

Carnival, Beat 2016

Carnival, Beat is an exploration of identity and heritage through the colourful lens of the Rio Carnival in Brazil. Green was drawn to Brazil because of its complex culture and unique history. There is a unique fluidity between Brazilian European, African and indigenous heritage and, in the popular imagination, the country is widely considered to be a harmonious racial democracy.

Carnival began as a pagan festival in Ancient Egypt, and was assimilated by the Greeks and Romans. It evolved over time and was overlaid with Christian meaning, becoming associated with the period of lavish Italian costume parties and decadent feasting before Lent. Colonialism and the spread of Christianity meant that Carnival was exported around the world. In Brazil this European tradition fused indigenous and African rituals, music, dancing and costume. Today Rio Carnival is regarded as a celebration of the country's mixed heritage, and as a moment of freedom of expression. Green wanted to visit Brazil to understand and explore how Rio Carnival embodies and carries this history. She immersed herself in the culture and was even lucky enough to dance in the parade at the Sambadromo!

Green observed how, for many people Carnival is a moment to forget about society's rules and expectations, the flamboyant costumes, joyous dancing and ecstatic atmosphere allows them to subvert traditional roles and explore their identity more fluidly. There are blocos celebrating afro-Brazilian and indigenous culture, celebrations of Candomblé Orishas, samba schools led by drag queens and Afro-feminist parade floats.

From her experiences, Green created a series of artworks depicting silhouetted figures. These mixed media artworks draw together various materials and processes of production, combining hand-painting onto photographic prints with backdrops formed from commonplace Brazilian materials, such as richly patterned African wax cloth, domestic textiles and vinyls, and decorative fabrics and wallpapers.

Green's subjects are concealed by layers of painted vibrant colour, accentuating their choice of costumes and subtleties of gesture. Carnival is an opportunity for people to perform or masquerade their identity as they choose; By masking the figures, Green mirrors a sense of freedom witnessed during the carnival, where everyday identities are subverted by imaginative temporary personas, and the lines between gender, racial, social and sexual identity can become blurred. By removing the individual persona of the sitter, Green creates a blank canvas on which we can project our own image, stimulating questions of our relationship to those who are different from us. It creates a space in which we can transcend politics and prejudice.

This work embraces a day where normal power structures, are temporarily suspended and re-imagined and, in that single, extreme moment, the shackles of repression, history, hierarchies and rules are cast aside.

Carnival is an enduring and powerful site of both resistance and joy, and Green's portraits are a vibrant visual metaphor for the possibilities of human understanding and the interwoven nature of cultural heritage.



Carnival, Jungle Beat 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Matthew Williamson 'Jungle Beat'
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Blues 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on mirrored card
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Gloria 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Dancing Bear print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Dream 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on African Wax Sunflower print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)

