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Esteban Jefferson: MAY 25th 2020

July 25, 2023

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Jefferson
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Recorded in February 2023, Keli Maksud talks to Esteban Jefferson about his exhibition, *MAY 25th, 2020*, at 303 Gallery. A second iteration of the show will open at Goldsmiths CCA in October 2023.

Esteban Jefferson's practice centers around issues of race, identity and the legacies of colonialism. Using photography, drawing, painting, and sound installation as forms of documentation, Jefferson paints the focal points of his compositions in great detail, creating a stark contrast between the subject or object in focus and the surrounding environment. The paintings are left intentionally unfinished, creating a raw style emblematic of his investigative process. Well known for his series, "Petit Palais", first featured at White Columns, New York, in 2019, Jefferson's latest works consider the related symbolism of flags and toppling of equestrian monuments in New York, through the lens of racial and colonial legacies.

Esteban Jefferson was born in New York City in 1989, and attended Columbia University. Recent group exhibitions include *Art on the Grid*, Public Art Fund, New York (2020); *ESTAMOS BIEN: La Trienal*, El Museo del Barrio, New York (2021) and *Open Call*, The Shed, New York (2021). Jefferson lives and works in New York City.

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