

HARSH COLLECTIVE

For Immediate Release

Affordable Art Fair Fellowship

September 25th - 29th

Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011



Left: Johanna Kestilä, *Almost Unforgettable*, 2019, Acrylic on Canvas, 49 x 39 inches

Center: Uzo Njoku, *No Privacy*, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 30 x 40 inches

Right: Gabriela Kramer, *Flowers After Sex*, 2024, Acrylic, Spray Paint, Oil Stick, Oil Pastel, Ink, Graphite, Crayon on Canvas, 36 x 36 inches

New York, NY - Harsh Collective is pleased to announce its acceptance of the Affordable Art Fair Fellowship commencing for the Fall 2024 edition of the fair. The fair will take place from September 25th to 29th at the Metropolitan Pavilion located at 125 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011, USA.

Harsh Collective's group presentation at the Affordable Art Fair will feature work by Johanna Kestilä, Gabriela Kramer, and Uzo Njoku. The booth (#F3) examines the work of these three female-identifying artists whose art and practice are inspired by the nature of the nations they call home.

Njoku is a Nigerian-born artist who moved to the U.S. as a child. Her work reflects the joy that exists within Black communities and spaces, often portraying her beloved subjects in the act of coming together in celebration. Kramer is an artist born in California, who lived in Tel Aviv for twelve years and now resides in New York. Her work reflects the Mediterranean's vibrant colors and celebrates Tel Aviv's beautifully hectic nature that allowed her to heal childhood wounds while abroad. Kestilä is a Finnish artist who began her artistic career with a focus on textiles and is an art therapist in Finland, a country whose culture, she explains, often discourages openly sharing and exploring one's emotions and traumas.

Tickets and the fair's full schedule are available via the [Affordable Art Fair website](#).

About Johanna Kestilä

Johanna Kestilä (b. 1973) breaks free from traditional boundaries. She has studied weaving, construction drawing, textile design, visual arts, and visual art therapy. Johanna has explored various materials extensively, ultimately specializing in creating textile paintings that incorporate space and density. She approaches the creative process with a perspective that challenges the concept of "finished" pieces. Initially, she paints the canvas to a point where one might consider it complete, only to then deconstruct the material into pieces. Afterward, she studies these reborn materials as entirely distinct from their original forms and reconstructs them into her completed work of art.

Today, Kestilä currently resides and works in Helsinki, Finland.

About Gabriela Kramer

Gabriela Kramer (b. 1994) is an American Israeli, New York-based artist. Kramer's work emerges in the interdisciplinary space of performance, painting, and mixed media. In 2012, she left behind her life in America and relocated to Tel Aviv, where she immersed herself in studies and work. During her time in Tel Aviv, Kramer embarked on a journey of redefining the concept of 'home.' This exploration became a central theme in her artwork upon her return to the US, delving into family tensions, communal histories, and the intricate social fabric.

Today, Kramer lives in Brooklyn and works in Red Hook, New York.

About Uzo Njoku

Uzo Njoku (b. 1996) is a versatile visual artist, known for her mesmerizing motifs used in her pattern making. Njoku was born in Lagos, Nigeria and moved to the United States at the age of 7. She utilizes her hypnotizing pattern-making in her apparel production and a vast array of products that she daringly creates. Njoku bridges the gap between high art and design by incorporating her pattern-making, clothing, and home goods, within her paintings. Her vibrant paintings, majorly, depict melanin figures in contemporary clothing whilst incorporating her intricate patterns to create contrast and depth. The artist explains that often Black artists feel the responsibility to depict black suffering, but Njoku finds that her purpose is to showcase the joy, beauty, and energy of Black communities.

Today, Njoku currently resides and works in New York.

About Affordable Art Fair

Since its launch in 1999, the Affordable Art Fair has become one of the leading and most popular art fairs in the world. With nearly 220,000 annual visitors, this year the global brand celebrates sixteen fairs taking place in thirteen cities worldwide including New York, London, Austin, Hong Kong, Singapore, Amsterdam, Brussels, Berlin, Hamburg, Stockholm, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. www.affordableartfair.com

About the Affordable Art Fair Fellowship

The Fellowship Program was introduced in the Spring of 2023 and is an initiative inviting Greater New York arts organizations founded within the last ten years to submit a curatorial proposal to participate as an exhibitor in a dedicated Fellowship booth. Awarded applicants are invited to participate free of charge for three consecutive editions of Affordable Art Fair NYC. www.affordableartfair.com/fairs/new-york-fall/nyc-fellowship-program

About Harsh Collective

Harsh Collective is an artist-first gallery that amplifies emerging contemporary artists' voices and offers a bespoke platform where collectors, artists, and guests are all welcome. Harsh Collective brings the artist's story to the forefront of the art world, offering a creative space driven by community. www.harshcollective.com