

OCTOBER GALLERY EDUCATION ONLINE RESOURCES

Inspired by Alexis Peskine

Created by Gisela Torres

Who is Alexis Peskine?

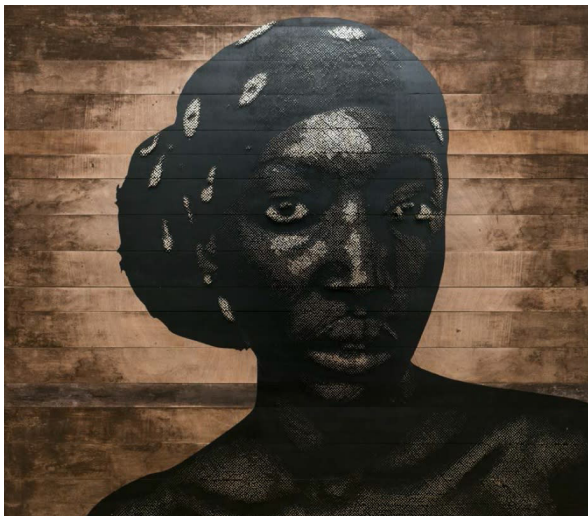
Alexis Peskine is a mixed media artist who lives and works in Paris where he was born to a Brazilian mother and a French-Russian Jewish father. Alexis holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Howard University, Washington, DC and a Master of Arts in Digital Arts and a Master of Fine Arts from M.I.C.A., Baltimore, Maryland, USA. He is the recipient of the prestigious Fulbright scholarship and Hennessey Black Masters Art Competition award and has exhibited in the USA, Europe, Africa and South America.

What Influenced Peskine to become an artist?

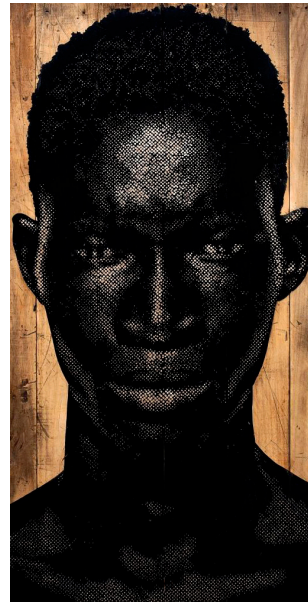
Peskine was raised in an artistic environment and informed of his multicultural identity and race from an early age. His grandfathers, Boris, a Jewish engineer survived a concentration camp, and Antonio, an Afro-Brazilian carpenter, raised his family in the inner city of Salvador, Bahia in Brazil. Peskine is a photographer and video maker but his signature works are large-scale mixed media portraits of the African diaspora.

What are the main themes and materials used in Peskine's work?

His work reflects the social issues of the black experience. He addresses topics of deportation, immigration, institutionalized racism, identity and race. He uses the Accu-painting technique which involves hammering nails into a piece of wood that has been stained with organic elements such as mud, tumeric, hibiscus, Havana Ochre and other materials. The nails are embedded at different heights and gold leaf is applied on their surface to represent skin tone creating a three dimensional composite.



Soninké Whispers, 2017
Nails, moon
gold leaf,
paint and satin
varnish on
wood panels
241 x 247 cm



Time & Essence, 2016
Moon gold leaf
on nails, lacquer
& varnish on
wood
200 x 110 cm

Gisela Torres

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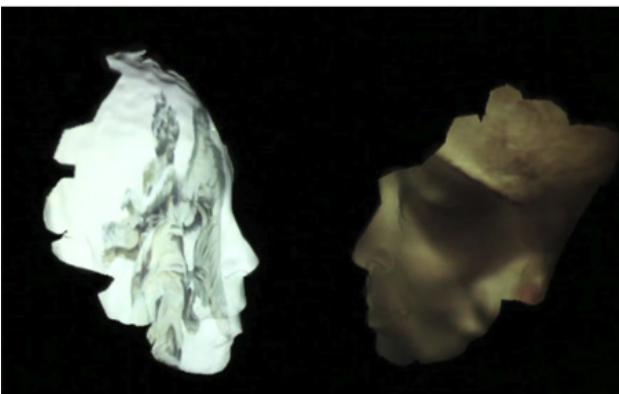
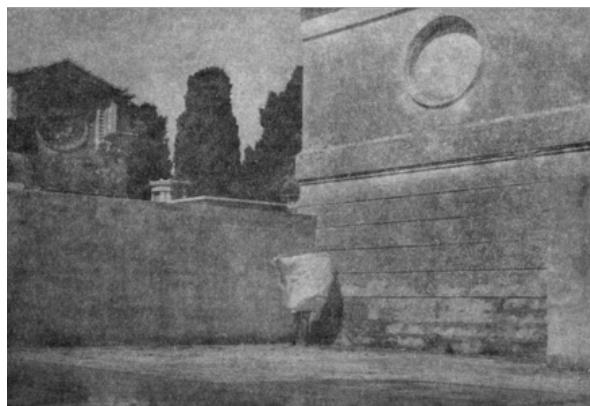
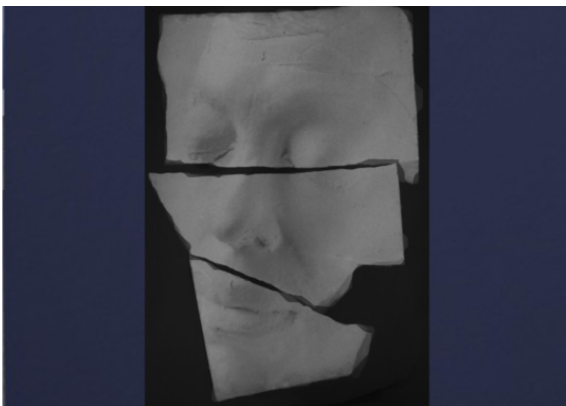
Instagram: @giselafoto

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As an arts educator and speaker, I aspire to enable creative thinking by championing diverse and individual approaches within a collaborative environment. Like Peskine, who works with inner city youths to help him create his own monumental works, my sharing of knowledge with students is reciprocated; laying a foundation for the imagination to transcend and develop.

