

Omari's Pop Up

Omari Douglin

8 November – 10 November 2024

Gratin presents Omari's Pop Up! A merch drop in which the gallery in collaboration with artist Omari Douglin and designer Aristotle Skretas have made paintings ready to wear. The artist has admired the gallery's longstanding efforts to occasionally release their Gratin logo t-shirt in limited quantities to gallery goers, friends, and family. The design of the logo is just as good as any top designer and there's something about t-shirts that is undeniably useful. It is friendly, universal and we see potential in it being a way for more people to access art. Several of Douglin's works were selected to be put on t-shirts for this presentation.

This isn't the first time images of artworks have been put on clothing, but through choosing high quality materials and advanced printing processes, we aimed to elevate the clothing to the level of the artworks. We see the future of art expanding into clothing, everyday objects and functional products. Not everyone can afford to buy a painting, but making a painting into a shirt changes that. We like the idea that you can buy a shirt, wear it, travel, and the artwork stays with you being exposed to different people and places. Or you can keep it in the package, take it out, hang it on your wall or frame it as an Omari Douglin. That slippage is what we are interested in and people having something tangible that becomes part of their daily lived experience. It lives with you at home or goes with you out into the world. It's your choice!

Donnie Thornberry, 2024 was shown in the office alongside a solo presentation of new sculptural works at Matthew Brown Los Angeles on February 23, 2024. The first of its kind showing a character, Donnie Thornberry, making the painting the viewer is looking at. The painting marks a new era in Omari's oeuvre introducing more of a gestural abstraction approach paired with a figure actively participating in the act of making the painting.

Wilma, 2023 is a painting of Wilma Rudolph, the first American woman to win three gold medals back to back in the 1960 Olympics for track and field. She's juxtaposed with a woman stretching/posing in the background. The painting is of Wilma going for a night run while thinking about exercising/stretching. This work was exhibited in 'fears for tears vol. 1' with Gratin NYC in Los Angeles on February 27, 2024.

Untitled, 2021 is a loose line painting of a woman taking a bathroom selfie in the mirror. Presumably her partner is sitting right next to her, on the toilet looking down at the floor. This is the fastest painting Omari has ever made and it was exhibited in Theta NYC's inaugural exhibition April 10, 2021.

Marla Singer, 2024 is a painting of the fictional character played by Helena Bonham Carter in the 1999 film *Fight Club*. The painting shows her with a cup of coffee sitting on her head spilling over onto her hair. She tells viewers to be quiet with one finger placed over her lips. This is the first time this painting is being exhibited.

One shirt takes the motif of the Marla Singer painting and multiplies it five times producing a flower-like shape.

Keep walking a straight line, 2023 is a painting of a child walking in a straight line. The kid wears a traditional red onesie overall with an unusual pair of boots. He appears to be taking small steps forward towards an unknown location. The painting was exhibited October 8, 2023 in 'Scam Likely' with Lukas Quietzsich at Ramiken in NYC.

Ja Wick, 2023 is a painting inspired by a photo of Ja Morant as a teenager pretending to fire two guns at the camera lens. The painting has never been exhibited.

Then we have shirts and hoodies with the classic Gratin logo to continue the mission of Gratin reaching audiences worldwide.