

Duffy, Maggie, "‘Woke’ artists return to Tampa, explore Steven Kenny’s surrealist landscapes," *Tampa Bay Times*, 17 January 2018.

# Tampa Bay Times

‘Woke’ artists return to Tampa, explore Steven Kenny’s surrealist landscapes

BY MAGGIE DUFFY



William Villalongo, *Psyche*, 2015. Image courtesy of Villalongo Studio LLC and Susan Inglett Gallery, NYC. Paintings, video and artist’s books from William Villalongo and Mark Thomas Gibson are included in “Utopias,” on display at Gallery 221.

## TWO-FER: UTOPIAS AND UNFILTERED

Mark Thomas Gibson and William Villalongo are New York-based artists whose individual work explores the black experience in America, in both historical and personal contexts. Their work was showcased in the powerful but small "Woke" exhibition at the USF Contemporary Art Museum last year, which was shown alongside their brilliantly curated exhibition of historical African-American print media, "Black Pulp." HCC’s Gallery 221 is featuring more of their work in the "Utopias" exhibition, which opens Thursday. Through paintings, video and artists’ books, themes of perception, social realities and cultural narratives are explored. Their work is incredibly thought provoking, so don’t sleep on this show.

Also opening at the gallery is "Unfiltered," featuring Princess Smith’s depictions of minority women exploring themes of duality, such as innocence versus deviance. Both exhibits run until March and are part of the Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival. The opening reception happens Thursday from 5-7:30 p.m., with an artist’s lecture from Smith at 6 p.m. Free. HCC Dale Mabry Campus, 4001 W Tampa Bay Blvd., Tampa. [hccfl.edu](http://hccfl.edu).