

# SAINT GEORGE PROJECTS

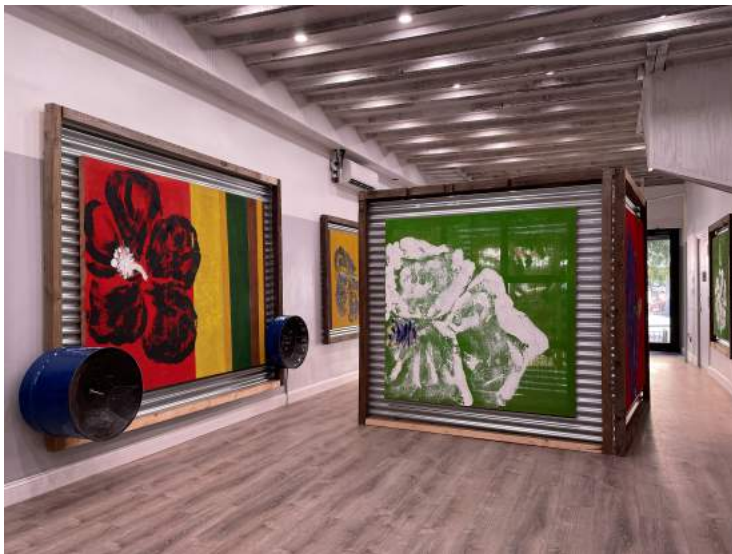
**Alvaro Barrington**

***Wave Your Flags: Labor Day***

September 5 - October 17, 2021

Open Thursday - Sunday, 12 - 6 PM and by appointment

Much More Studio  
258 Kingston Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11213



Saint George Projects presents a solo exhibition by Alvaro Barrington, *Wave Your Flags: Labor Day*, a celebration of Caribbean Carnival culture. The presentation marks the third chapter of this group of paintings, and the first to focus on the Labor Day Parade — also known as the West Indian Day Parade — which takes place on Eastern Parkway, in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Born in Venezuela and raised in Grenada and Brooklyn, Barrington's relationship to the Caribbean is an amalgamation of romanticized memories from the island and the experiences he had growing up in Flatbush, Brooklyn, in a neighborhood known as the "Little Caribbean." Barrington cites Carnival as one of his most influential artistic experiences, particularly the uninhibited ways people move in space. He has approached his practice with a similar freedom and fluidity, centering context and community in his work.

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*Wave Your Flags: Labor Day* features nearly 30 new paintings ranging in scale from intimate to monumental. Barrington reimagines national flags of Caribbean countries, employing the hibiscus flower — the national flower of Haiti — as a symbol of the region. Throughout his practice, Barrington has used the hibiscus flower to embody identity, nostalgia, sexuality and community. In his flower paintings, Barrington also references Warhol's iconic body of work as well as the simple, deliberate flower paintings by Alex Katz.

In *Wave Your Flags*, Barrington places the paintings in sculptural frames made of reclaimed wood and corrugated steel, recalling homes found throughout the Caribbean. In one work, *The Musicians*, Barrington affixes steel drums to the frame, a reference to bands performing on floats during Carnival. The center of the show is a cube, constructed with flag paintings for Grenada, Trinidad, Brazil and Haiti, built from Barrington's nostalgic memories. Presented in Crown Heights, just two blocks away from the starting point of the West Indian Day Parade, the exhibition is an exploration of the artist's own trans-Atlantic migration story and the story of the local community.

With the cancellation of the West Indian Day Parade this year, the exhibition offers an alternative moment to celebrate and take pride in Caribbean culture. *Wave Your Flags: Labor Day*, is the inaugural project organized by Kyla McMillan's Saint George Projects.