

The Coffins of Paa Joe at Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | JUNE 19, 2017



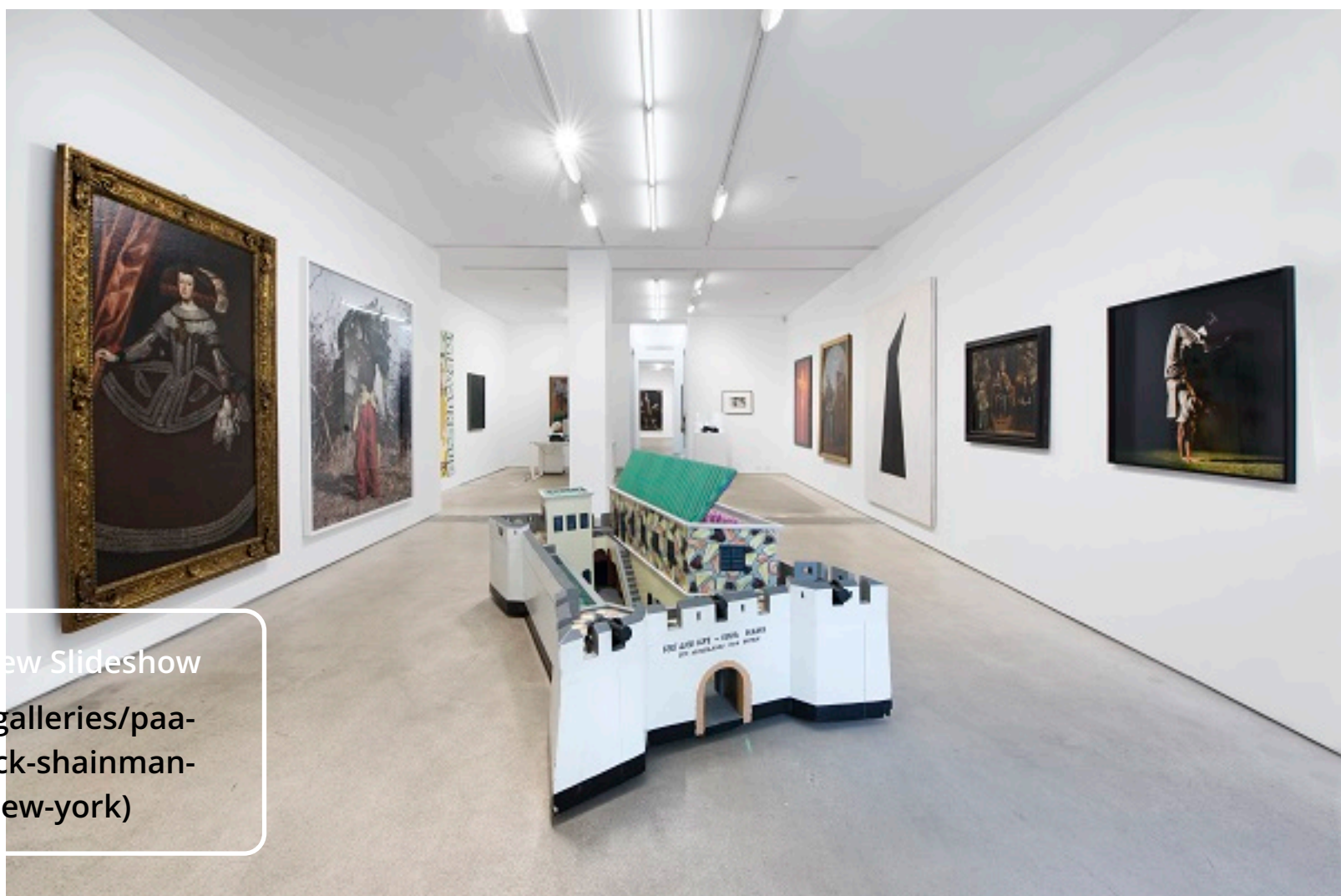
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The Coffins of Paa Joe and The Pursuit of Happiness. Installation View
(Courtesy: Jack Shainman Gallery)

Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, is hosting an exhibition, titled 'The Coffins of Paa Joe and the Pursuit of Happiness', on view through August 25, 2017.

