Tschabalala Self (American, b. 1990)

Read an interview with the artist and Ashton Cooper in Pelican Bomb as the artist began debuting works internationally after completing her MFA from Yale in 2015. Also read a 2017 article in Galerie Magazine, “Meet Fast Rising Artist Tschabalala Self” by Lucy Rees.

In 2019, Tschabalala Self opened at the Frye Art Museum as the artist’s first solo museum exhibition in the United States.

Hammer Projects: Tschabalala Self featured elements of the artist’s long-term Bodega Run project as the fifth iteration of the work.


Tschabalala Self: Out of Body was on view at the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston in 2020, featuring “a selection of paintings and sculptures that represent personal avatars, couplings, and everyday social exchanges inspired by urban life.” Read a review in ArtReview by Megan N. Liberty and another in the Boston Art Review.


Tschabalala Self: Home Body was on view at Pilar Corrias in 2022. The exhibition placed her imagined characters in domestic scenes. Read an article about Self’s work in The Guardian.

Le Consortium installed Tschabalala Self: Make Room in 2022-2023, the artist’s first solo institutional exhibition in Europe.

In 2023, Tschabalala Self: Inside Out was on view at the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen in Switzerland. Read a Spotlight article in Artnet.

Tschabalala Self: Bodega Run was installed at Swiss institute in 2024 as the culmination of her long-term project on New York City’s bodegas. The exhibition was accompanied by a book launch of the same name.

The Espoo Museum of Modern Art installed Tschabalala Self: Around the Way in 2024 as her first solo exhibition in Finland. Read an article about the exhibition in FAD Magazine.
Tschabalala Self (American, b. 1990)  
**Bed**, 2024  
Acrylic paint, fabric, thread, charcoal, dyed canvas, painted canvas on canvas  

Private Collection; L2024:24.1  

“I use materials in an unconventional way to subvert the status quo. You don’t have to use paint to make a painting. It aligns with my overall message, which is one of change.” Tschabalala Self is a mixed-media artist interested in depicting the Black female body as it relates to our contemporary culture. Her figures are made with a combination of painted, printed, and sewn materials that blur the line between “fine art” and “craft” techniques and reveal the complexity of lived experience. **Bed** is a recent example of Self’s portraiture, featuring a Black woman relaxing happily in the private, intimate space of a bedroom. Self depicts her as content and confident in her own body, free from the racialized and gendered perceptions of the outside world.

_**On view May 15 – August 18, 2024**_