

MARUANI MERCIER

Filling in the Pieces in Black: Past, Present & Future

Curated by June Sarpong OBE

October 26 – December 17, 2023: Avenue Louise 430, Brussels

October 31 – December 1, 2023: Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

MARUANI MERCIER is pleased to present *Filling in the Pieces in Black*, a group show curated by leading television broadcaster, author, and diversity advocate June Sarpong, OBE, featuring works by a range of international artists including Cornelius Annor, Reginald Armstrong, Lyle Ashton Harris, Kwame Akoto Bamfo, Kwesi Botchway, Wonder Buhle, Florine Démosthène, Samuel Desaboia, Esiri Erheriene-Essi, Johnson Eziefula, Modupeola Fadugba, Enam Gbewonyo, Marcel Gyan, Hassan Issah, Nate Lewis, Alexis McGrigg, Joshua Oheneba-Takyi, Zak Ové, Emmanuel Taku, Mickalene Thomas, Hank Willis Thomas, and Kwaku Yaro, among others.

First opening at the gallery's Brussels location, the exhibition will concurrently take place across the pond at London's revered Saatchi Gallery featuring different artworks by the same participating artists that instigate an international dialogue. They say "History is Written by Victors" when it comes to the Black experience and the racism that often impacts it, the negative ramifications of this quote in relation to Colonialism and the Transatlantic slave trade have corrupted the full truth of Black history pre and post this deplorable era. *Filling in the Pieces in Black* aims to help redress this imbalance by bringing together a collection of some of the most talented artists of today, through the power of their visual storytelling we will *Redefine* the past, *Refocus* the present and *Reshape* the future.

June Sarpong OBE has enjoyed a 20-year career, in which she has become one of the most recognisable faces of British television. June began her career at Kiss 100 and later became a presenter for MTV UK & Ireland. It was when she started on Channel 4's T4 that she became a household name. In 2008 she hosted Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday celebrations in front of 30,000 people in London's Hyde Park. June has also interviewed and introduced some of the world's biggest names including HRH Prince of Wales, Bill Clinton, Al Gore and George Clooney. She has worked extensively with HRH Prince Charles as an ambassador for the Prince's Trust, whilst campaigning for The One and Produce (RED). June was awarded an MBE in 2007 for her services to broadcasting and charity, making her one of the youngest people ever to receive the title. June was later awarded an OBE in the 2020 New Years' Honours List. June is the co-founder of the WIE Network (Women: Inspiration & Enterprise) and is a regular panellist on Sky News' weekly current affairs discussion show, *The Pledge*, and the author of three award-winning books: *Diversify: Six Degrees of Integration*, *The Power of Women*, and *The Power of Privilege*.

The public opening at the Brussels gallery takes place from 11h to 18h on October 26, 2023. For any press inquiries, please get in touch with press@maruanimercier.com

MARUANI MERCIER Gallery

Avenue Louise 430, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

October 26 to December 17, 2023

Public Opening: October 26th from
11h – 18h30

Saatchi Gallery

Duke of York's HQ, King's Rd, London SW3
4RY, United Kingdom

October 31 to December 1, 2023