The large-scale exhibition is centered on 'The Gold Coast Slave Castles' by Paa Joe, honoring the Ghanaian legacy of “abebuu adekai”, or fantasy coffins. Born in 1947 in the region Akwapim belonging to the Ga-Adangbe people, Greater Accra Region in Ghana, Paa Joe is known as one of the most important coffin artist of his generation, whose works has been the subject of major art shows across the world, and are part of the collections of many famous art museums. In 2004, Claude Simard, the late co-founder of

the gallery, commissioned 13 coffins in the form of European castles erected along the Gold Coast in the 15th century, that commemorate the captives in the custom of “abebuu adekai”, and recall the unpleasant chapters of American history that helped to integrate human suffering with Western tradition. Sculpted in the form of objects representative of the deceased and their interests, these practical coffins are transformed into works of art by Paa Joe. This transcendental shift from the material to the metaphysical is the point of convergence for the works included in this exhibition. From the earliest artifacts on display, decorative Neolithic Chinese pottery, to the most contemporary works by Nina Chanel Abney, David Altmejd, Kerry James Marshall, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye and others, the featured artists at this show address in their own distinct way the notion of art as celebration, as a mode for personal salvation, creating beauty out of one’s surrounding.

The exhibition is on view at Jack Shainman Gallery’s Chelsea location, 513 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011, USA.

For details, visit: www.jackshainman.com (<http://www.jackshainman.com/>)

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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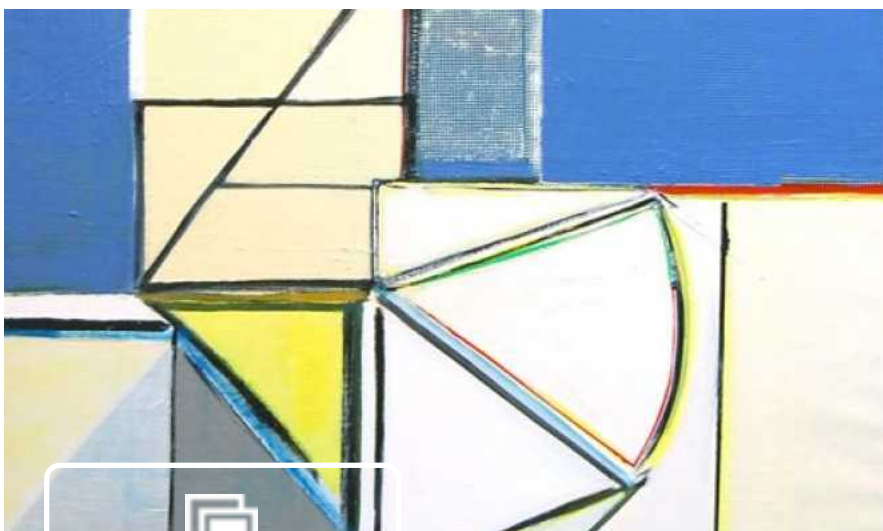
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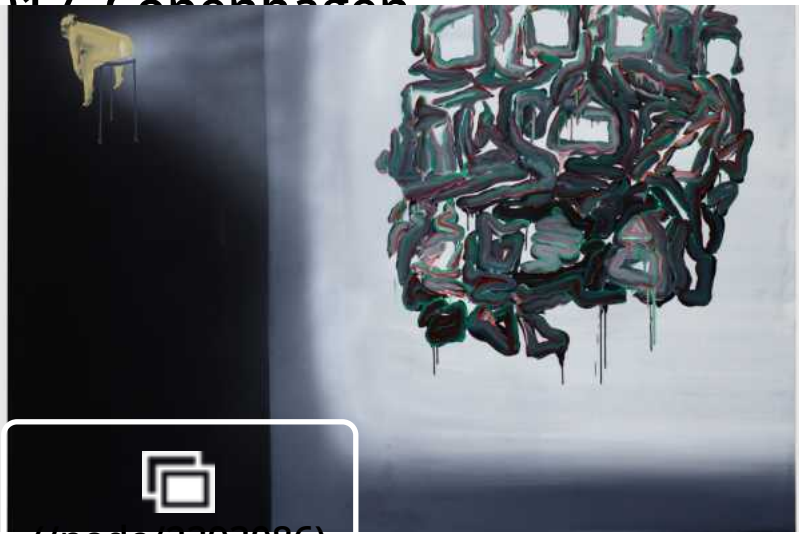
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