

LOWELL RYAN PROJECTS

AUTRE

KUMASI J. BARNETT: THE AMAZING BLACK-MAN @ LOWELL RYAN PROJECTS IN LOS ANGELES

July 23, 2019



Lowell Ryan Projects presents *The Amazing Black-Man*, a solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Kumasi J. Barnett. Riffing on classic superhero series including; *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Superman*, *Daredevil* and *Captain America*, the show will feature two hundred hand-painted comic book works pinned up in their clear plastic sleeves. For each work, Barnett has painted over the cover of an old Marvel or DC comic book, replacing familiar heroes with characters including “The Amazing Black-Man,” “The Media’s Thug,” “Whitedevil,” and “Police-Man.” Barnett replaces Spider-Man’s full-body leotard with a hoodie and jeans, Superman’s logo with the stars and bars of the Confederate flag, and turns the supernatural villains into—a no less brutal nemesis—the police. Alteration here acts as an intervention. By addressing real world issues through a superhuman genre, Barnett’s work dissolves the disconnect between contemporary American narratives and the reality of “justice,” making us reexamine cultural conceptions surrounding the Good versus Evil paradigm.

The Amazing Black-Man is on view through August 17 at Lowell Ryan Projects 4851 W Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90016. photographs courtesy of the artist and Lowell Ryan Projects

In Art

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