

# JUPITER

George Clinton: *Ruff*

Jupiter

November 30 – December 31, 2023

Opening reception: November 30, 6-8 PM

1217 71<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami Beach, FL 33141



Miami – November 8, 2023 — Jupiter Contemporary is pleased to present a solo exhibition of recent works by legendary musician and Funk icon, **George Clinton**. Featuring 13 paintings from three of his ongoing series: “Mothership,” “Atomic Dog,” and “Entities,” the show *Ruff* presents a collection of Clinton’s most iconic themes from across his prolific career.

Clinton is a multidisciplinary artist, musician, performer, costume designer, and founder of the band Parliament/Funkadelic, a collective that developed an influential and eclectic form of funk music during the 1970s that drew on science fiction, outlandish fashion, psychedelia, and surreal humor. His visual artwork is a mix of funkadelic mythologies and utopian fantasies. As a founder of the Afrofuturist movement, Clinton inspired some of contemporary arts’ leading figures, such as

Lauren Halsey, Mickalene Thomas, Derrick Adams, and Rashid Johnson with his incomparable mix of musical traditions and utopian fantasies, as celebrated by P-Funk.

His iconic autograph of a silhouetted dog from the 1950s is considered the genesis of his visual art practice. The Dog for George Clinton is the ideal, for when things get Ruff, a “man’s best friend” is always there to uplift. Clinton’s various atomic dogs take shape in acrylic and spray paint on canvas, augmented by swift lines in marker to delineate a floppy ear, a pouty eye, or an elongated snout. These figural paintings share a compositional affinity with another of the artist’s central themes, “Entities.” The “Entities”, which represent individuals that descend upon us from the artist’s Mothership, pose a distinctly Afrofuturist turn in Clinton’s universe, in which close encounters of the third kind proffer an investigation of non-linear space-time, the unknown, and most of all, our shared humanity.

The Mothership features prominently on the album cover, *Mothership Connection*. The physical stage prop is on permanent display at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC. Abstracted to various degrees in his paintings, the Mothership appears throughout Clinton’s practice: sometimes quite literally as a phantom in the sky (*Imprint on the Ether*, 2022); other times encircled and grounded by red lasers (*Captured*, 2022); or illuminated against the dark recesses of the universe (*ViseVersa*, 2022, or *LitUp*, 2022).

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## About the Artist

George Clinton (b. 1941, Kannapolis, North Carolina) is a musician, singer, bandleader, and record producer. His Parliament-Funkadelic collective developed an influential and eclectic form of funk music during the 1970s that drew on science fiction, futuristic fashion, psychedelia, and surreal humor. He has had solo exhibitions at Jeffrey Deitch, New York; SPILLMAN | BLACKWELL Fine Art, New Orleans; George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, Austin; and The National Museum of African American Music, Nashville. His *Mothership* is on permanent display at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and is currently featured prominently throughout their *Afrofuturism* exhibition on view through August 18, 2024. Clinton currently lives and works in Tallahassee, Florida.

**Caption:** George Clinton, *Methamphetamineutt*, c. 2012, Signed, dated, and titled on the reverse, Acrylic, spray paint and charcoal on canvas, 20 by 16 in. 50.8 by 40.6 cm. (GC017) © George Clinton. Courtesy of the artist and Jupiter, Miami Beach, FL

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