

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyman Allyn Art Museum

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NEW LYMAN ALLYN EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHTS RECENT PAINTINGS BY MARVIN ESPY

NEW LONDON - The Lyman Allyn is pleased to present a special exhibition of recent work by New London artist Marvin Espy. Reflecting on the senseless killing of George Floyd and the universality of human experience, Marvin Espy presents new and recent paintings in *Up from the Asphalt*. Using Maslow's hierarchy of needs as a framework for processing the painful last minutes of George Floyd's life on May 25, 2020, Espy's paintings and words offer us a pathway to unite in mourning, stand in resolve, and share in our hopes. *Up from the Asphalt* is on view July 13 - Oct. 20.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs suggests that human motivation follows a pyramid structure, starting with basic survival needs such as food, shelter and safety, and building to a sense of belonging, esteem and, ultimately, self-actualization. In his last breaths, George Floyd pleaded for the most essential needs of Maslow's hierarchy. This exhibition explores what is core to all people, everywhere.

The following quote was written by Marvin Espy on June 4, 2024.

"Buried in the asphalt are the dreams of our fathers and hopes of our mothers. Beneath the clatter of traffic and the bustle of commerce spring the philosophies of panhandlers and fables from the wise. From the pavement, we hear the chants of protest, songs of resilience, and the echoes of our ancestors linked arm in arm. Voices in the pavement, trace like diary entries. Our cracked pavements drizzled with tar read like musical notes from a quill pen. Like the movement of a clarinet over a walking bass line.

Yet our shared streets remain divided along the double-yellow lines of power and privilege. And while our feet share in a connection greater than us all, we are all captive to Earth's gravity, pulling us ever downward. We share in the universal quest for safety, shelter, belonging and community. We spring from the ground. We rise. "Up from the Asphalt. Out of the ground."

A New London resident since early 2021, Marvin Espy has a studio and art gallery at 308 State Street, and teaches art at the Hygienic Gallery, New London. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Espy studied fine art under Frank Shands at Princeton High School and artist Henry Koerner (Austrian, active in America, 1915-1991) at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Based in



Marvin Espy, **D Queen**, 2024, oil on wood panel, 48 x 36 inches.

Charlotte, North Carolina before moving to Connecticut, Espy has exhibited widely, and his work has been featured in numerous publications, including Connecticut's INK Magazine. As Espy's work continues to evolve, he invites viewers on a profound journey where we share in grief, so that we might share in celebration.

The opening reception is Friday, July 12, from 5 - 7 p.m. Museum members are free, and non-members are \$10. To register, call 860.443.2545 ext. 2129 or email us at info@lymanallyn.org.

Related programming includes a Gallery Talk with artist Marvin Espy and Lyman Allyn curator Tanya Pohrt on Thursday, Aug. 15 at 5:30 pm. Members are \$10, and non-members are \$15. More information will be available on lymanallyn.org.

This exhibition is made possible with support from the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, Bank of America, and Trustee, and an anonymous New York-based foundation. Funding has also been provided by the Connecticut State Legislature and is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts.

For more information or to request images, please contact Rebecca Dawson by email at dawson@lymanallyn.org.

About Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Lyman Allyn Art Museum welcomes visitors from New London, southeastern Connecticut and all over the world. Established in 1926 with a gift from Harriet Allyn in memory of her seafaring father, the Museum opened the doors of its beautiful neoclassical building surrounded by 12 acres of green space in 1932. Today it presents several changing exhibitions each year and houses a fascinating collection of over 19,000 objects from ancient times to the present, including art from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe, with particularly strong collections of American paintings, decorative arts and Victorian toys and doll houses.

The museum is located at 625 Williams Street, New London, Connecticut, exit 83 off I-95. It is open **Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m.**, and closed on Mondays and major holidays. For more information call 860.443.2545, ext. 2129 or visit www.lymanallyn.org.