

# REFLECTIONS ON EXPECTATIONS

David Smalling (b. 1987)

Curated by Space2Curate

Feb 1 - March 21, 2022

Core Club, 66 East 55th street, NYC 10022

*Viewing open to members and by appointment.*

**Reflections on Expectations** is David Smalling's inaugural solo exhibition in New York. Originating in Jamaica, Smalling brings its rich visual culture into his work alongside poignant commentary on current cultural context and pervasive social norms of the world that resonate throughout his practice.

This exhibition invites the viewer to consider how taboos and cultural expectations reveal the history of individuals and communities. These works range from traditional figurative paintings derived from comic book illustrations (*All the Figures That's Fit to Print Series*) to abstract mixed-media paintings with strong sculptural elements (*Canboulay series*).

Smalling explains: "The light sculptures in my *Canboulay* series lean on folklore and colonial traditions to examine history's influence on associations to colors, forms, spaces, and light. With Jamaican Carnival as my muse, I translate its vibrant colors and tangled bodies into expressively abstract light sculptures." As a teenager, Smalling participated in various annual Carnivals throughout the Caribbean. These abstract paintings also highlight the seamless transition between digital and analog processes that is essential to Smalling's practice. In his body of work, *All the Figures That's Fit to Print*, Smalling confronts history by dismantling classical structures and styles of visual representation in Western illustration and advertising in order to subvert them. According to Smalling: "The integration of black characters into mainstream comics has endured various challenges since portrayals have often been represented by déclassé stereotypes. Through satirical techniques, I appropriate Roy Lichtenstein's romance comics to reconstruct new modalities which reckon on Black possibilities. In doing so I unearth ways in which colonialist legacies have served to manipulate both cultural and national identity in America".

Within Smalling's practice, both the conceptualization and painting process become the embodiment of the ongoing struggle for social visibility and recognition by disenfranchised groups. The result is an elevation of the tabooed and marginalized, those traditionally excluded from representations of power, endowing them with belonging and celebrating new possibilities.

**Bio:** Smalling completed his Ph.D. at Harvard and his undergraduate degree in mathematics at Yale (which also included coursework at Yale's prestigious School of Art). After a decade in the hedge fund industry, Smalling returns to his roots in visual storytelling in his current art practice.

# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*JUNKANOO, 2021*

Acrylic and light-emitting diode on canvas

96 x 72 inches

\$16,000

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

[www.space2curate.com](http://www.space2curate.com)

# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*SUNSPASH '96, 2021*

Acrylic and light-emitting diode on canvas

48 x 60 inches

\$12,500

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

[www.space2curate.com](http://www.space2curate.com)

# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*SUMFEST, 2021*

Acrylic, mirror and light-emitting diode on canvas

48 x 60 inches

\$12,500

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

[www.space2curate.com](http://www.space2curate.com)

# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*CANBOULAY, 2021*

Acrylic and light-emitting diode on canvas

48 x 60 inches

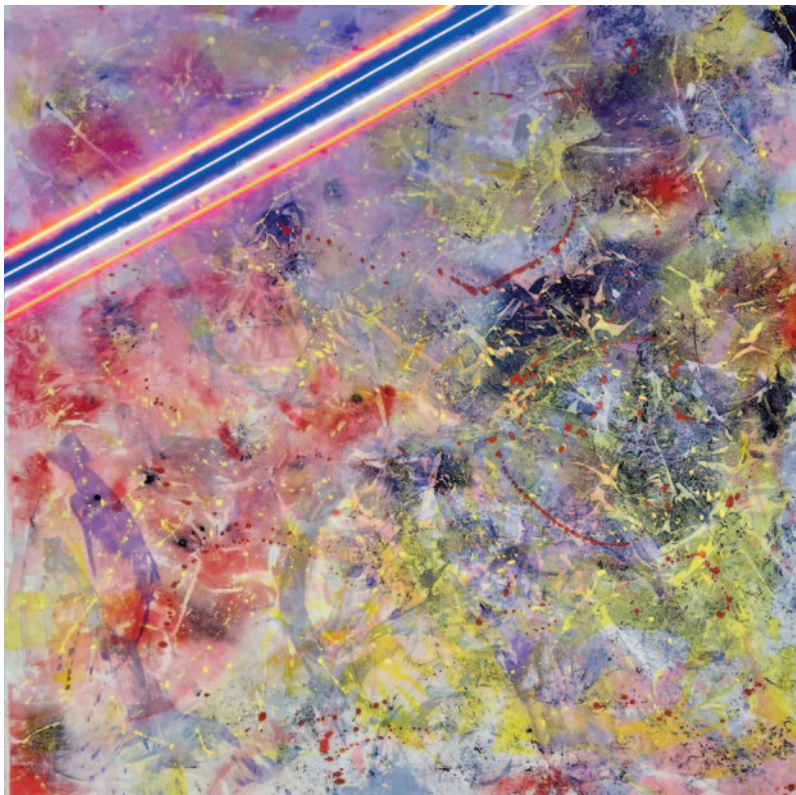
\$11,500

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# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*JOUVERT, 2021*

