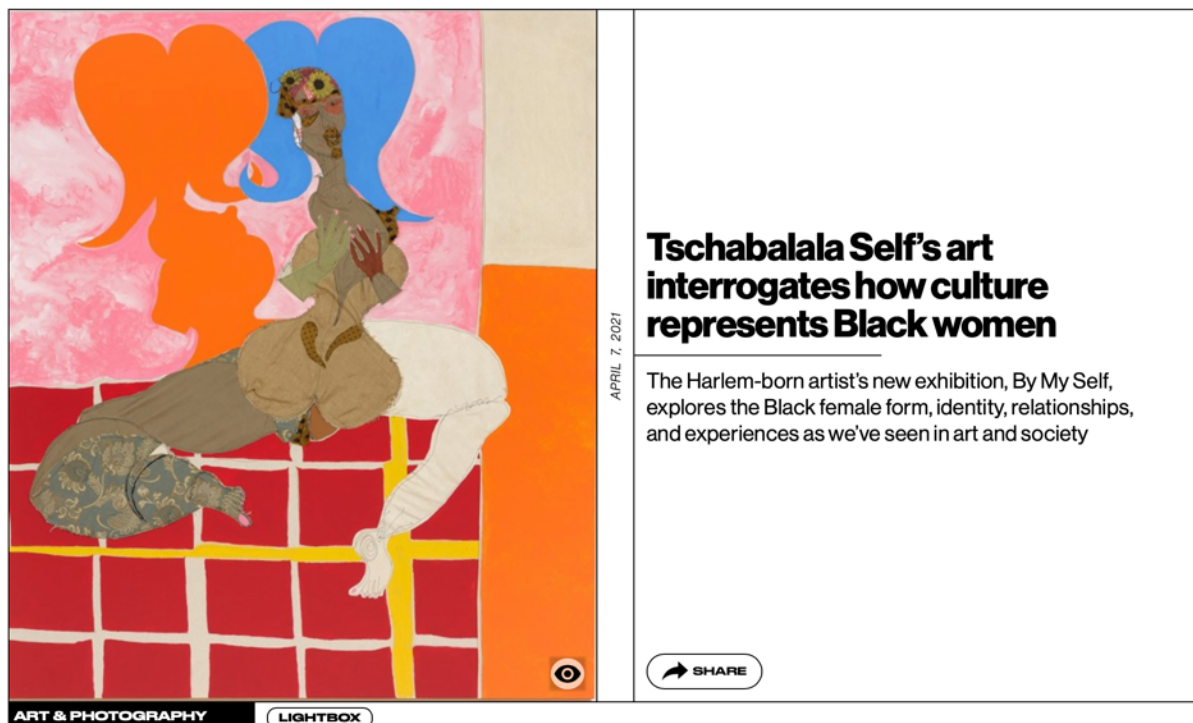


Emily Dinsdale, "Tschabalala Self's art interrogates how culture represents Black women," *Dazed*, April 7, 2021.

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TEXT EMILY DINSDALE

Emerging over recent years as one of the most sought-after artists reinventing figurative painting, [Tschabalala Self](#) creates works that seek to radically reimagine representations of the Black female body. The American artist's new exhibition [By My Self](#) at the [Baltimore Museum of Art](#) continues her project of exploring and reframing the cultural and societal demands, gazes, and expectations of Black women and women of colour.

Delving into the canon as well as pop culture, Self interrogates the semiotics and sexualisation of Black women. Her artworks reappropriate cultural images and respond to other art, a referential and clear-eyed technique that sees the Harlem-born artist call our attention to the ways in which Black women are saturated by objectification. The name of her latest exhibition plays on both her name and own

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sense of identity, as well as the last year of solitude – alienation both in the pandemic and lockdown, and in the narrow-eyed view of the art canon.

