

# VENUS OVER MANHATTAN

Press Release

## **BASIL KINCAID: RIVER, FROG AND CRESCENT MOON**

September 7 – October 8, 2022

Opening: Wednesday, September 7th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Venus Over Manhattan

120 East 65th Street

New York, NY 10065



(New York, NY) – Celebrating improvisation, freedom of imagination, and a continuous process of self-discovery through making, St. Louis, and Accra-based **Basil Kincaid** is a post-disciplinary artist known for textile compositions that mine what he calls a “spiritual inheritance.” On September 7, 2022, **Venus Over Manhattan** will present **River, Frog and Crescent Moon**, the artist’s first New York solo exhibition, featuring a series of recent quilted, embroidered, and sculpted works. Kincaid’s pieces are often made from “emotionally charged materials,” including the cast-off clothes of loved ones, and involve a time-intensive collage technique that channels the inheritance of a multi-generational familial practice of quilting.

The exhibition will be on view through **October 8th** at the gallery’s Upper East Side location.

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Basil Kincaid's work—be it explored through quilting, photography, collage, installation, or performance—often incorporates found, salvaged, or donated materials. Through reworking and recontextualizing these raw elements, Kincaid offers alternative perspectives from which to consider how context and conditioning impact our identities and self-expression. Kincaid's practice reckons with notions of Black displacement and the strictures and implications of an oppressive, violent and carceral state on Black people, while concurrently deriving a numinous and metaphysical expansiveness from the ancestral well-spring of knowledge, resilience, and joy that the artist's work is equally steeped in.

Salient in this body of work is a concept of connection or communion to one's ancestors and forebears. Investigating the "comforting hands" of ancestry and the infinitude of this lineal knowledge, hands appear visually and metaphorically throughout Kincaid's quilts and embroideries, acting at turns acting as symbols for a shared spirit and cosmic interconnectedness while also evoking the labor and love, both physical and emotional, of ones predecessors. As the artist writes:

"Ultimately...the goal is to get back to nature and nurture...that expansive yet rooted feeling of wholeness and belonging. Where all things are, and are meant to be, shared."

Through rejecting fixity or preconceptions of the work, and instead allowing feeling and

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intuition to act as guide, Kincaid creates room for spiritual manifestations and expressions that lay beyond the confines of consciousness. Both in process and output Kincaid is committed to self-reclamation and creating spaces of healing. Demonstrating the essentiality of hereditary legacy inherit to both individual identity and communal liberation, Kincaid's work occupies the space that both holds one in tradition and simultaneously encourages and imagines personal freedom and infinitude.

## ABOUT BASIL KINCAID

Basil Kincaid (b. 1986, St. Louis, MO) is a post-disciplinary artist, who lives and works between St. Louis, Missouri, and Accra, Ghana. Through quilting, collage, photography, installation, and performance, Kincaid explores questions of identity while simultaneously foregrounding an improvisational and community-oriented approach to making that encourages liberation, healing and meditating on universal interconnectivity. Kincaid received a BA in Studio Art from Colorado College in 2010. Kincaid has been the subject of numerous solo presentations, including recent exhibitions at Leyendecker Gallery, Tenerife; Carl Kostyal, London; and the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis. Kincaid's work frequently features in major group exhibitions around the world, including recent shows at Hauser & Wirth, New York; Breeder Gallery, Athens; Stems Gallery, Brussels, and Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco. In 2019, Kincaid debuted a performance called "The Release" at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation in St. Louis. In 2021, Kincaid became a United States Artist Fellow. Kincaid's work is held in the permanent collections of the Espacio Tacuari, Buenos Aires; the Illinois State Museum, Springfield; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.

For further information about the exhibition and availability, please contact the gallery at [info@venusovermanhattan.com](mailto:info@venusovermanhattan.com)

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55 Great Jones Street  
New York, NY 10012

## GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday – Saturday  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

## PRESS CONTACT

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## IMAGE CREDITS

Basil Kincaid, *Exfoliating in The Sea, Swept Up in the Shallow Surf*, 2020-2022. Quilt; 106 x 87 in (269.2 x 221 cm). Courtesy the artist and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.

View of Basil Kincaid's studio, with the artist wrapped in a quilt. Courtesy the artist and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.

Basil Kincaid, *Praise around the Seed*, 2022. Embroidery and hand-woven cotton fiber on canvas; 67 x 88 in (170.2 x 223.5 cm). Courtesy the artist and Venus Over Manhattan, New York.