

JIBADE-KHALIL HUFFMAN

Frieze Projects



Jibade-Khalil Huffman
Mayday
2018

Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, TX.
Courtesy the artist, Anat Ebgi
Commissioned by Ballroom Marfa

Jibade-Khalil Huffman (b. 1981, Detroit; lives in Philadelphia) makes installations, single-channel videos, and photo works that use image and text to challenge our understanding of narrative form. Huffman often returns to the site of remembered films or television shows to insert and layer new registers of meaning.

Huffman's use of scrolling or inserted text over original or appropriated imagery, evokes presentational modes as divergent as karaoke and the cinematic essay, emblematic of his interest in breaking down cultural hierarchies. He has also done projects which foreground film production

techniques, such as foley, special effects, and cinematography. Originally shown at Ballroom Marfa, *Mayday* is Huffman's first outdoor sculpture.

The piece pays homage to Grace Jones' character May Day, one of James Bond's nemeses in *A View to a Kill* (1985), and employs the cinematic marketing device of the billboard. Rather than highlighting a moment of Bond's centrality and prowess, *Mayday* purposefully foregrounds Black female power.