

# moniquemeloche

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## **Chase Hall: Half Note** **July 11 - August 22, 2020**

**moniquemeloche** gallery is thrilled to announce tandem solo presentation of new works from artists **Chase Hall** and **February James**. Faced with navigating the new challenges introduced by the global pandemic, both Hall and James were offered a new entry point for intimate self-reflection, memorialized in these new bodies of work.

With his vigorous portraits, **Chase Hall** creates representations that are coded in improvisation and empathy. Redefining colonial instruments and re-working their function, creating Jazz is a reminder of the malleability of sound, life and history. Hall explores the absolute of biracial identity, redefining the duality of a mixed-race experience in terms that are both personal and cultural. A self-taught multi-disciplinary artist, Hall considers the internal dialogue of existing in between fixed identities, Black and white, reclaiming past histories and residual traumas in order to consider how the dynamics of race are foundational to America. Through his new series *Half Note*, Hall considers the longstanding erasure of Black achievement and the resilient lineage of Black Americans examined through jazz culture. The landscapes are evocative of sultry jazz clubs, a site through which Black identity, community, humanity, and expression flourished despite oppressions imposed upon them. Each painting is deliberate; raw cotton canvas remains exposed, a form of protest against white paint as a necessary ingredient to activate surfaces. The works incorporate the use of coffee, a found art pigment, elevating its importance in relationship to paint and the relationship to the daily routine. Through this novel utilization of quotidian elements, Hall creates a vivid hue evocative of black nuance, as tonal washes liberate each figure from the regulated and exclusionary realm of American portraiture. Hall engages history as vehicle to better understand the painful inheritances of the past, while reclaiming his legacy and creating space for increased cultural cognizance and a furthered emotional spectrum.

While varied in their methodologies, each artist's propensity for exploring the figure enriches the recent dialogues around identity, family history, and the human condition. It is through this deeper understanding of the inheritances of our past and their resonance that we arrive at new insights and avenues of reflection.