

PRESS RELEASE
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MUZI QUAWSON
SHAWMUT CIRCLE

We are proud to present *Shawmut Circle*, Muzi Quawson's (London, 1978) third solo exhibition at the Annet Gelink Gallery.

Shawmut Circle is named after a local playground which functions as the favourite skate site for Cody, one of the film's central characters. The work consists of a series of fragmented vignettes that are set on three screens, and show glimpses of the daily lives of a group of adolescents and grown ups in City of Valley, USA. Muzi Quawson spent several months in this marginalized community on the border of Georgia and Alabama and created a complex, atmospheric portrait of the lives she encountered.

Quawson manages to catch the tranquillity of small town life where the girl at the cash desk casually shares family news with a passerby and kids make out in the parking lot. The elderly "Bullet" takes us on a bike ride through the black community and tells us how he got his name. We also meet Cody, the young skater whose appearance clearly sets him apart from his peers. And there is Henry, who sings us a hymn in the back of his grocery shop/gas pump.

Although the work does not aim to be a sociological document, it is full of references to the cultural background of the American Deep South. "Bullet's" recollections of his work at the cotton mills refer to the time when "cotton was king" – a time long gone. The slow-pace of life, especially that of the youth depicted, tells us of the recession the area had to face since the decline of American textile industries. The clear geographical separation between the black and the white characters documents the racial segregation that was practiced well into the 1970s in Georgia.

As in "Pull Back the Shade" and "Old Home" Quawson approaches her characters with great respect for their individuality. The scenes she shows are authentic, capturing the everyday life. It is the photographic mastery and full attention, which takes these moments out of the ordinary and lends them the cinematic quality emblematic for Quawson's work.

The Bakery: Harry Meadley *Stay Gold*

In *Stay Gold* Harry Meadley (Leeds, b.1987) shows three works which attempt to be 'timeless' - and appear as if equally from the distant past or the far future, from fifty years ago or today. The title of the exhibition refers to a sentence taken from the book *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, the film adaptation directed by Francis Ford Coppola as well as the film's title song. Two of the three works in the bakery are made of gold: *Glamourie*, representing the artist himself, is the volume of his body in pure gold, and *Edition of 3*, a golden triangle referring to the 'tri-force' from The Legend of Zelda computer games series on Nintendo which the artist has played his whole life. *Shootin' for Love, Wanderers of the West*, is a petrified canvas made at the infamous Mother Shipton's Well, Knaresborough, UK. The title is a quote

from the movie *The Three Amigos!* and refers to an event from Meadley's childhood in which after having received some awful news, his mother took him on a day trip to the petrifying well.

Yael Bartana From March 24 until August 26 2012 the solo exhibition *AND EUROPE WILL BE STUNNED* is on view in the Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven. Furthermore, *AND EUROPE WILL BE STUNNED* will be exhibited from May 22 until July 2012 at ArtAngel, London. At Palazzo Grassi - Francois Pinault Foundation, Venice, Yael Bartana's *A Declaration* is part of the exhibition *Voice of Images* from August 30 2012 until January 13 2013. **Anya Gallacio** From June 2012 Anya Gallacio's *Red on Green* will be on view at Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh. **Ryan Gander** Ryan Gander's work will be on view at Documenta, Kassel, from June 9 until September 16 2012. **Meiro Koizumi** From September 14 until November 17 Meiro Koizumi's work will be on view at Experimenta's Fifth International Biennale of Media Art, Melbourne. **David Maljkovic** From May 25 until July 22 David Maljkovic's work is part of a group show at the Bucharest Biennale 5. In the Jewish Museum of Vienna David Maljkovic's work is part of the group show *Foreigners Everywhere*, from May 24 until October 7 2012. From April 20 until August 26 David Maljkovic's work is part of *La Triennale: Intense Proximity*, a group show in Palais de Tokyo, Paris. **Wilfredo Prieto** From June 21 until 2 September 2012 the solo exhibition *Equilibrando la Curva* by Wilfredo Prieto is on view at HangarBicocca, Milan. **Sarah van Sonsbeek** We are proud to announce that Sarah van Sonsbeek has received the Theodora Niemeijer Prize, which results in an exhibition in the Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven, from October 2012 until January 2013. **Marijke van Warmerdam** Marijke van Warmerdam's exhibition *Close by in the Distance* will be on view from July 2012 at Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto.