

KHALIF TAHIR THOMPSON

Beautiful Land

29 May – 18 July 2026



Khalif Tahir Thompson, *Under The Brooklyn Bridge*, 2026, 153 x 153 cm (60 1/4 x 60 1/4 in)

Zidoun-Bossuyt is pleased to present *Beautiful Land*, second solo exhibition in France by American artist Khalif Tahir Thompson. With *Beautiful Land*, Thompson reflects on how the emotional charge and formal audacity of the historical movements like Fauvism and Harlem Renaissance might be reactivated and reimagined today, more than a century after their emergence.

For *Beautiful Land*, Khalif Tahir Thompson undertook an in-depth engagement with the foundational currents of Fauvism—most notably the chromatic radicalism of Henri Matisse and André Derain—as well as with the expressive intensity of German Expressionism, drawing from figures such as Emil Nolde and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. This sustained research enabled him to trace the transmission of these early twentieth-century avant-gardes into the practices of African American artists of the Harlem Renaissance, among them Beauford Delaney, whose luminous palettes and gestural surfaces find renewed resonance in Thompson’s own painterly language.

Like the works in *Beautiful Land*, this exploration of color, memory, and perception is deeply rooted in Thompson’s broader approach to portraiture and identity. Khalif Tahir Thompson approaches identity through layered mixed media compositions that expand the lineage of Black portraiture. His recent paintings—richly textured palimpsests of oil, collage, and handmade paper—stage encounters between personal memory and cultural inheritance. Figures emerge from dense constellations of pattern and

material, suspended between revelation and concealment. This interplay between visibility and opacity reflects Thompson's sustained engagement with the complexities of self-representation within communities shaped by erasure. His new portraits, depicting family members, friends, and people imagined or unknown, reclaim the painted surface as a site of tenderness, introspection, and spiritual resonance. Through the direct gaze of his sitters, Thompson invites viewers into a space of relational depth, where identity is not fixed but continually reimagined.

About the artist

Khalif Tahir Thompson (b. 1995, lives and works in New York, NY) is best recognized for his powerful portraiture and figuration work, incorporating painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, and paper-making into his practice, while exploring notions of self through the scopes of race, cultural narratives, and the familial.

He recently obtained an MFA in Painting/ Printmaking from Yale University School of Art, following a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Purchase College and completed a fellowship at the EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop in NYC, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Jerome Emerging Artist residency at The Anderson Center. He was selected as a member of Kehinde Wiley's Black Rock Senegal residency in 2022. After participating at The Royal Drawing School at Dumfries House, Scotland, in July 2023, Khalif Tahir Thompson joined the AAF/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts, Austria, in August 2023.

His recent projects include the solo exhibition *Cherry* at the **Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture** in North Carolina; his participation in the group exhibition *The Stories We Tell* at **Victoria Miro** in London; and, most recently, his participation in *Bold: New Voices in Contemporary Art* at the **Indianapolis Museum of Art** at Newfields, on view until 28 June 2026.

His work is held in numerous public and private collections, including the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, Washington, D.C.; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), TX; The Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL; The Saint Louis Art Museum (SLAM), St. Louis, MO; The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO; The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA; The Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN; The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH; The Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH; The Rubell Museum, Miami, FL; The Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS; the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI; AMOCA – The Artistic Museum of Contemporary Art, Cardiff, UK; the Amoako Boafo Foundation, Accra, Ghana; Black Art in America LLC, Atlanta, GA; Colección Rolando Jiménez, Puerto Rico; the Pritzker School of Law at Northwestern University, IL; The Grant Hill Collection, Orlando, FL; and the Collection d'art Société Générale, Paris, France.

Khalif Tahir Thompson is represented by Zidoun-Bossuyt Gallery in partnership with Victoria Miro.