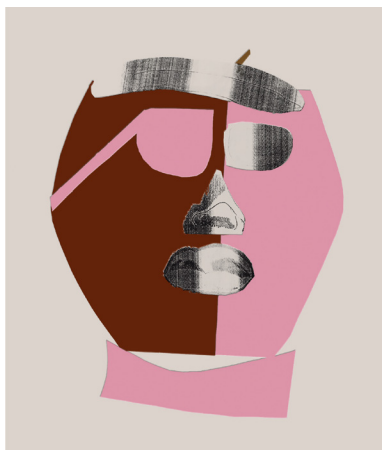


Edition Patrick Frey

Press Release

Armando Alleyne *A Few of My Favorites*



“I don’t only focus on jazz musicians. I also paint my family or iconic personalities such as Félix Trinidad, Sister Gertrude Morgan, Amadou Diallo and The Notorious B.I.G. who in one rendition is carrying the cross with Etta James as an angel. In a painting collage of Biggie, I placed a Tropicana Juice packaging where a handkerchief would be. With the jazz musicians I’d do the same; I collage cereal and cracker boxes to the subject matter. This reflects my belief that music is fortifying.” (Armando Alleyne)

A Few of My Favorites is the first book of collected works by New York artist, Armando Alleyne. His painted and collaged renditions of jazz musicians, Afro-Latin singers, boxers, but also family members and acquaintances have a rhythm all-their-own. Parallel to his incessant practice of painting portraits of Black icons, Alleyne allows elements of his lived experience to take form in his work. Series such as *Shelter Blues* animate his first-hand experiences of homelessness. Another series, *Maria’s Song* calls on a pantheon of religious symbolism to pay homage to the sister he lost to AIDS. Included are erotic paintings which the artist based on magazine ads and models he staged. Never shying away from the seminal, the sensual or the political, Alleyne’s lifetime of paintings tell a story of how we are subject to our city and how in it we can search for the tools to heal. The artworks are presented alongside a series of snapshots and personal anecdotes that memorialize artworks sold and people who are no longer with us.

Armando Alleyne (b. 1959, New York) grew up in Lower Manhattan and graduated from The City College of New York with a B.A. in Education and Fine Arts, in 1983. His work has most recently been included in *Refuge*, an online group show curated by Nicole Mourião for 440 Gallery, in July 2020. Throughout the decades, Alleyne’s work has been shown at Sage Center Harlem, Gallery M, Chi Chiz, the Bronx River Gallery, Clover’s Fine Art Gallery, Metropolitan Community Church, Sarah Lawrence College, the Jazz Gallery and Black Lawyers Association, among others. He has illustrated numerous publications including *Blackheart 2: The Prison Issue—A Journal of Writing and Graphics by Black Gay Men* (1984), *Black Music, Black Poetry: Blues and Jazz’s Impact on African American Versification* (Gordon E. Thompson, 2014), *Kwanzaa in the Gay and Lesbian Family* (Imani Rashid, 2011) and *Saving the World from Self—Or Should I Say Selfishness* (Philip Regman, 2010). He lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

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