

DIANE ROSENSTEIN

For Immediate Release:

DIANE ROSENSTEIN

831 North Highland Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90038

T. +1.323.462.2790

www.dianerosestein.com

Aaron Fowler: Blessings On Blessings

January 30 – March 12, 2016

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Opening: Saturday January 30th, 2016, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

DIANE ROSENSTEIN is pleased to announce *Aaron Fowler: Blessings On Blessings*, a solo exhibition of new assemblage-paintings by the New York-based artist. *Aaron Fowler: Blessings On Blessings* opens Saturday, January 30th, with a reception for the artist from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. This is Fowler's first solo exhibition.

Aaron Fowler, who was born in St. Louis and currently lives and works in Harlem, creates mixed-media assemblage-paintings that depict his experiences and the lives of his family and friends in both a personal narrative and an epic journey through contemporary America. The title of this exhibition, which includes twelve portraits, tableaux, and medallions created in the past year, refers to lyrics from "Blessings", a 2015 song by American rapper Big Sean.

In these sculptural tableaux, Fowler depicts himself as a "mirror character" called The Pilgrim. He employs oils, acrylics and collage - often pixilated 'photo print-outs' based on 18th C. American historical painting - alongside objects like Adidas sneakers, CDs, T-shirts, and plastic bags. The dynamic, large-scale compositions are enacted on discarded domestic materials including shutters, mirrored doors, windows, and card tables.

Blessings On Blessings continues the artist's "Pilgrim" series, which began with *Family* (currently on view in *A Constellation* at The Studio Museum) and culminates with *Landing*, a portrait of the artist and his family walking towards us, with St. Louis (and the "Gateway Arch") looming in the background. The curator

DIANE ROSENSTEIN

Amanda Hunt writes: "The urgency of Fowler's connection to his family and friends is alarming in the honesty of its depictions...[He] grapples with a personal history that connects us to his experience as a black man – and a member of a black family – in America...Understanding and viewing Fowler's work in the current moment – which lawyer and social just activist Bryan Stevenson calls 'the second era of the collapse of Reconstruction' – is imperative." ["Future Greats: Aaron Fowler," ArtReview Magazine, Feb/Mar 2016]

Aaron Fowler: Blessings on Blessings will be on view through March 12, 2016

AARON FOWLER (USA, b. 1988) received his BFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA (2011) and his MFA from Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT (2014). Exhibitions include *A Constellation* (Curated by Amanda Hunt), The Studio Museum In Harlem, NY (2015-2016), *The New New*, Diane Rosenstein, Los Angeles (2015), and *So Much To She (with Chris Watts)*, Flanders Gallery, Raleigh, NC (2015). He is a recipient of the Rema Hort Mann 2015 Emerging Artist (NY) grant and was an artist-in-residence at the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture (2014). Aaron Fowler lives and works in Harlem, New York.