



For Immediate Release:

HASANI SAHLEHE

STRETCH MY HANDS

On view: September 2 - October 29, 2022

Reception: September 16, 6-9pm

Laney Contemporary is pleased to present *Stretch My Hands*, an exhibition of new work by Atlanta-based artist Hasani Sahlehe. Born in St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands, Sahlehe explores the properties and edges of color and light through the language of painting as a poetic medium with deeply felt ties to music, relationships, and spirituality. *Stretch My Hands* continues in this extension of the medium through the artist's experimentation with materiality and process. To stretch one's hands upward is often a gesture of gratitude, celebration, and openness. It is sometimes a way to greet the day. To stretch the hands out and around is to become active,

engaged, expansive, and curious. Sahlehe's processes embrace all of the dimensionalities of painting as a form of stretching, reaching, experimenting, and pushing the limits of body, mind, and medium.

The exhibition navigates painting as an action, coming to terms with what it means to be human, and recognizing that art has the ability to extend our perceived limitations. This selection intuitively painting's relationship to the body as both physical and contemplative. Delicate, distant, color fields are presented in the main gallery; these works on paper mounted on wooden panels produce an atmospheric effect of color particles that seem to float like an afterimage as we feel the presence of morning sun, rain, fog, earth and sky. This spectrum expands what we are capable of noticing, what we are capable of feeling.

Painting and living seem to be synonymous for Sahlehe, noting that for him "stretching the medium is stretching the body." The mirrored gallery offers this physicality as a contrast to the ethereality in the main space. Works such as *Stretch My Hands* and *It's Ok* steer the medium into more tangible directions embracing multi-dimensionality and unexpected textural juxtapositions. These celestial bodies of paper clay hover amongst shimmering acrylic resin geometries, searching toward the limits of the body's reach. Sahlehe notes, "I see the human body and the body of paint as one." *Stretch My Hands* reminds us to embrace the creative mind and body as inseparable, an antidote to the limitations of the here and the now.

Bio:

Hasani Sahlehe was born in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. He completed his BFA in Painting in 2015 from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Sahlehe is the recipient of the 2021 Hopper Prize and has participated in the 2018-19 MINT Leap Year Residency and the 2017 SCAD Alumni Atelier Residency. Solo presentations of Sahlehe's work have been held at The Atlanta Contemporary, SCAD Museum of Art, 106 Green, New York; Resort, Baltimore; 12.26, Dallas; MINT, Atlanta; and Westobou, Augusta. Recent press include ArtMaze Magazine, Bmore Art, Burnaway, Savannah Magazine, ArtPapers, and New American Paintings.

Reception details:

Our reception for Namwon Choi and Hasani Sahlehe will take place on Friday, September 16th from 6 to 9pm with a food truck on premises. Please join us for a toast at 7 PM to celebrate Namwon, Hasani and 5 wonderful years!

Gallery hours and contact information:

Tuesday - Friday, 11-5 pm

Saturday, 11-2 pm

and by appointment

Phone: (912) 438-4442

Email: info@laneycontemporary.com

Address: 1810 Mills B. Lane Blvd, Savannah, GA 31405

Image above:

Heart is Full, 2022

airbrushed acrylic on paper mounted on panel

60 x 48 inches