

CYNTHIA · REEVES

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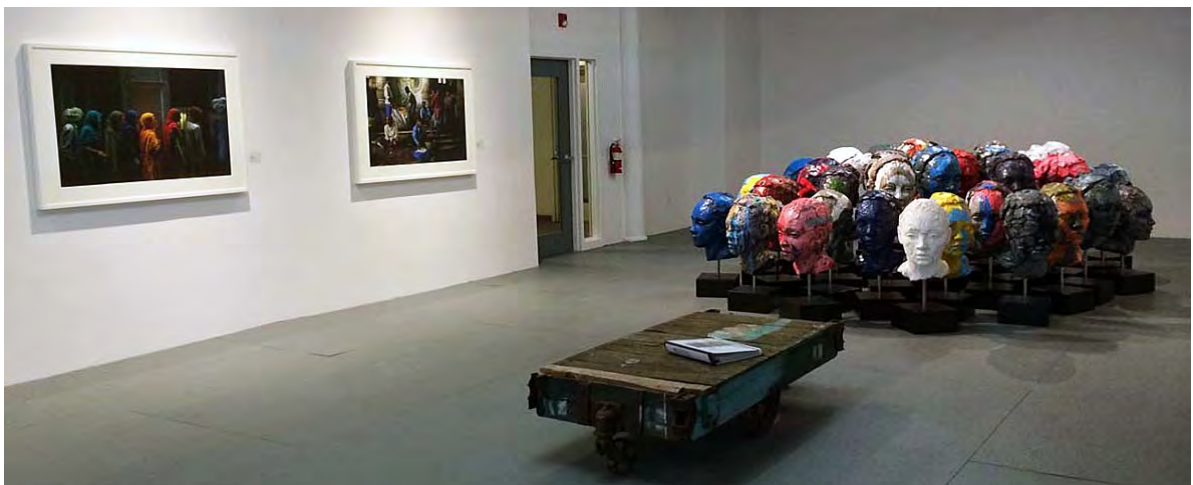
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North Adams, MA – [CYNTHIA-REEVES](#) opens the 2015 exhibition season with an international focus on cultural and socio-political issues through the work of Chilean photographer, Tomas Munita, and South African artist, Lionel Smit. Opening Saturday, January 10, at 1315 MASS MoCA Way, on the art campus of MASS MoCA, the exhibition runs through February 22.



[Lionel Smit](#), whose work is extensively exhibited worldwide, continues to focus on the graceful and proud visage of the Malayan peoples of South Africa. *Accumulation of Disorder* is an installation comprised of forty busts cast in resin and fiberglass, each uniquely hand-painted, gathered in a circular formation. Collectively, they evoke a sense of quiet witnessing.



Lionel Smit & Tomas Munita, CYNTHIA-REEVES @ IAP, installation, January 2015

He writes: "My fascination with portraiture and the abstraction of color plays a dualistic role in my artistic expression and creation. The combination of the representation of human form, and the

mercurial quality of emotions, translated by color, line and form, is what inspires the imaginative and abstract essence of the work.”

Self-taught, Smit lives and works in the Western Cape, and is widely viewed as one of the country’s most promising artists. His lushly painted canvases focus on the native South Africans, particularly, again, Cape Malayans, as the subjects of his oversized portraits. These paintings are a juxtaposition of Abstract Expressionist brushwork, and elegant line portraiture. As a young white South African growing up in the shadow of Apartheid, Smit reflects that it was only after the transition to democracy that he truly understood the devastating effects of the country’s racial segregation.



Smit has established a substantial global following in recent years, with a succession of sold out exhibitions, strong auction results, and his inclusion in last year’s National Portrait Prize at the National Portrait Gallery in London. His works are found in many high-profile public and private collections, including the Johann Jacobs Museum in Zurich, the Delaire Graff Estate, Standard Chartered Bank, and Rand Merchant Bank, among others.

[Tomas Munita](#) lives in Santiago, Chile, but travels the world in search of experiencing and capturing on film war, famine, flood, and political and cultural upheaval. Yet, the images produced contain an interesting juxtaposition, a narrative layer that seems to preserve the “human-ness” of these very challenging tableaux. Additionally, the overall composition is so beautifully composed, and captured, as if it was a scene taken from a medieval painting. As a freelance photographer for such esteemed news agencies, the Associated Press and The New York Times, Munita is continually on assignment as witness to moments of tumult and poignancy. Last year, he received the second annual Getty Images and Chris Hondros Fund Award, conferred by his peers for finding the humanity and the emotion in these difficult visual stories.



Thomas Munita, *Calcutta*, archival pigment print, 33.5 x 47 inches, limited edition, 2008

Munita writes: “For me, photography is an additional language. Different from words, it can immediately touch on an emotional aspect of what is being treated. Images, beyond being proof of truth, can help us understand our reality in a direct way.”

Munita’s lyrical photographs capture his diverse subject matter with arresting beauty, delicacy, and rawness – qualities that have catapulted his career exponentially, including location shoots with acclaimed New York Times architecture critic, Michael Kimmelman. In 2010, Munita won the All Roads National Geographic Award for his work on Lost Harvest – The Death of the Loa River. Most recently, he won the Chris Hondros Fund Award, which he used to expand his fine art photography through a three-month residency in Patagonia. He intends to return to the region at least three more times to effectively capture the landscape in all four seasons. His work is published regularly in The New York Times, Geo, Time, National Geographic, Courier International, Le Monde, Stern, Der Spiegel, Sunday Times, La Tercera and many others.



For further information on Lionel Smit and Thomas Munita, please visit the online gallery at cynthia-reeves.com or contact us at 212 714 0044. Please note that the gallery is open by appointment only, during the month of January.

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