

April Bey

Location: Hotel Terrace, Room 327

Being truly radical sometimes means freeing yourself from all the things that paralyze you and block your view of what could be good for you. Art teaches us how important it is to change our perspective in order to rediscover the world and our own possibilities in it.

Caribbean artist April Bey already learned this as a child. When she asked her father why she had darker skin than others, he told her the Afro-futuristic science fiction legend that they were aliens sent from another planet on a secret mission to observe human life on Earth. In April Bey's art, this planet bears the name Atlantica and thrives as a lush, sprawling universe pulsating with joie de vivre. Here, the currency is glitter, everyone is welcome and respect, style and humor pave the way to a better life: one beyond attributions such as skin color, gender or class.

The tapestry that Bey has hung in the Hotel Terrace like a shimmering curtain to the portal of the decolonized future is part of her long-term project *Atlantica*. The lengths of fabric adorned with sequins, faux fur, silk and hand embroidery show eccentric portraits of Atlantic women who confidently take up space to celebrate queerness and body positivity as a rebellion against the overpowering pull of the past. "Black death and suffering aren't designed into my future", says Bey. (*roe*)

April Bey, born 1987 in Nassau, Bahamas, lives and works in Los Angeles. Her work has been shown in the USA at the Armory Show in New York (2023), the Nevada Museum of Art, Reno (2023), and the California African American Museum, Los Angeles (2021), among others. She currently teaches as a professor at Glendale College, California, USA.

Further information: april-bey.com