In 2012, while studying fine art in Upstate New York, she reworked images from music videos including [Tupac](#)’s “I Get Around”, exaggerating the characteristics of the eroticised Black women. Her latest exhibition features two sculptures and 13 paintings, including three new paintings which take their inspiration from Henri Matisse’s 1907-1908 work “Two Women” (originally titled “Two Negresses”).



Tschabalala Self: By My Self (2021)
Courtesy of Baltimore Museum of Art © Tschabalala Self

Self uses a variety of reproductive techniques, including stencils, tracings, prints, casts, and mechanically stitched lines of threads. It’s a rich and textured visual language that is as gorgeous, vibrant, and celebratory as it is cerebral and complex. Incorporating pieces of her previous works into new works, she creates a sense of accumulated memory and the compositional process of layer upon layer of meaning.

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Above, take a look through the gallery to explore some of Tschabalala Self's work from *By My Self*.

Tschabalala Self's By My Self runs at the Baltimore Museum of Modern Art until September 21 2021

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Tschabalala Self "Carpet" (2020)

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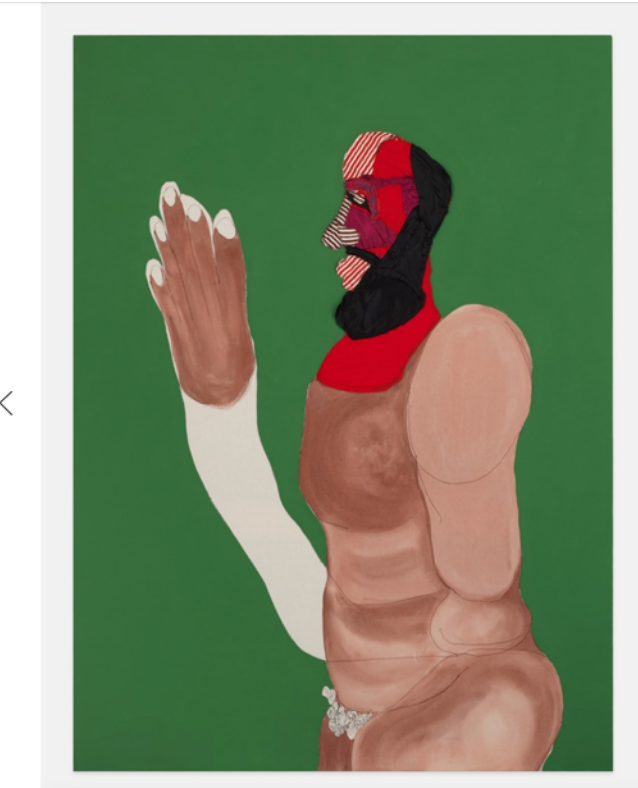


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Tschabalala Self "Father" (2019)