Acrylic and light-emitting diode on canvas

60 x 60 inches

\$14,000

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

[www.space2curate.com](http://www.space2curate.com)

# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*ECLIPSE, 2021*

Acrylic and light-emitting diode on canvas

48 x 48 inches

\$7,000

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

[www.space2curate.com](http://www.space2curate.com)

# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*BULL BAY, 2021*

Acrylic, pumice stone, and mirror on canvas

24 x 30 inches

\$3,500

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

[www.space2curate.com](http://www.space2curate.com)



# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*SCAR TISSUE, 2021*

Acrylic and mirror on canvas

72 x 60 inches

\$10,500

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

[www.space2curate.com](http://www.space2curate.com)

# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*BROCKENGESPENST, 2021*

Acrylic, pumice stone, and mirror on canvas

36 x 36 inches

\$4,000

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

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# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*GOOD HAIR, RIBBON (GIRL WITH HAIR RIBBON), 2021*

Gouache and acrylic on canvas

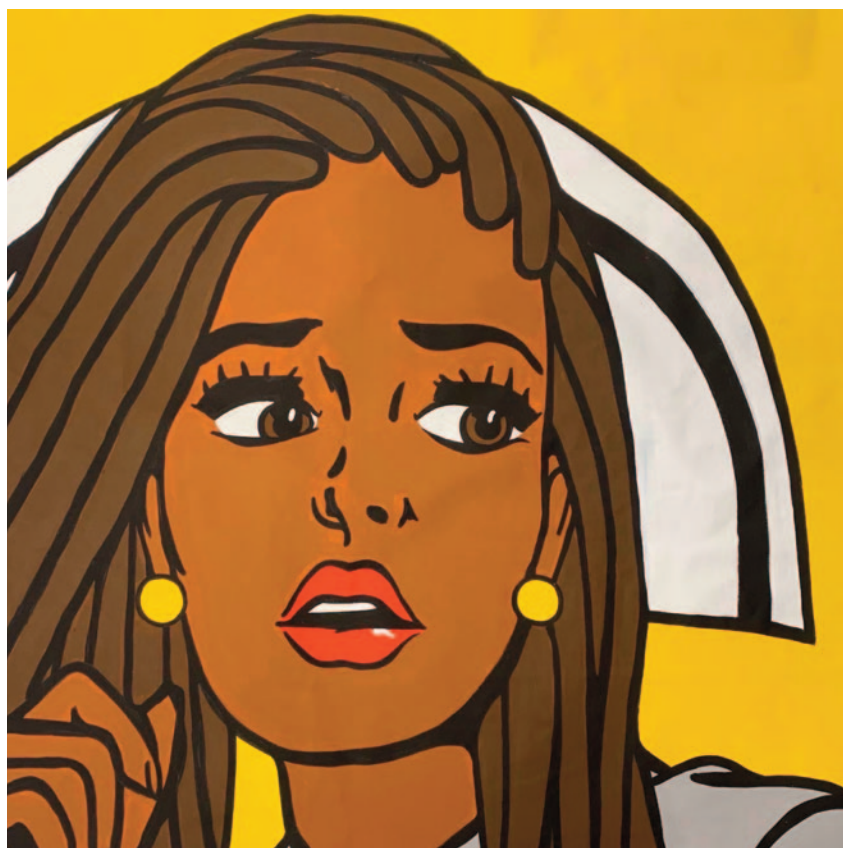
48 x 48 inches

\$5,000

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

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# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*MARY SEACOLE (NURSE), 2021*

Gouache and acrylic on canvas

48 x 48 inches

\$5,000

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

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# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*WHAT DO YOU KNOW? (I KNOW...BRAD), 2021*

Gouache and acrylic on canvas

38 x 72 inches

\$7,500

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

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# SPACE2CURATE



**David Smalling**

*NEVER AGAIN (COLD SHOULDER), 2021*

Gouache and acrylic on canvas

48 X 70 inches

\$7,500

For inquiries: 646-342-2615

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