My multidisciplinary photographic practice is about exploration and not defined by any particular genre or idea. My interests may include personal archive, varied histories and visual cultures. The intent is to produce a language that entertains and informs by incorporating stills, moving images, printmaking, 3D media, collage, sculpture and any other medium.

A BFA in Film and Video introduced varied skills and perspectives that helped shape my photographic career working in Fashion, Portraiture and Life Style. Like Peskine, process, physicality and presentation are important and a recent MA in Photographic Arts has added multi layered narratives to new bodies of work.



ACTIVITY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAvuIQU0KHM>

Above is a link to a video tutorial of the following activity.

Portrait Push Pin Collage

Materials: Recycled 10mm thick cardboard packaging, ruler, scissors, metallic and multicoloured push pins in all shapes, newspapers/ magazines, and glue stick. Extra materials could also include: recycled textile remnants, coloured craft tape, wool, netting, coloured and metallic markers, etc.,.

Method

Step 1: **Organise**

Layout out all your materials on a flat surface in the order that you will need them:

Cardboard, Scissors, Ruler, Pencil, Newspapers/Magazines, Glue, Push Pins.

Step 2: **Prep**

With ruler and pencil draw an outline measuring an A6 (10cm x15cm) on cardboard and carefully cut to size. If cardboard is less than 10mm thick, cut more to size and glue each piece layering them evenly on top of each other until the thickness is achieved.

Step 3: **Research**

Look for closeup images of people's faces or landscapes in magazines and newspapers and select your favourite one.

Ask yourself:

What kind of emotion do you feel when you look at this image?

What is it about this image that makes you feel that way?

What do you think this image is trying to tell you?

Step 4: **Practical**

Select cardboard.

Cut image to size so it fits on cardboard.

Glue image to cardboard.

Step 5: **Observe**

Take a bit of time to carefully look at the image you have chosen. Think about how Peskine's technique gives a new dimensionality to his photographic portraits; a 2D flat object becomes a 3D object. The effect achieved by using nails levelled at varying heights and sizes and applying organic inks and tones to enhance shadow and light detail.

Ask yourself:

Where in the image will you emphasize a sense of depth?

What colour tones of push pins will you choose and why?

Will you chose to mix the tones or colours of the pushpins to reflect what you are feeling?

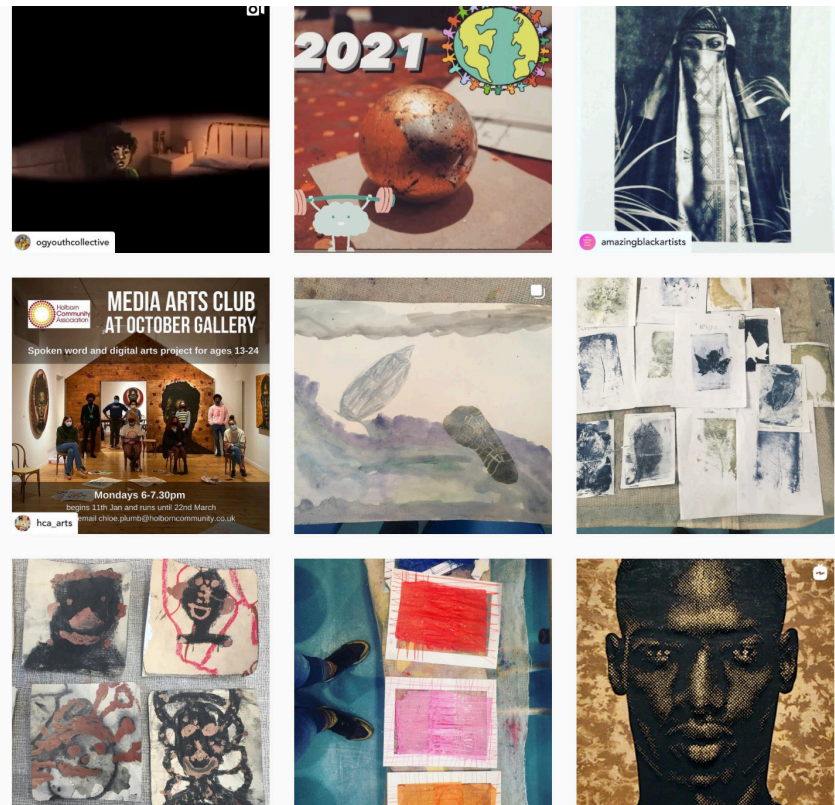
Step 6: **Practical**

Think about outline, form and detail and carefully start applying the push pins where you see fit to create your very own Portrait Push Pin Collage.

EXAMPLES



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