The Dean Collection, © Tschabalala Self

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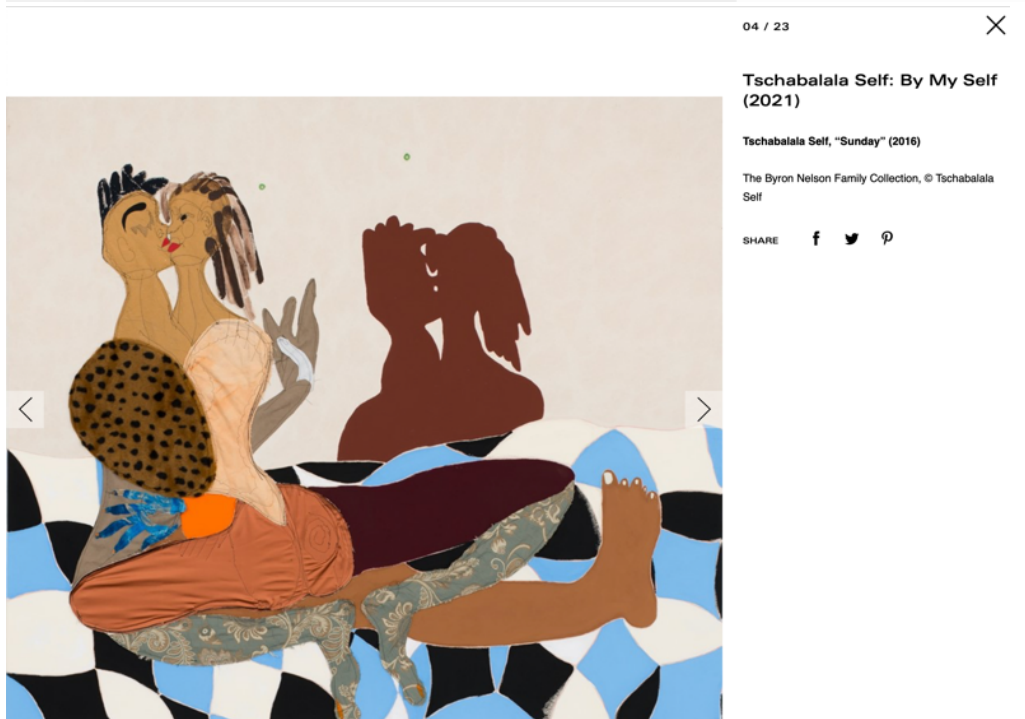
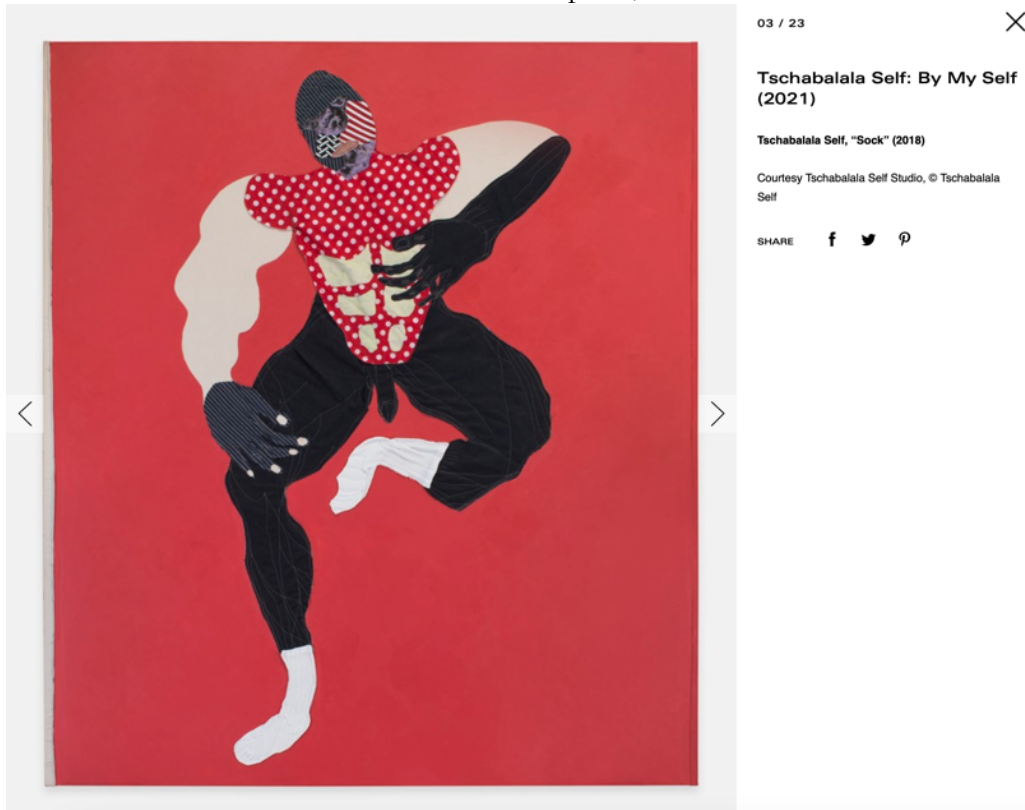


