

FORT GANSEVOORT

FAD — magazine

NOMI IS ZOË BUCKMAN'S FIRST SOLO PRESENTATION IN LONDON AND MARKS A POWERFUL AND TIMELY HOMECOMING.

By Mark Westall February 10, 2021



Zoë Buckman but slapsies was a blueprint, 2020 paper, vintage textile, photographs, ink, on paper, framed 45.7 x 61cm, 18 x 24 in framed size: 52.5 x 68.7 cm, 20 5/8 x 27 1/8 in Courtesy the gallery and the artist Photo: Todd White

Born in London in 1985 and based in Brooklyn, Zoë Buckman's multidisciplinary practice incorporates sculpture, textiles, ceramics, photography, and large-scale public installations. Adopting an explicitly feminist approach, her work explores identity, trauma, and gendered violence, subverting preconceived notions of vulnerability and strength.

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Zoë Buckman he took holes out of her/she warped unbroken, 2020 vintage textile, hand embroidery, paper and photography on paper, framed 61 x 45.7 cm, 24 x 18 in framed size: 52.5 x 68.7 cm, 20 5/8 x 27 1/8 in Courtesy the gallery and artist: Jason Mandella

Nomi is the artist's first solo presentation in London and marks a powerful and timely homecoming. The Exhibition presents a focused body of work that was born from grief and trauma. Over the past two years, Buckman has undertaken a difficult, complex and spiritual journey resulting in a tentative yet defiant proclamation of love and joy as an antidote to the darker side of life. From a real voyage in India, to a psychological journey with EMDR, an interactive psychotherapy technique, Buckman lays herself vulnerable in new works which play with dualities of hard and soft, masculine and feminine, domestic and surreal.

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Zoë Buckman & Ganga water glistens, 2020 boxing gloves, vintage textiles and chain 116.8 x 22.9 x 22.9 cm, 46 x 9 x 9 in Courtesy the gallery and artist Photo: Jason Mandella

“The limiting and confining conditions of 2020 triggered memories for me of the times I’ve been held back, literally or symbolically, by patriarchal forces. It put me further in touch with an internal source that exists inside us all: a well of freedom and joy where our wilder instincts originate. I see this force in the women who surround me, in the Divine Feminine, and within myself.”

Zoë Buckman, November 2020.

Buckman often plays with unexpected juxtapositions in her choice of presentation and source material, incorporating vintage fabrics such as household linens, and in previous works lingerie and wedding dresses, Buckman teases out narrative from previous life of the materials that inhabit a feminine and domestic sphere. Text is an integral part of her practice and Buckman’s snippets often bear witness to violence, aggression and grief. It is through elegant combinations employing natural forms and dancing figures, and an unashamedly beautiful presentation, that Buckman ensures hope and joy resonant throughout the show.

Her alter ego, Nomi, is expressed in works that reclaim the serpentine motif from negative patriarchal connotations. Her snakes are all powerful, skin shedding, weaving their way on the page between chakras and handwritten excerpts from her ongoing poem, *Show Me Your Bruises Then*. Her hanging sculptures created using boxing gloves unite associations of violence and masculinity with a kind of pristine, sweat and impact free femininity.

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Zoë Buckman NOMI, 2020 hand embroidery and ink on vintage textile, framed size; 63.5 x 48.3 cm, 25 x 19 in
Courtesy the gallery and artist Photo: Thomas Muller

Her latest work creates space for multiple narratives, enigmatic forms and elevates the 'unfinished'. Stains mark the page, threads hang loose, text is not always sewn but sometimes printed and pinned on. Consequently, a raw edge permeates and the collage works feel like they are in the act of becoming. Nomi is given free reign, birthing powerful serpent deities with doilies, photography, textiles and ink. Buckman makes work from a personal and introspective position but always engages directly with her audience, inviting them to make their own associations, realizations and even space for healing.

Zoë Buckman NOMI at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery 12th February 2021 – 13th March 2021

NOMI has been curated in collaboration with the art historian and broadcaster, Kate Bryan.