## Opening: Nathaniel Mary Quinn at Almine Rech

🛗 Thursday, 14 March 🛿 Brussels



"Always felt, rarely seen" is Nathaniel Mary Quinn's very first exhibition with Almine Rech. His works are often inspired by the people in his life, such as his mother, individuals from his current neighborhood of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, or residents of the Robert Taylor Homes in Chicago, a social housing project in the grip of gang violence and drug problems where he used to live as a kid. Nevertheless, Quinn's works are not portraits in the traditional sense. The collage-like creations are based on memory, not on photographs or sketches – something that gives them an elusive and mysterious quality. Facial features mix with pig noses, gorilla eyes, flowers and flags, adding another surreal layer, the result of an empathetic process of taking apart, assembling, and reassembling the subject's interior life. Quinn: "Nothing is more or less important than anything else; neither the gorilla arm, nor the pig nose, nor the elephant feet. Nothing is the 'clue' that unlocks the puzzle. They [the subjects] just exist. They possess the right to exist. Why can't they just have that right without trying to explain themselves?" Highly interesting.