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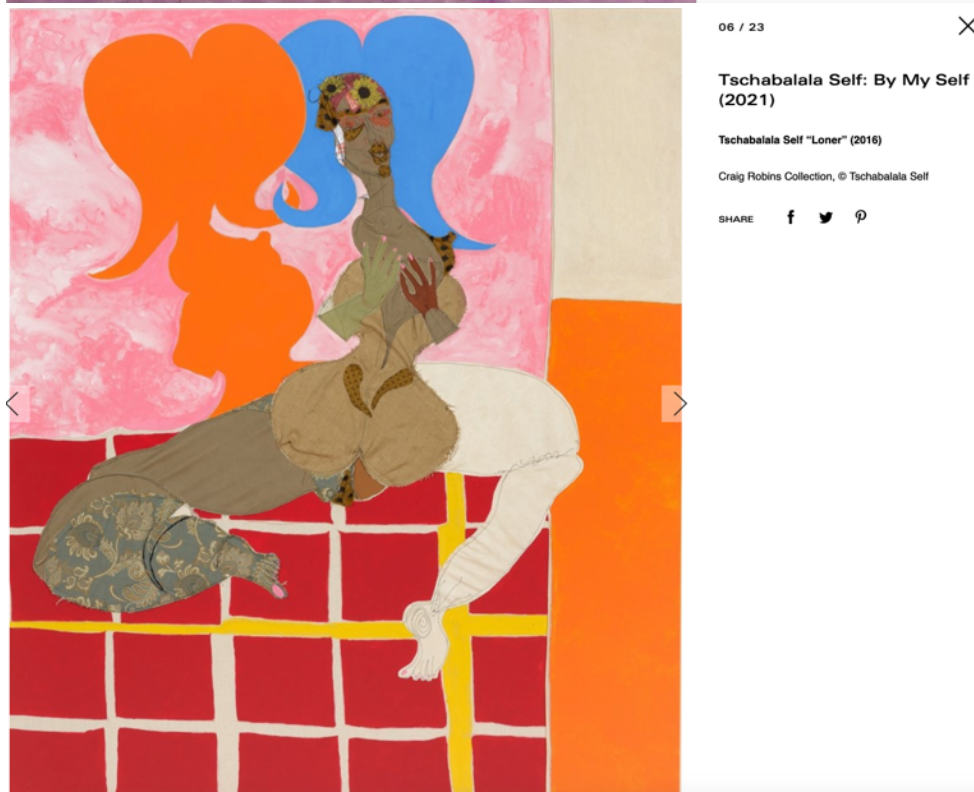
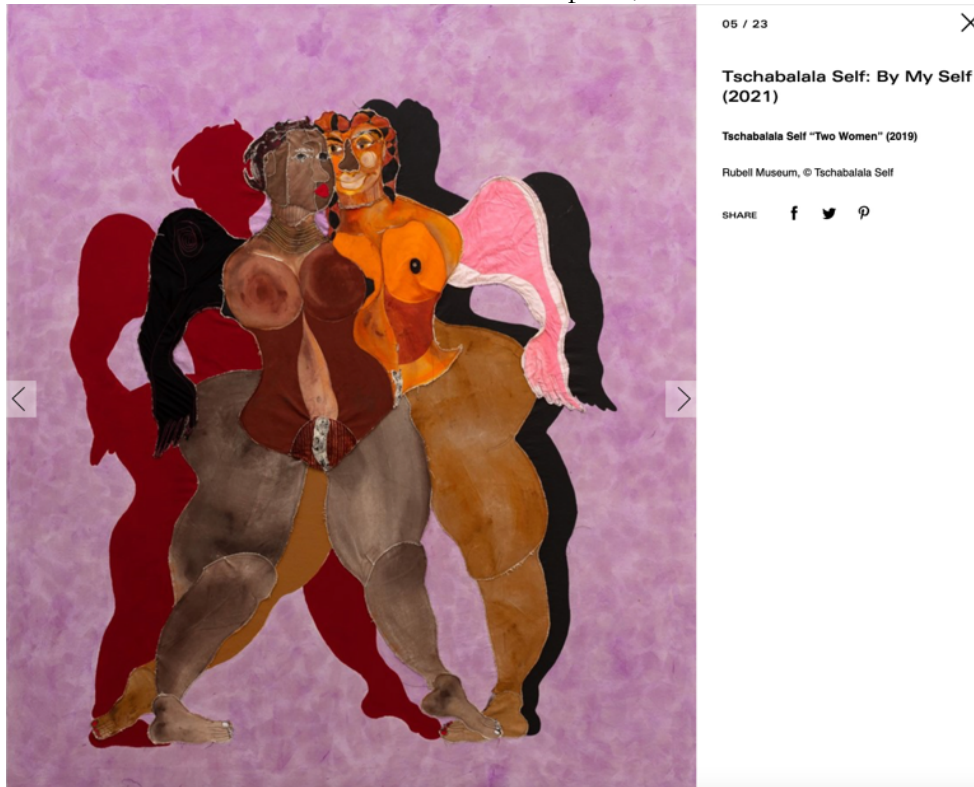
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Tschabalala Self: By My Self (2021)

