

Labs

Press release
Brooklyn, April 2018

Nataal: New African Photography III
On view May 4-13, 2018

Red Hook Labs, Brooklyn, New York

Red Hook Labs and Nataal are delighted to announce their third co-curated group exhibition: New African Photography III. This year's show features six female artists whose work engages meaningfully with present-day Africa and its diaspora. From a range of new perspectives come contemporary works that seek to present positive narratives and address a diverse set of concerns relating to representation, gender and identity.

New African Photography III will also celebrate the launch of Nataal's debut print issue. The bi-annual magazine includes a section dedicated to the exhibition as well as unique shoots, stories and visual essays featuring the freshest fashion, visual arts, music and culture.

New African Photography III follows the success of the previous annual exhibitions, New African Photography I & II. US Vogue called the 2016 show "a journey into the rich visual culture of Africa" while Creators said the 2017 show included "photography that speaks to an increasing sense of self across the vast continent." Having supported the work and careers of several talented emerging artists in these previous editions, Red Hook Labs and Nataal's 2018 curation puts the female gaze firmly in the spotlight.

Artists included: Fatoumata Diabaté, Rahima Gambo, Keyezua, Alice Mann, Ronan McKenzie and Ruth Ossai.

About Red Hook Labs:

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 its unique relationship with creative industries and commitment to education, events and programming, it is able to connect 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.

About Nataal:

Nataal is a London-based global media brand founded by Alassane Sy, Sara Hemming and Helen Jennings celebrating contemporary African culture. Having originally launched digitally in 2015, and hosted several cultural events in major cities since then, Nataal now publishes its debut print magazine this May. The biannual publication features exclusive editorials featuring the brightest artists, designers, storytellers, tastemakers and cultural revolutionaries.
nataal.com

Opening May 4, 6-10pm
Music by DJ Jennifly
Live performance by Oyinda

Gallery Hours: 10am-6pm (daily)

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Meet the artists:

Fatoumata Diabaté

Fatoumata Diabaté is a Malian artist who has established herself both a portraitist and social photographer specialising in black & white. Her ongoing project Studio Photo de la Rue is a mobile studio that revives the spirit of Seydou Keïta and Malick Sidibé. Diabaté's clients have included Rolex, Oxfam, World Press Photo, Oxfam and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She has exhibited at Addis Photo, Biennale Internationale de l'Art Contemporain de Casablanca and Recontres de Bamako.

Rahima Gambo

Rahima Gambo is an Abuja-based Nigerian artist. She studied at the University of Manchester, the London School of Economics and the Columbia Graduate School. She is a Magnum Foundation fellow and International Women's Media Foundation fellow. She uses photography, text, illustration and film to examine Nigerian identity, gender, history and socio-political issues. Gambo has participated in ART X Lagos, Recontres de Bamako and Lagos Biennial and she has worked for NGOs including Human Rights Watch, Malala Fund and the Foundation for Refugee Economic Empowerment.

Keyezua

Keyezua is an emerging Angolan artist and graduate of Royal Academy of Arts, The Hague. She uses photography, film, painting, sculpture and poems to tell fearless visual stories that champion the role of women in contemporary society and celebrate the female body. She has shown at LagosPhoto, FNB Johannesburg Art and Cape Town Art Fair.

Alice Mann

Alice Mann is a young South African artist who studied photography at the University of Cape Town and currently lives in London. She was the recipient of the 2017 Joan Wakelin Bursary and finalist for the 2018 International Women's Photographer's Award. Focussing on portraiture and long-term personal projects, at Labs she presents her latest series Drummies (2017-ongoing).

Ronan McKenzie

Ronan McKenzie is a London-based photographer whose work spans portraiture and fashion. Her clients include i-D, Wonderland, US Vogue, SHOWStudio, Marques'Almeida and American Apparel and she's published the photo book Hard Ears. Her sensitive lens hails diverse beauty and the black body and for Nataal's debut magazine she has shot a story examining migration and identity.

Ruth Ossai

Ruth Ossai was born in eastern Nigeria and is now based in West Yorkshire, UK. She is known for her portrait and studio photography that empowers Nigerian communities and the African diaspora. She works collaboratively with her subjects to express deeply personal and powerful narratives. She recently shot a special project for Kenzo and her latest series sees her work with fashion designer Mowalola Ogunlesi. Ossai also works in youth development in the UK and across Africa.