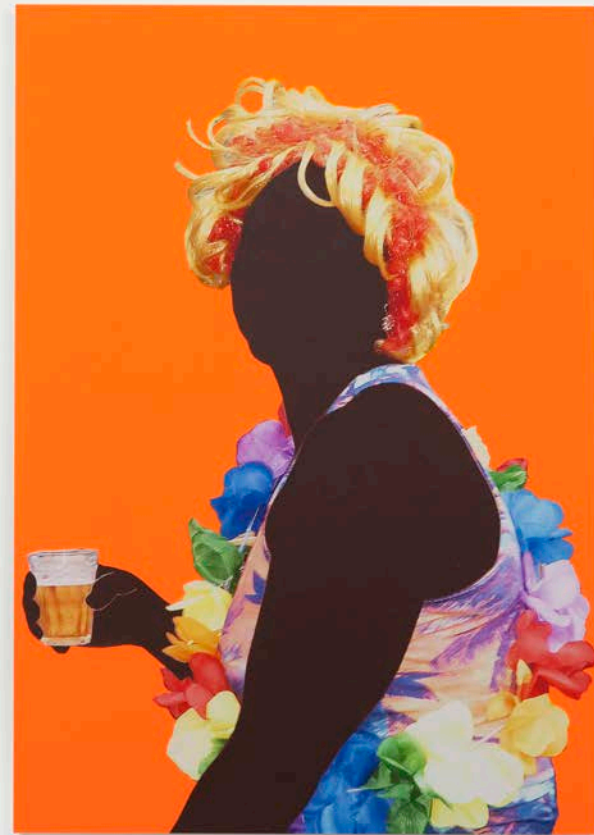


Carnival, Sunset 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Fluorescent card
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Habanera 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print on Matthew Williamson 'Habanera' wallpaper and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Axe Axe 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Kola Fruit print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)

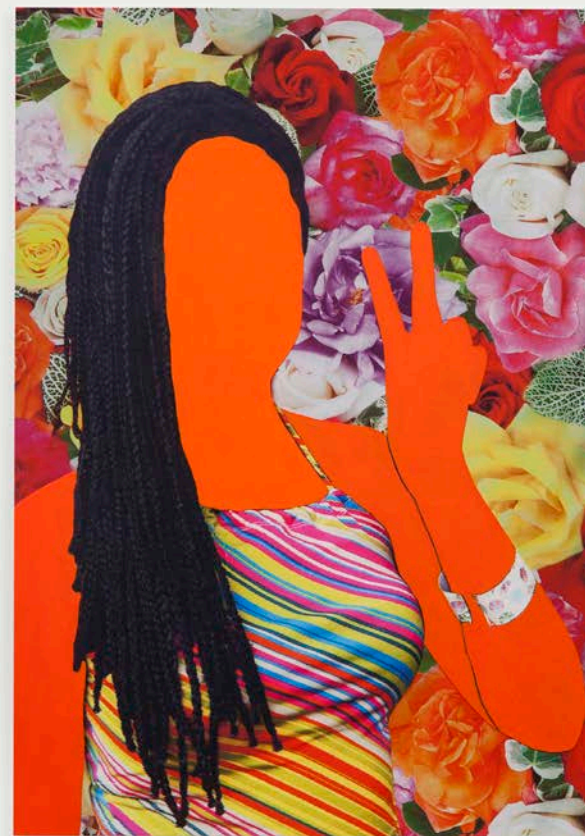


Carnival, Rose 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Tropical Rose vinyl print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)

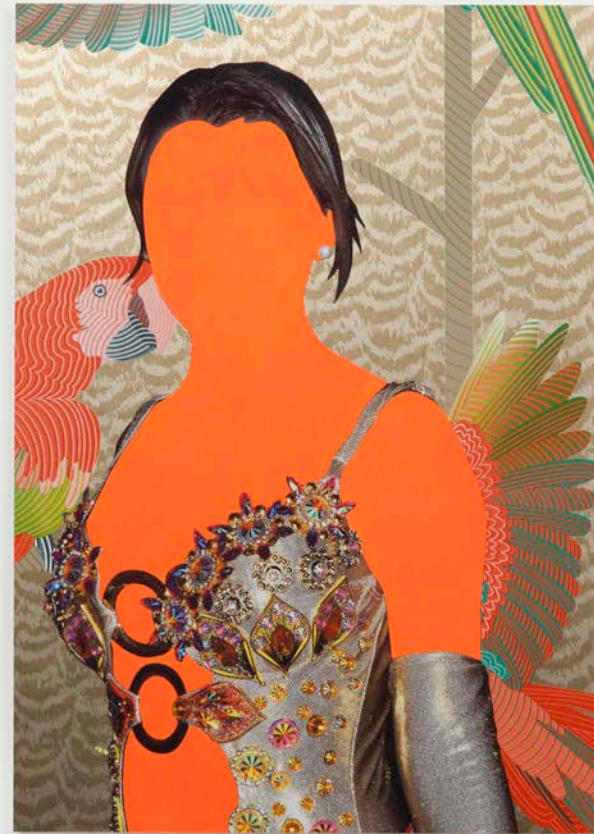


Carnival, Arini Tribe 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Matthew Williamson 'Arini' wallpaper
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, African Block 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on African wax print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Royal Fan 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on African Fan print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Grape Party 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on African Premier Grape Party print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Butterfly Party 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Osborne & Little 'Butterfly Garden'
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)

