

Lyndon Barrois Jr.: Rossette

- May 5–Aug. 27, 2023
- Forum Gallery
- Wall Text

Introductory 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!

Support for this exhibition is provided by the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation and the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, with additional support provided by the Ruth Levine Memorial Fund.

Carnegie Museum of Art's exhibition program is supported by the Carnegie Museum of Art Exhibition Fund, The Fellows of Carnegie Museum of Art, and the Carnegie Collective.

Carnegie Museum of Art is supported by The Heinz Endowments and Allegheny Regional Asset District. Carnegie Museum of Art receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Lyndon Barrois Jr.: Rosette is organized by Liz Park, Richard Armstrong Curator of Contemporary Art.

Thanks to the following who supported the research and production of this exhibition: Ana Alba, Jessica Keister, Jessi Mueller; Carnegie Museum of Natural History staff: Gretchen Anderson, Gretchen Baker, Mason Heberling, Bonnie Isaac, Bob Jones, Sue McLaren, Travis Olds, John Wible, and Debra Wilson; Carnegie Museum of Art staff: Erin Barnhart, Aryn Beitz, Dana Bishop-Root, Jordan Bohannon, Elizabeth Tufts Brown, Sherry Callahan, Ramon Camacho, Max Cianci, Marie-Stéphanie Delamaire, Rachel Delphia, Katie DelVerne, Malia Dyson, Sean Eaton, Chris Fry, Reba Harmon, Jon Irving, Bill Kindelan, Todd Koger, Akemi May, Alana Marchetti, Chris Michaels, Clarissa Morales, Stefanie Cedro Mohr, Savita Narayanan, Jim Nestor, Shaheen Qureshi, Brette Richmond, Curt Riegelneegg, Blaine Siegel, Travis Snyder, Shawn Watrous, Mary Wilcop, Krista Wright.

Lyndon Barrois Jr. dedicates *Rosette* to Freddie Thibodeaux. For research, inspiration, and production, he thanks Addoley Dzegede, Jennifer Hope Choi, Magda Gourinchas, Isla Hansen, Jacquelyn Johnson, Golden Supply Manufacturing, Adam Hochschild, Nisi Shawl, and Debora Silverman.