Lyndon Barrois Jr.: Rossette

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• Forum Gallery
• Wall Text
Pittsburgh-based artist Lyndon Barrois Jr. (b. 1983 in New Orleans, LA) has created this cinematic space to present a fictional narrative about a Belgium-based art conservator named Lumière. Barrois sets the stage for a potential crime with a suggestion that Lumière, a museum professional trained to restore and maintain art objects, may be a forger. But perhaps not. Barrois’s paintings and sculptures, alongside objects from the collections of Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, provide possible clues to the secret motivations of the conservator.

Sitting atop a stack of empty crates, a taxidermy leopard reigns over a table and a shelf, which hold both authentic and fake objects of art and natural history. The scene suggests the invisible work of Lumière and another conservator, Seon-min, who are tasked with caring for a collection of objects that speak to Belgium’s colonial exploits in present-day Democratic Republic of Congo, where Belgian emperor Leopold II once operated a private colony for extraction of rubber, ivory, minerals, and human labor. Barrois shares just enough details to stitch together this story of conservators who must contend with fraught origins of objects as well as their own role in the care and display of the museum’s collection.

The Forum series presents the work of living artists and supports their practice through a commission or new presentation of existing works. Initiated in 1990, and with 86 projects to date, the Forum series is an opportunity for artists to deepen their relationship to and understanding of the museum. Visiting the Forum Gallery is always free!