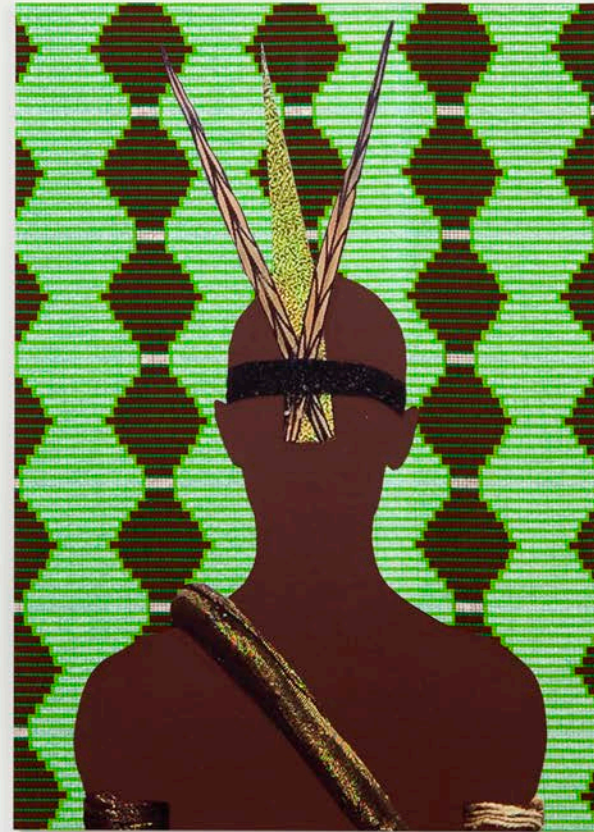


Carnival, Voadora 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on African wax fabric
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Buffalo 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Dancing Bear Buffalo print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Native Sun 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Native Blanket print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Puck 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Stabroek Market, Georgetown print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)

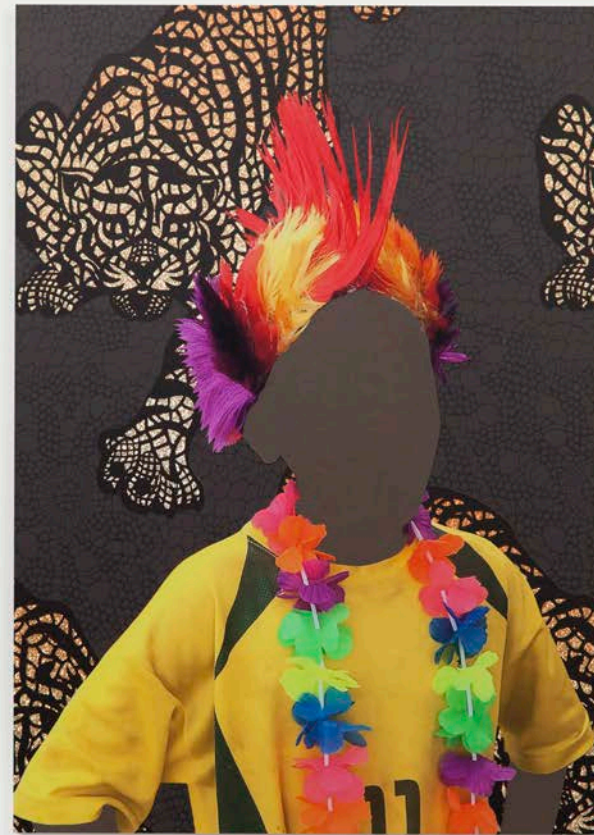


Carnival, Tyger 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Matthew Williamson 'Tyger Tyger' wallpaper
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)

