

FORT GANSEVOORT



7 Must-See Shows in New York Right Now

Alina Cohen and Casey Lesser

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Vanessa German's latest show, "TRAMPOLINE: Resilience & Black Body & Soul," opens with what appears to be an homage to tennis stars and all-around heroes Venus and Serena Williams. Employing recent magazine covers that featured the athletes, German built their faces and bodies into a series of shimmering assemblages of gems, lace, mirrored bits, tufts of overflowing hair, faux-butterflies, and other found treasures. The works not only celebrate the legendary women, but what they represent—individuals at the very top of their field who have demonstrated incredible resilience and perseverance, despite the extreme adversity they faced as African American women.



Vanessa German, *Can I Love You Without Capitalism? How?*, 2019. Courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort and Pavel Zoubok Fine Art, New York. Courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort and Pavel Zoubok Fine Art, New York.

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Resilience is at the heart of much of the artist's practice, which addresses the everyday injustices that people of color encounter. The show's upper floors are punctuated by a series of figurative and altar-like sculptures that foreground the black body, while invoking the harsh realities of history and the present. Ultimately, German creates a space for reflection and what she calls "human technology"—the human capacity to offer one another love, joy, and protection.

—Casey Lesser



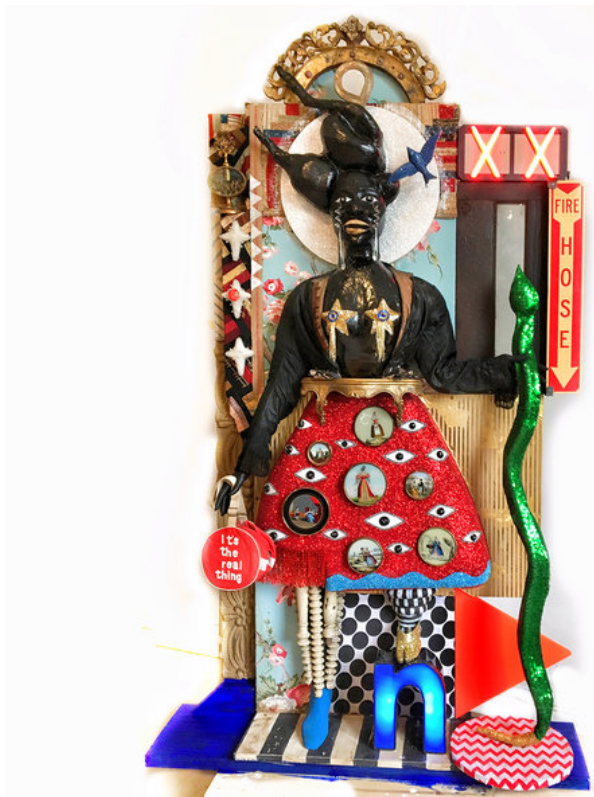
Vanessa German, *Venus Madonna Healer of Even The Future Blues (That the Healing come complete; That we no longer have to drag the trauma from body to body.)*, 2019

Courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort and Pavel Zoubok Fine Art, New York.

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Vanessa German, Joy Machine #3; Kick Push Ring; The Alarm; Fly, 2019. Courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort and Pavel Zoubok Fine Art, New York.



Vanessa German, It's the real thing, 2019. Courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort and Pavel Zoubok Fine Art, New York.

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Vanessa German, Big Smile, 2019. Courtesy of the Artist and Fort Gansevoort and Pavel Zoubok Fine Art, New York.