

Video Transcript: Ebony G. Patterson

I'm Ebony G. Patterson and I'm at the Nasher Museum of Art where my show, "*... while the dew is still on the roses ...*" is currently on view.

So in many ways I think of the work as the flower and the audience as the bees. That in many ways, the bee is first attracted to the flower because of its color but it's not until you start peeling back the layers that you understand what's happening with the nectar. Beneath all of the layers, beneath the shine, beneath the patterns beneath the embellishment sits an uneasy question. The question is whether or not you choose to look for this.

Spend time looking! Before you take a picture. We spend a lot of time behind a camera, rather than engaging with the subjects that are in front of that camera. And we get so caught up in needing to capture a moment rather than making space for the moment that we're attempting to hold in the devices that we have slipped in our pocket. The exhibition is about making space. So what I'm asking the audience to do when they come here is not to just take time but make space.

Because we are a little superficial sometimes, many of us will come into the exhibition and we will be enamored with the prettiness of the things. The floral, the fauna, the patterns within the work, but in order to get beneath those layers, that's all just a ploy to seduce the audience into looking. So I'm asking you to go beneath and between the beauty.

Because one of the things that I'm really interested in having people do is engaging in the act of looking. There's a difference between seeing and looking. Seeing is incredibly superficial. It is about the surface. But looking also incorporates seeing. The key thing that looking also involves is questioning. It requires a dig, it requires questions, so the eyes are engaged in looking but so is the brain. And asking what's here, what's happening and what are we looking at?

Credits

Videographer and Editor
J Caldwell

Photographer and Social Media Manager, Nasher Museum

Camera B

Myra Weise

Museum Services Manager, Nasher Museum

Producer

Wendy Page Hower

Director of Engagement and Marketing, Nasher Museum

Special thanks to

Ebony G. Patterson

Artist

Tobias Ostrander

Exhibition Curator

Monique Meloche

Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago

Trevor Schoonmaker

Chief Curator and Patsy R. and Raymond D. Curator of Contemporary Art, Nasher Museum

Adria Gunter

Curatorial Assistant, Nasher Museum

Melissa Gwynn

Exhibitions and Publications Manager, Nasher Museum

Rachel Goodwin

Graphic Designer and Web Content Manager

Sarah Schroth

Mary D.B.T. and James H. Semans Director, Nasher Museum

Ebony G. Patterson . . . while the dew is still on the roses . . . is organized by Pérez Art Museum Miami. The exhibition is curated by Tobias Ostrander.

At the Nasher Museum, this exhibition is supported by The Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger Family Fund for Exhibitions; Fox Family Foundation; Katie Thorpe Kerr and Terrance I. R. Kerr; Lisa Lowenthal Pruzan and Jonathan Pruzan; Kelly Braddy Van Winkle and Lance Van Winkle; and Parker & Otis.

Ebony G. Patterson is represented by Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago.