

A tribute to Grace Jones, exploration of black masculinity in new exhibitions

Ryan Davis April 23, 2016

San Francisco's Museum of the African Diaspora (M.O.A.D.) is set to open two new exhibitions this Wednesday. One celebrates the legend of a singer from the late 1970s to 1980s, and another goes inside the identity of black masculinity.

First up is the "Grace Jones Project," which of course explores the legend of the model, actress and singer. The exhibition will present over twenty works by an intergenerational group of artists, through the mediums of photography, video and performance. Some are a direct tribute to Jones, while others demonstrate the singer's sensibility in engagement with the black body and queer identity.

Also included in the exhibition, are vintage album covers and performance videos, all of which helped make Jones a cultural and artistic icon. Artists include Jacolby Satterwhite, Xaviera Simmons and Simone Leigh.

The other exhibition opening this Wednesday is "Dandy Lion." This is the one exploring black masculinity, through traveling photography and film-based curatorial projects, featuring the images of photographs and filmmakers from throughout the African Diaspora. The featured works presents Black men in urban, rural, literal and abstract landscapes, all of which defies (and redefines) the stereotypical understandings of masculinity within the Black community, intersecting through class, gender formations, ethnicity and style.

The subjects in the works in "Dandy Lion" consists of not only African-American men, but those that are from other parts of the world, including Europe, South Africa and Jamaica.

Both exhibitions are on view until September 18th. Log on to www.moadsf.org for more information.