



AT HILLYER

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Allison Nance, Gallery Director
allisonn@artsandartists.org ; 202.338.0325

May 28, 2019



What: June exhibitions featuring Tyra Mitchell's debut solo exhibition "Raising Our Youth"

Tyra Mitchell: *Raising Our Youth*: June 1 – 30, 2019

Artists in Exile: Art as Fabric for Healing: June 7 – 30, 2019

Pietro Ruffo: *CONSTELLATIONS/MIGRATION*: May 3 – June 30, 2019

Where: IA&A at Hillyer, 9 Hillyer Court NW, Washington, DC 20008

Opening Reception: June 7, 2019, 6-9pm (During Dupont Circle's First Friday; Free, \$8 Suggested Donation)

More Info: <http://athillyer.org>

Description: Hillyer presents two new exhibitions featuring the debut solo exhibition by DC-based artist Tyra Mitchell, and the group exhibition "Artists in Exile: Art as Fabric for Healing." Mitchell's *Raising Our Youth* is an exploration of young families who inhabit Washington, DC and how they are navigating through their heavily gentrified hometown along with the many obstacles of parenthood—all while highlighting the beauty that still resides in the former "Chocolate City." *Artists in Exile* features the work of six Iraqi refugees who have relocated to new countries through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with paintings by Ahmad Abdulrazzaq, Khalid Alaani, Amer Ali, Majid Hashem, Omar Odeh, and Wadhah Mahdi. Also on exhibit, Pietro Ruffo's *CONSTELLATIONS/MIGRATION* draws inspiration from the geographers, cartographers, and astronomers of antiquity to tackle the timeless mysteries of human movement, conflict, and assimilation. Guests can meet the artists Tyra Mitchell and Khalis Alaani at the opening reception on Friday, June 7th from 6-9pm, during Dupont Circle's First Friday Gallery Walk.

(Washington, DC) IA&A at Hillyer presents three new solo exhibitions opening on May's First Friday, featuring Pietro Ruffo, Eric Uhler, and Marcel Artes Deolazo. The exhibitions will **open on Friday, May 3, 2019 and will run through Sunday, May 26, 2019**. The artists will be present to talk about their work with visitors at the **opening reception on Friday, May 3, 2019 from 6-9pm**. The Artist Talk with Eric Uhler and Marcel Artes Deolazo will be held on Wednesday, May 8.

Tyra Mitchell (Washington, DC): *Raising Our Youth*

Artists in Exile: Art as Fabric for Healing

Pietro Ruffo (Rome, Italy): *CONSTELLATIONS/MIGRATION*

For an artist, it is always a unique challenge to glean new insights from complex phenomena, such as that of human migration—an ancient, mysterious process that involves many peoples and nations and a welter of data and cultural forces. In *CONSTELLATIONS/MIGRATION*, Pietro Ruffo draws inspiration from the geographers, cartographers, and astronomers of antiquity to tackle the timeless mysteries of human movement, conflict, and assimilation.

Ruffo's suite of four large drawings, titled *GOLD MIGRATIONS* (ink on emergency blanket), juxtaposes the physiognomies of national borders (North America, South America, Africa, Italy) with ancient historical scenes of migrants and native peoples reimagined as fantastic narratives. The motif of a gold blanket underscores the travails of migrants and others who seek to integrate into regions and communities that hold different values from their own. In three tapestries titled *SKY WALKERS*, the artist employs cut-out silhouettes of human forms to suggest an increasingly interconnected humanity, one that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries. These luminous works return us to a world before maps, to an ancestral journey that looked to the sky—the sun, stars, and the earth's magnetic field—for its survival. With these multifaceted works, this exhibition casts a spotlight on the timeless phenomena of the displacement of persons and cultures, from the rich perspective of global history. This exhibition is presented in partnership with the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington, DC, and is supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities through a Sister Cities grant.

Pietro Ruffo (b. 1978) studied Architecture at the University of Rome before moving to New York for a research scholarship at Columbia University. Since 2004, he has been working in Rome from his studio at Pastificio Cerere. Ruffo's art investigates the great issues of universal history—especially individual freedom and dignity, which are constantly threatened by the ongoing homogenization contemporary society. Ruffo's main solo exhibitions include: "Constelacoes Migracoes", Centro cultural Correios, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; "L'illusion parfaite", Galerie Italienne, Paris; "Terra Incognita", Delhi; "Breve storia del resto del mondo", Fondazione Puglisi Cosentino, Catania, Italy; "SPAD SVII", Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome; "The Political Gymnasium", Blain Southern London; "A complex Istant", Moscow, special project for the Fourth Moscow Biennale; "Irhal Irhal", Lorcan O'Neill gallery, Rome.

Gallery Information

IA&A at Hillyer (formerly Hillyer Art Space) is a program of International Arts & Artists (IA&A), a nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. IA&A fulfills its mission by providing programs and services to artists, arts institutions, cultural organizations, and the public. Hillyer supports IA&A's mission through a series of exhibitions and

public programs that feature local, regional, and international artists. Hillyer's exhibition series focuses on under-represented artists, both emerging and established, that have not had a major solo exhibition within the last three years. Hillyer is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. We are located in Dupont Circle, next to the Phillips Collection, in Washington, DC, two blocks from the Red Line Metro, Dupont Circle Q Street Exit. The gallery is open seven days a week, Saturday-Monday 12-5pm, Tuesday-Friday 12-6pm, and by appointment.

####

High-resolution images available upon request