; between exhibitions they close and travel with the artist. Encased in structures that protect and transport precious objects through generations, the ringboxes become symbolic of oral historical practices. The lack of an immersive experience in viewing these works and their overt objecthood suggest the distance between dominant culture and the stories they hold.

More recently, Talwst has introduced drawing into his practice. Using paper and rocks as his surface, these works consider more directly the connection between the artist and his ancestors, and will be shown for the first time in this exhibition. The drawings were made as a current artist-in-residence at Pioneer Works, Brooklyn and from his studies at the New York Studio School, wherein Talwst has stretched his artistic inquiries. The series depicts contemporary figures that aesthetically conjure the past, echoing the gestures and processes of art history's masters before him.

Talwst's own experience of growing up in a Trinidadian household against the backdrop of Canada holds weight within the context of his practice. Talwst's interest in storytelling, in particular narratives from African and Caribbean culture, comes alive in his practice, which aims to animate and reinsert these silenced histories into contemporary art and history.

Curtis Talwst Santiago is a Canadian-Trinidadian artist currently working in Brooklyn. He is a former apprentice of Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun, and has exhibited internationally in solo and group shows including at the Studio Museum in Harlem, Hunter College, Savannah College of Art and Design, Fortnight Institute and the Art Gallery of Mississauga. A current artist-in-residence at Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, Talwst will participate in a residency with Gallery MOMO (Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa) in 2017. He will also be included in an upcoming show at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. His work is included in the permanent collection of the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Image: Curtis Talwst Santiago, *Tell Them To Stop! Tell Them To Stop!*, 2014, mixed media diorama in reclaimed jewelry box, 1 x 1 ½ x 1 ¼ inches.

Please call (212) 274-0064 or email info@racheluffnergallery.com for more information.

Rachel Uffner Gallery
170 Suffolk Street
New York, NY 10002

+1 212 274 0064
info@racheluffnergallery.com
racheluffnergallery.com