

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## POETRY READING

### MICHAEL DATCHER | THE PAINTER AS POETIC MUSE

Reading from *The Raft of The Medusa*

In Conjunction with the Exhibition:

### JACDO | THE DAY I WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR

Curated by Elga Wimmer

Exhibition Dates: MAY 30 — JUNE 22, 2024

### READING, Q&A and RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JUNE 22 | 6-8 PM

#### Press Release:

Lichtundfire is pleased to present and welcomes all to a READING by critically acclaimed New York-based writer MICHAEL DATCHER (Ph.D) and Associate Professor for Clinical Writing at New York University in conjunction with a solo exhibition by Martinique-born French artist JACDO, Jacques Dominique Joachim, curated by Elga Wimmer. DATCHER will read from his recent Collection of Poems, including the Raft of The Medusa a.o., that are inspired by and echo paintings by artists from past to present.

#### ABOUT:

**MICHAEL DATCHER** (Ph.D) did his undergraduate work at UC Berkeley, his Masters at UCLA and his Ph.D. at UC Riverside in English Literature. He is the author the Ferguson-area historical novel **AMERICUS** (Third Is World Press) and the critically-acclaimed **New York Times** Bestseller **RAISING FENCES** (Penguin Putnam/Riverhead)—a TODAY SHOW BOOK CLUB Book of the Month pick. The film rights were originally optioned by actor Will Smith's Overbrook Productions, who hired Datcher to write the screenplay. Datcher has made many other media appearances including OPRAH. Datcher is also the author of the award-winning children's book HARLEM AT FOUR (Random House Studio) and the book of literary theory **ANIMATING BLACK AND BROWN LIBERATION: A Theory of American Literatures** (State University of New York Press). He is co-editor of **TOUGH LOVE: The Life and Death of Tupac Shakur**. Datcher's play **SILENCE** was commissioned by and premiered at the Getty Museum. He is co-host of the weekly public affairs news magazine **BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE** on 90.7 FM KPFK in Los Angeles. His writing is widely anthologized, including appearances in the volumes **What Makes A Man** (Penguin), **Brown Sugar3** (Simon Schuster), **Soulfires** (Penguin), **Testimony** (Beacon Press), **Another City** (City Lights), and **Body and Soul** (Crown), among others. He has curated and/or presented his work at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, The Hammer Museum and other art institutions. Datcher is the President of the Board of Directors at The World Stage, a literary and jazz education and performance 501.C3 nonprofit in Los Angeles' Crenshaw District. Dr. Datcher is an Associate Clinical Professor of Writing at New York University.

Press Release JACDO (continues):

Jacques Dominique Joachim, aka Jacdo, was born 1965 in the French diaspora Martinique, and lives and works in Le Mans, France.

With a background in fashion design and graphic design, Jacdo is exploring new media. His interest spans Art Brut and African sculpture, rooted in the melting pot of the Caribbean, France and Africa.

Jacdo found optimism, hope, and inspiration during his travels in Latin America, North America, and Europe. This new body of work, his first show in New York, reflects Jacdo's ongoing search for identity. A French citizen, but with origins in the Caribbean island of Martinique, the artist hails from a mix of immigrants from Africa/Creole to European, Arab, Indian and Chinese.

Featured in this show, a series of paintings, *The Day I Walked Through The Door*, Jacdo alludes to African masks — in the spirit of Cuban artist Wilfredo Lam — muted to bright colors collaged with newspaper cutouts (as in *Breaking Free*, 2024), words in graffiti style appear on walls as background, seeming self-portraits (as in *Victim Nooo*, 2024).

Jacdo is a self-taught artist who heralds from a generation — so well visualized in Isaac Julien's *Paradise Omero*, (a reference to Homer's *Odyssey*) with the protagonist's journey from the Caribbean island of Saint Lucia to London — that finds a new home, while still dreaming of the islands of their youth.

The gritty feel of his paintings evokes the energy of Basquiat, but also Dubuffet and the French artist JR, who like Jacdo is pre-occupied with the dichotomy of a longing for both commitment and freedom.

Elga Wimmer, curator (elgawimmer@gmail.com - +1 646 5154898)

For additional information, images, events and to arrange an appointment, please contact Priska Juschka at 917.675.7835 or [info@lichtundfire.com](mailto:info@lichtundfire.com) .

About JACDO (Jacques Dominique Joachim):

JACDO was born in 1965 in Fort-de-France, Martinique. He is a self-taught graphic designer and visual artist based in Le Mans, France. He has exhibited in France and on the Island of Martinique.

About Lichtundfire:

LICHTUNDFIRE was established in 2015, with a visual program emphasizing nonrepresentational, conceptual, and abstract art; especially minimal, color field, geometrical, straight edge, abstract expressionist painting, lyrical abstraction, and process work in all media, as well as abstracted, conceptual representation.

By its exhibitions, Lichtundfire's program is dedicated to developing and nurturing an active, engaged, progressive, and emancipated art community that addresses cultural and social realities as expressed through visual arts.

Beyond its carefully curated visual program, Lichtundfire seeks to actively connect with other parts of the creative community, especially in the field of poetry, literature, philosophy and Critical Theory.

**GALLERY HOURS: Wed — Sat, 12—6 pm and TUESDAY BY APPOINTMENT.**

Subway Stop: F/M or J/Z to Delancey & Essex Streets

Instagram: [@lichtundfire](https://www.instagram.com/lichtundfire) and hashtag: [#lichtundfire](https://www.instagram.com/lichtundfire) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lichtundfire>

Lichtundfire: 175 Rivington Street, NY NY 10002

Contact: Priska Juschka, [info@lichtundfire.com](mailto:info@lichtundfire.com), Tel. 917.675.7835

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 pm, or Tuesday by appointment  
[www.lichtundfire.com](http://www.lichtundfire.com)