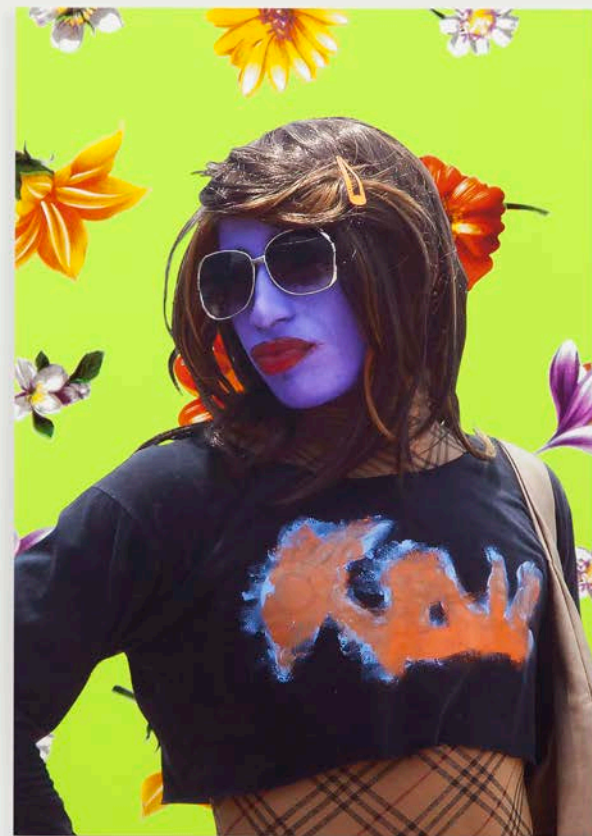


Carnival, Hibiscus Beat 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Hibiscus Flower vinyl print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)

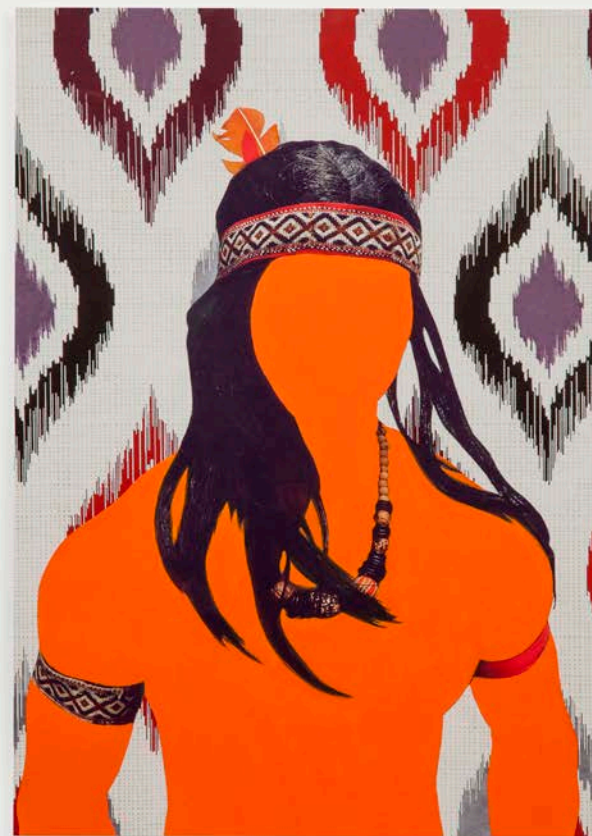


Carnival, Long Feather 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Arrowhead vinyl print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Hibiscus 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Hibiscus Flower vinyl print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Lace Party 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Golden Lace vinyl & fluorescent card
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Frida 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print on Matthew Williamson 'Birds of Paradise' wallpaper and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)



Carnival, Carmen 2016

Mixed media collage: acrylic painting and photographic print
on Yoruba print
and 308gsm Hahnemuhle

48 x 36.5 cm framed

£5,000 + VAT (inc. frame)

