

Paradice Palase Presents: Fragmented Woman

“We are more than the sum of our parts, so when the world doesn’t make space for all of a woman we take up the sky; stretch our limbs like constellations connecting the stars.”

Fragmented woman is a collaborative exhibition of interdisciplinary works between a visual artist and literary artist that pushes the bounds of what art can do in a space and what is considered visual art. Presented by Paradice Palase, this exhibition tells the story of the journey of womanhood, from when we first become aware of the cage that we must exist in, to the moment we become aware of who we are as the bird and following the inevitable journey to flight. What happens when a woman realizes that she can expand outside of the boxes that she is forced to confine within?

Curated by multidisciplinary artist and cultural worker Peace, *Fragmented Woman* brings together visual art, traditional storytelling, and poetics to share a folktale and message that can be passed through generations. Peace creates a series of stories and poems accompanying the works of painter Menika Lue. These mixed media art pieces made with paint and craft material on canvas tell one part of the folktale about the lessons of life. Both of the artists’ pieces are inspired by their own experiences as black women and the journey of living comfortably in their skin despite the white gaze. This exhibition explores the ideas of culture, systematic oppression, womanhood, physical and cosmological time and love. *Fragmented Woman* encourages people to view their lifeline as a cyclical discovery of themselves. Through the journey you start to see the discarded pieces as the very parts of yourself that make you unique and powerful. They become the tools that are used to operate in the world; our reflections of life and legacy.

Menika Lue was born in New York and raised in Orlando, FL. She is the daughter of a Jamaican mother and Jamaican-Chinese father and has studied art since 2011. Menika uses oil paint, sculpture, and mixed media to re-create the Black, female body. She pierces, bejewels, and adorns her paintings, while creating excess room for these figures to live. The form of the pieces take shape through the artist’s own body and the ways she contorts herself. Her works create a world of magnificent, awe-some figures that exist in expansive spaces, allowing them to be keepers of knowledge that stretch across time. Her work is rooted in collecting. She collects knowledge through research, the passing down of information throughout generations of oral storytelling, records, objects, and photos.

Peace is a Black Queer social experimentalist, multidisciplinary artist, writer, curator, activist, and cultural worker of Egyptian & Persian descent. She creates works rooted in

the excavation of the power of love as a form of radical activism that addresses societal issues of social pressure such as racism, sexism, capitalism, institutionalization, and abolition. She creates work that pushes the envelope of many norms through the abnormality of her personal rebellion. Through the understanding of one's own life, they are gifted wisdom and deeper knowledge of how to exist harmoniously with the world around them. The objective of her work is to get you to either connect deeper to yourself or become aware of your connection to the external atmosphere. Depending on the Muse, her art takes many forms ranging from poetry and performance to theatre and multimedia installations and workshops.

About the Gallery

PARADICE PALASE is an arts platform in Brooklyn, NY promoting the democratization of the art world for creators and patrons. They support emerging artists and foster accessible arts patronage by producing apparel editions, curating online art sales, hosting virtual programs, and managing a private studio building. Their platform is also built in part around a members network of creatives living across the United States.