Steve Locke: your blues ain’t like mine
New York: October 27–December 17, 2022

Alexander Gray Associates, New York presents Steve Locke: your blues ain’t like mine, the artist's first one-person exhibition in Chelsea. Featuring recent figurative paintings and sculptures, your blues ain’t like mine takes its title from Bebe Moore Campbell’s landmark novel of the same name. Like Campbell’s 1992 text, Locke’s exhibition delineates the complicated relationships between identity, power, desire, and violence.

Locke’s cruisers depict intimate moments between men to better map the connection between identity and desire. Employing a sense of color the artist refined in parallel with his abstract Homage to the Auction Block paintings (2019–present), recent cruisers emerge as meditations on the power of the gaze. Imbuing a sideways glance with eagerness, uncertainty, and risk, Locke explains these works represent “… possibility … [and] an acknowledgment of beauty.” Further challenging reductive understandings of desire, Locke’s Tongue Paintings refute traditional representations of masculinity through their open mouth imagery. The series’s floating heads and extended tongues lay the foundation for a subversive model of male portraiture that resists the trappings of triumphalism to instead foreground pathos and vulnerability.