

Concerning 'Afronauts'

A series of works on canvas and paper.

"Afronauts" are dis-located characters who create and control their own image spaces, where they claim the power to define themselves and to re-negotiate identity ascriptions. They appear, drawn or painted, in a kind of space suit and various head coverings (helmets, hats, caps, etc.), based loosely on Lee "Scratch" Perry, a Jamaican record producer and musician who used to perform in a similar outfit. Their figurative presence generates disturbances in what is primarily a homogeneous way of painting and it transforms my work into what has been called, "painting from the spaces in between" (Jochen Meister, Catalogue: *Afronauts*, 2007, p.14). I place such figures in the tradition of the Ghanaian trickster "Anansi the Spider" and his modern equivalents "Felix the Cat," "El Ahrairah," and "Wile E. Coyote."

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