



Burning the Dead, 2016

Cleon Peterson

VICTORY

January 12 → February 18, 2017

opening Wednesday January 11 from 6 p.m

This show explores the hedonistic triumphs of those who recognize themselves as victorious in the unfolding mirror of history. Their right to pleasure hinges on their projection of pain onto the unvictorious other. This often expresses itself in pleasure derived from the misfortune of the defeated. As the winners display their hubris and take their trophies the losers are left insignificant and marginalized. VICTORY explores one mans victory over another, what that victory looks like and the result that victory has on the losers.

Cleon Peterson

“There is no document of civilization that is not at the same time a document of barbarism.”

Walter Benjamin

Cleon Peterson, born in 1973 grew up in Seattle. Severely asthmatic as a child he immersed himself in drawing during long stays in hospital. As he grew older he spent his time on the streets of Seattle with his brother, the photographer Leigh Ledare. These enfants terribles were nicknamed the «avenue rats». The '90s turned into a turbulent drug-addled decade spent between NYC and the West Coast where he encountered the human mayhem he now depicts. He paints a pared-down and graphic brutalism that shows the fever pitch and daily tensions that exist in the poverty and urban violence of today's cities. 'I paint a reality that not everyone experiences but one that exists and is part of our world. There is a kind of primal life that goes with this torment.'

Peterson had his first solo exhibition in Los Angeles, 2009, and he hasn't stopped working since. After a 154 feet long mural at the Palais de Tokyo in 2014, he was invited by Jean de Loisy to be part of the Nuit Blanche project in 2016 with a monumental 2300 sq. foot painting under the Eiffel Tower.

Galerie du jour agnès b. will feature VICTORY, Cleon Peterson first solo show in Paris, France. The exhibition contains a new series of paintings and sculptures that will introduce the viewer to Peterson's oppressive world, 'A dark world that we all carry inside'. Victory is a black and white ballet of nightmarish mental and physical violence and conflict : facing the wall and in-your-face, Cleon Peterson offers neither a way out, nor moral judgement on the state of the world in crisis.

As part of the exhibition, a silkscreen print is edited, 100 copies numbered and signed, exclusively available at galerie du jour agnès b.



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