



## Emmanuel Louisnord Desir

### *Infirmity*

April 23 – May 28, 2022

Opening Reception:

April 23, 2022 | 4 – 7 PM

**JUPITER** is pleased to present *Infirmity*, the first exhibition of artist Emmanuel Louisnord Desir in Miami and his third solo presentation to date. Opening April 23, 2022, the exhibition will feature ten new works, continuing the artist's investigation of ancestral lineages and humanity's shared roots in a fertile earth that nourishes and consumes all life.

In meditating upon the ways in which the present has been shaped by the trials and tribulations of one's ancestors, the

exhibition draws forth parallels between functional objects and the human body as a tool that has been oppressively wielded by others. Desir mines this comparison through his surreal figural constructions, which often comprise wooden carvings, found object assemblages, bronze casts, and 3D printed resin. This multimedia approach enables the artist to fuse the human body with rudimentary technologies in a manner that generates strong allegorical resonances. *Slaves on Horses, While Princes Walk* (2022), for example, positions a dresser drawer in the place of a figure's torso, poised to hold someone else's possessions; while *Family Business* (2022) disconcertingly presents two embracing figures whose heads have been hollowed out to serve as vessels, ready to carry the weight of their spiritual or material inheritance. While the former sculpture may suggest that the body functions as an empty container to be used at another's discretion, the latter work speaks to generational cycles of life and the building blocks of family units that may bear a history of trauma while also carrying with them a spirit of resilience and renewal.

Furrows recur as a motif throughout much of the work on view, representing the soil on which humanity has toiled and from which all life is born. *Reaper's Harvest* (2022), a large wooden semicircle scorched with furrowed lines, bears forth amethyst crystals as well as nine bronze busts of individuals both young and old. A sort of high relief carving, or three-dimensional collage, this work tells a story about the precious stuff of life that is forged through incalculable pressure—and the histories of disenfranchisement that can be transformed into new life and riches.

In much the same way that Desir scorches his sculptures to convey the physical scars both real and metaphorical of those that have been tried by fire, the surfaces of many of his works are also afflicted with protuberant boils. Covering the bodies of his figures, or symbolically adorning other sculptural compositions such as *Last Captivity* (2022), the boils possess a rather biblical cadence—a testament to the plagues that have been endured throughout history. Desir, however, reframes these markers of pestilence in *Infirmity Pendant* (2022) by presenting boils as the sole ornament on a necklace: a reminder of where one's from and a celebration of who they are now. When accompanied by a ring from which emerge 3D printed heads in richly colored aqua-resin—violet, blue, gold—this work synthesizes many of the themes explored by the exhibition as a whole, those

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regarding family, ancestry, love, pain, and the regenerative power that forever churns such cycles of life and death: a fertile, furrowed, and sometimes scorched earth.

## **About the Artist**

Emmanuel Louisnord Desir (b. 1997, Brooklyn, New York) earned his BFA from Cooper Union, and has had solo exhibitions at François Ghebaly, Los Angeles (2021) and 47 Canal, New York (2020).

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EMMANUEL LOUISNORD DESIR — *INFIRMITY*

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Tuesday - Saturday | 11 am - 5 pm

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