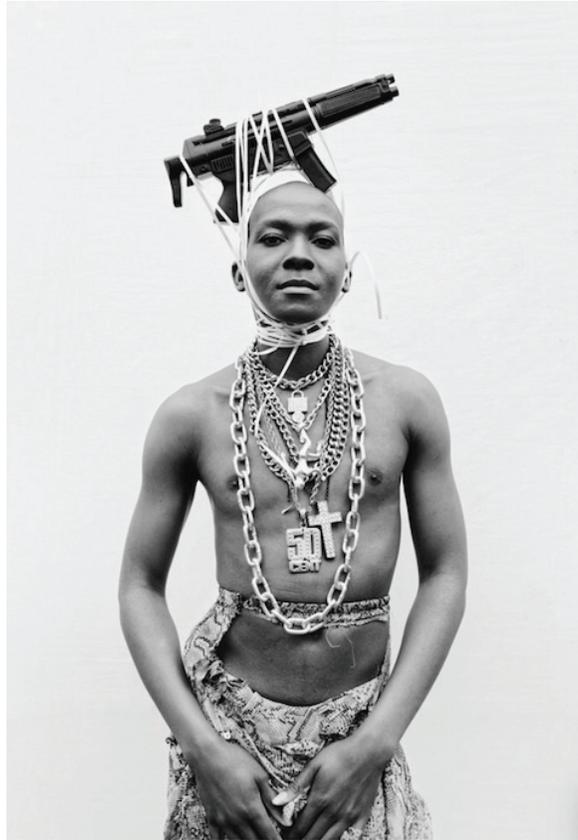


Soft Criminal

Work by Kristin-Lee Moolman, Ibrahim Kamara and Gareth Wrighton

Opening Reception, September 12th, 7-10pm

Red Hook Labs



Kristin Lee Moolman

(Brooklyn, NY - August 7, 2018) - Red Hook Labs is pleased to present Soft Criminal, the first large-scale New York collaboration with South African photographer Kristin-Lee Moolman, Sierra-Leonean designer Ibrahim Kamara and British designer Gareth Wrighton, opening September 12th and closing September 23rd.

Combining a fantastical narrative of characters from the African diaspora inspired by personal histories as well as imagined storylines, Soft Criminal documents three rival crime families unable to coexist in a chaotic power struggle. A disgraced King faces execution as his centuries-old dynasty crumbles before his eyes. His humiliated queen watches as her lover-henchman is shamed in a public tar and feathering, but not before he has killed those responsible for the coup. The deposition is led by new money hacktivists and an anarchic war lord and his lawless disciples.

The collaboration gives birth to a fascinating and personal world of multiple characters expressing themselves through twenty-two handmade haute couture looks. At the September 12th opening these looks will be presented in a live fashion show alongside the collection of photographs taken by Moolman in South Africa capturing the identity of Soft Criminal.

These unique garments, hand made by local African artists and artisans, and the editioned prints will be on display throughout the run of the show at Red Hook Labs.

Moolman and Kamara's work and collaborations have already been presented as part of large scale exhibitions: Moma's Items: Is Fashion Modern?; London's Somerset House group show, Utopian Voices Here & Now. Recently they collaborated with Wrighton to publish a zine for Tate Britain called Stance, exploring the reclamation of cultural identity through fashion and style.

Labs

Kristin-Lee Moolman is a photographic artist and filmmaker working in Johannesburg. Her work explores the idea of creating a fictional mythology or place based on the synthesis of political, personal and visual stimuli experienced while living in South Africa at this particular time. Her clients and collaborations have included Ib Kamara, Dazed, i-D, L'Officiel Hommes, Edun, King Kong, Rich Mnisi, Baloji and Nataal. Her work has been featured at Somerset house, MOMA, Tate Britain and Modern just to name a few.

Ibrahim Kamara is a British, Sierra Leone-born Artist, stylist and costume designer. He is influenced by the mixing of ideas culturally. He is a Central St Martins graduate and currently fashion editor at large at I-D. He has collaborated with photographers like Tim Walker, Jamie Morgan, Jack Davison, Director Kahlil Joseph, clients like Burberry, Nike and Beyonce.

Gareth Wrighton is a British born designer who works between a variety of media including knitwear, tailoring, photography and computer modeling, producing work that examines the touch of hand in the digital age. The Central Saint Martins alum takes on the globalization of garment production, and the impact of fast fashion on the communities in which it is made and consumed. Warped, glitched, antiheroes recur throughout Wrighton's work; rooted in an obsession with the grotesques of contemporary culture.

Red Hook Labs is a public-benefit corporation located in Red Hook, Brooklyn, and Downtown Los Angeles, dedicated to establishing creative communities and self-sustaining businesses in developing areas. Through their unique relationship with creative industries and commitment to education, events, and programming, they are able to connect education and continuing skills training to mentorship, internships and job placement.

Labs Gallery extends its mission of giving opportunity to and supporting emerging artists through its exhibition and print sales program. Labs presents three annual exhibitions: Labs New Artists, an international, juried open call for unrepresented talent; Nataal: New African Photography III; and Foam Talent. Labs has also offered first time solo shows to Jamie Hawkesworth, Willy Vanderperre, Stef Mitchell and Cass Bird. The Labs Artists in Residence have included Lakin Ogunbanwo, Kristin-Lee Moolman and Nadine Ijewere.

Both the pictures and the collection will be on sale starting September 12th during the opening.

For press inquiries, please contact: april@sparkplug-pr.com

For more information about RHL please contact: natalie@redhooklabs.com