Tschabalala Self

Photography Madeleine Hunt-Ehrlich

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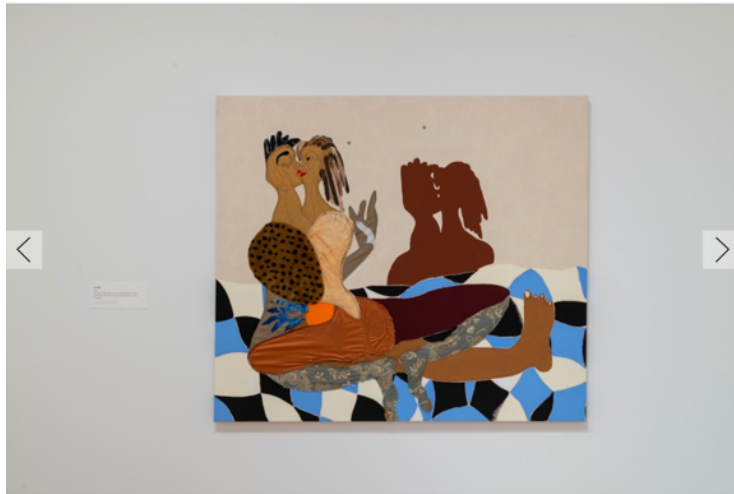


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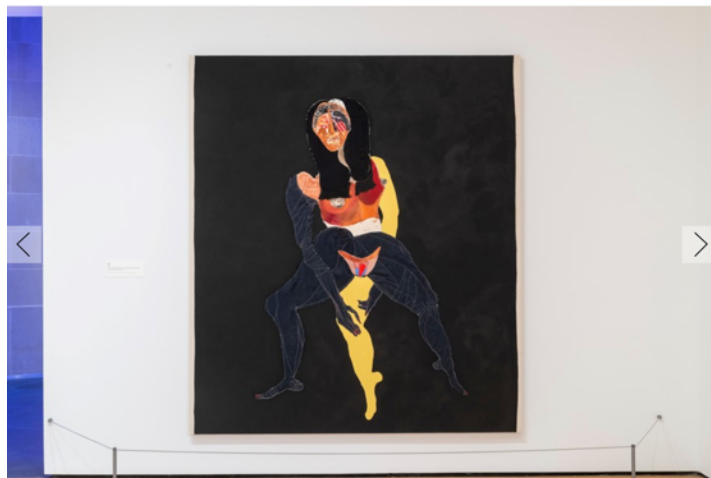


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