

Beyond Beauty: the ideal form

September, 2020

By Lewis Derogene

Editor - Lisa Derogene

Curator - Lewis Derogene

Opening Reception: October 10, 2020, 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Exhibition Dates: October 10th - 17th, 2020

Location: Mad Lab, 22 Leonard St, Norwalk, CT 06851

Artists on display: PhenomenaLewis and Sche

About this exhibition:

This exhibition is a collection of illustrative designs created by two Black women depicting all BIPOC women as ideal in their normality. These illustrations authored by PhenomenaLewis (Lewis Derogene) and Scheba Derogene highlight the different features of all BIPOC women from their skin, hair, styles and more.

Beyond Beauty: the ideal form is a celebration of all BIPOC women in all of their splendor and beauty.

With the different appearances that they all uniquely have, they break down the Eurocentric beauty standards by accepting who and what they are as well as standing strong for their choices of being unapologetically them.

We are beyond beauty, we are beyond the ideal form.

All BIPOC women are beyond beautiful, and this exhibition is here to share that with you.

(All artworks in this exhibition are for sale. All proceeds go to the individual artists. There will be a suggested donation at the door to help raise funds for the artist Lewis Derogene to attend an artist residency program with Chateau Oqruevaux for 4 weeks; the funds will cover the cost for the program's fee, travel and meals for that whole month. Any contribution is appreciated).

You may donate through this link here: gf.me/u/yhd953

Suggested donations may go through these links: [Venmo](#) - [Cash App](#)

PhenomenaLewis (Lewis Derogene, Haitian b. 1997)

© PhenomenaLewis. Courtesy of the artist.

Artist website: PhenomenaLewis.com

Instagram: [@PhenomenaLewis](https://www.instagram.com/PhenomenaLewis)

Lewis Derogene, artiscally known as PhenomenaLewis is a Black female multimedia artist based in Connecticut and New York. PhenomenaLewis is an alumna from the School of Visual Arts undergraduate program of Fine Arts class of 2019.

PhenomenaLewis categorizes herself as Afro-Cogitatio which means to be Black and self reflective. It is prevalent in her artworks that people should understand themselves better because they are in constant flux from new ideas and theories. It's beyond a matter of the mind changing, but also the body. PhenomenaLewis focuses on the state of being human and that involves many factors which she feels can't be narrowed down to one generalization, but can be explored. From the many different mediums that she works in, the different ideas are present relating back towards the state of being human and its influences in social, political, spiritual, physical and other realms.



These illustrations designed by PhenomenaLewis are her representation of beauty. She gets her inspiration to draw elongated necks from the different beauty standards of different tribes in the continent of Africa like the Ndebele tribe.

PhenomenaLewis took that beauty standard to create these beautiful inclusive women without the rings. In her definition of elongated necks, the characters that she illustrates stand tall and hold their heads up high to show an elevated self asides from the elevated head on an elongated neck.

In her pieces, PhenomenaLewis refrains from drawing a clear outline of a nose on her characters to not bring life into them because she believes that art has magic and one has to be very careful when creating from the mind. She also refrains from illustrating their eyes open because the eyes are windows to the soul, and she does not wish to capture souls in her pieces.

Scheba Derogene (American b. 1997)

© Sche . Courtesy of the artist.

Instagram: @Schedraws

Scheba Derogene, artistically known as Sche, is a Black female digital illustrator and designer based in Connecticut. Sche recently graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's of Science in Landscape Architecture and currently works as both a landscape designer and freelance digital illustrator. She loves to use her hands to create more than just portraiture, but to design architectural structures as well. The duality of using her hands for three and two dimensional works challenges her to expand her creative styles.



Sche is often inspired by fashion icons and the unique appearances and styles of people who normally stand out from the crowd.

She combines different techniques from photography, painting and drawing in her digital artworks. Sche emphasizes moods and expression on her illustrations to give them more character.

This collection was created with the intention of honoring and revealing the beauty in being a woman. The artworks on display show power, fragility, attitude and spunk observed from different people that Sche would walk by. Her artworks mainly capture the uppermost part of the body because some of the first impressions are usually judged through facial readings. Influenced by all types of emotions, the portraits express her generalization of people this year, 2020.

She uses a great variety of texture and color theory to isolate her subject matters and bring attention to them as well as convey a specific emotion.

Beyond Beauty: the ideal form - Manifesto

By Lewis Derogene

"The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman" - Malcolm X.

Black women are so undervalued, so underappreciated, and so misunderstood.
We're always the caretaker, the caregiver, and get nothing in return.
We suffer so much and not just for ourselves, but for others.
We're never taken seriously and so that adds on to our mountain of pain.

We're labeled loud, angry, rude, ghetto, masculine without anyone seeing or hearing our story.

We're loud because us speaking quietly won't get us heard.
We're angry because we are fed up with being placed last and stepped on.
We're rude because we don't get respect so there's no reason to be nice to someone who looks down on us.
We're not ghetto, we're innovative and just because it's a creative inexpensive idea that we've cultivated that functions properly does not make it less than.
We are feminine, we are masculine, we are both, we are neither and that's none of your business.

We are so much more than the labels that people give.

We deserve more, we deserve better.

For all the sacrifices that Black women do, we deserve it all.
All Black women deserve it all; all the good and all the positive, enough with the bad and enough with the ugly.

We are beyond beauty, we are beyond the ideal form.
We are *the* manifestation of God, so call us by our names.