

Victor Davson

Artist Statement

Misogyny Papers/Apology

August 2022

The impetus to make the *Misogyny Papers/Apology* began over a decade ago with the discovery of a cache of vintage magazines and newspaper clippings of women from the 1950s and early 60s under the floorboards of our attic. The images of these women had been transformed into a grotesque and sexualized graphic narrative. This unsettling discovery led to my research. I read several texts — included are Sheila Jeffrey’s “Beauty and Misogyny,” Kate Manne’s “Down Girl,” and Eve Ensler’s “The Apology.” All informed the conceptualization and formal contours of this body of work.

My sensibility as an artist is shaped by my early childhood in Guyana and by the anti-colonial struggle for independence in the 1960s. Writers, poets and activists like Martin Carter, Frantz Fanon, Walter Rodney, Rabindranath Tagore, V. S. Naipaul, Orlando Patterson and Wilson Harris fired my imagination. *Misogyny Papers/Apology* draws on this spirit of resistance and on a wellspring of socially engaged art. It is my attempt to bring into relief the issues of gender bias, political violence and discrimination against women. In creating a body of work that confronts the dehumanization of women. I also confront a system that dehumanizes me as a man who is Black.