



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monique Meloche is pleased to announce that Cheryl Pope is now represented by the gallery and will present her first solo exhibition at moniquemeloche *Just Yell* opening Saturday, June 22nd from 4-7pm.

Cheryl Pope

Just Yell

June 22nd - August 3rd

Reception for the artist Saturday, June 22, 4-7pm

moniquemeloche, 2154 W Division, Chicago, IL 60622

In 1880, a student at Princeton University stood before the crowd and began to yell -- the crowd answered and thus began the Yellers (later to become cheerleaders).

Just Yell, the title of Cheryl Pope's first solo exhibition in Chicago at moniquemeloche uses the framework of American High School: yellers (cheerleaders), yearbooks, Varsity patches, and car culture to contain reactions to the current gun violence that is plaguing our city and our nation.

Through a collaboration with over 400 teens city-wide from Farragut Career Academy, Lindblom Math and Science Academy, William Taft Academic Center, Walter Payton College Prep, Alfred Nobel Elementary, and Phoenix Military Academy, Pope does not seek to offer solutions but rather to make the invisible visible in a less temporal space and format than the morning news. These yells ask each of us to confront a reality that is both present and absent simultaneously.

On opening night Saturday, June 22nd, Phoenix Military Academy will perform along with a selection of young poets performing their spoken word to viewers as they ride in classic muscle cars, through Wicker Park and Humboldt Park, in a piece titled *Drive by in 5 Acts*. A series of public events will continue each Saturday during the run of the exhibition starting with the Teen Creative Agency (TCA) from the Museum of Contemporary Art, who will be installing their "Living Room" program at the gallery on Saturday, June 29th; additional events to be announced. *Please note the gallery will be closed July 4-6.*

Cheryl Pope (American b. 1980, lives Chicago) received a Masters in Design in from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2010, which was supported by a Full Tuition Merit Scholarship, and Bachelors of Fine Arts from the same institute in 2003. Pope was the studio manager for artist Nick Cave from 2003-2012 and she credits him and his work as a great influence on her practice.

Pope's work has been included in many group contexts, such as Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Moving Image NYC, Künstlerhaus Speckstrasse Hamburg, No Longer Empty NYC, and LaReta Projects Milan. Recently, Pope's work was acquired by the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and University of California Riverside Art Museum. Pope teaches at the School of the Art Institute Chicago and will be an artist in residence at Fountainhead in Miami later this summer. In 2011, Pope presented *A Silent I* at moniquemeloche as a part of the on the wall series, which currently features Sanford Biggers (American b. 1970, lives NY) *Ago*, which has been extended through August 3rd. "on the wall" is generously funded in part by the Commission of Wicker Park / Bucktown (SSA #33).

Also on view at **moniquemeloche**

on the wall:



Sanford Biggers *Ago*

Now extended through August 3rd

For his first exhibition with moniquemeloche, Biggers will activate the street-level storefront "on the wall" project space with a site-specific installation emerging from his recent work with civil war-era and pre-1900 quilts.

Abstract grounds of patchwork are overlaid with painting and mark-making and superimposed with shapes from the artist's ever-growing repertoire of iconic or loaded images. Though the extent of their use has been contested, Biggers plays off the notion that quilts were used on the Underground Railroad as signposts signaling "stations" or safe houses." He creates a complex vista across which his protagonist (the vague outline of a well-known photograph of a slave's scarred back) takes in a suggested landscape. In a stark reversal of the implied manifest destiny of much Romantic landscape painting, here Biggers complicates and reassesses this historical narrative.

Sanford Biggers (born 1970 Los Angeles, CA, lives and works New York, NY) is an interdisciplinary artist who works in film/video, installation, sculpture, music, and performance. Biggers's art frequently references African American ethnography, hip hop music, Buddhism, African spirituality, Indo-European Vodoun, Jazz, Afrofuturism, urban culture and icons from Americana. An L.A. native, he has lived and worked in New York City since 1999. He received a BA from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Biggers has been included in several notable exhibitions such as: *Prospect 1/New Orleans Biennial*, *Illuminations* at the Tate Modern, *Performa 07* in NY, the Whitney Biennial, *The Here and Now* at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, and *Freestyle* at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Solo exhibitions include Ringling Museum, Sarasota FL (which travels to Virginia Commonwealth University, School of the Arts Anderson Gallery this May); MassMoCA; Brooklyn Museum of Art; Sculpture Center NY; Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum; Portland Art Museum; Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland; Contemporary Art Center Cincinnati;

Contemporary Art Museum Baltimore; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; and the Berkeley Art Museum. He is presently Assistant Professor at Columbia University's Visual Arts program.

Special thanks to The Commission of Wicker Park / Bucktown (SSA #33) for their support of the **on the wall** series.

Artist News:

Sheree Hovsepian currently @ Bischoff Weiss, London, UK thru June 29, 2013
Rashid Johnson currently @ High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA thru September 8, 2013
Ebony G. Patterson currently @ The Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL thru September 8, 2013
Jason Middlebrook currently @ MassMoca, North Adams, MA thru April 7, 2014

Gallery News:

We will be closed July 4-6 for the holiday and open by appointment only during August.

Upcoming this fall is Rashid Johnson "on the wall" and Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle at moniquemeloche.

For more information, please contact Gallery Manager Elli Gotlieb info@moniquemeloche.com