

Devynn Barnes  
Remnants of Reverie  
May 30 - June 27, 2024

Theresa Brockett Collections is pleased to announce Remnants of Reverie, a solo exhibition by Devynn Barnes (b. 1993). This is our inaugural exhibition at 347 Geary Street. Remnants of Reverie explores symbolisms of Americana that have been collaged to create the American Dream, reclaiming and spotlighting the significant African American influence on its genesis.

Barnes characterizes Americana as the ideals molded by the pursuit of the American Dream. This term frequently evokes a sense of nostalgia, intertwined with the foundational roots of American popular culture. The American Cowboy is among the iconic symbols embodying this concept, typically portrayed on horseback, symbolizing the quest for freedom and exploration of American landscapes. Barnes found herself drawn to the tranquility often portrayed in cowboy scenes through film and photography. The space to commune with nature and animals, the space to create, seems the ultimate source of solace, a visualization of freedom. However, she came to learn of disconnection within this inherited symbolism as it excluded the communities integral to its origins.

As a queer Black artist, Barnes calls on notions of Afrosurrealism, from Amiri Bakara's *Technology & Ethos* to Solange's album and short film *When I Get Home*, in the practice of creating and re-telling our stories with agency, illuminating narratives that have been hidden within the archives of the present and past. Works like "Urban Cowboy" and "Alchemy of Thee" draw inspiration from photographs she captured during the 2022 & 2023 Oakland Black Cowboy Association parades, and showcase a range of mediums and emphasis through texture, as strokes and choice of materials are carefully chosen to bring forth natural elements that highlight her figures. Through the powerful gestures of her figures, Barnes champions the legacy of Black Cowboys and Western life by confronting its historical erasure. She reconstructs space, creating a blend of retro-futurism that intertwines imagery and motifs from various points in history. Together the bodies across spaces collide to create portals to reveries void of time.

**Devynn Barnes** (b. 1993, Seattle, WA) is an Oakland-based painter and visual archivist. As a self-taught artist, Barnes calls on beginnings in film and photography to inform a multi-medium body of work that is cinematic. In her figures, there is an insistence to be acknowledged and vulnerability in welcoming viewers to bear witness.

Barnes' experience working with creative programs and artforms across music, film, technology, and design industries shines a light on the lasting power through the influence of design and imagery in shaping experience and creating space. She has shown in group shows broadly, and debuted her solo show Renaissance of Reclamation at Schlomer Haus Gallery in SF (2024), with work featured at COMPLEXCON (2023), and for projects in collaboration with Nike (2023).

**Theresa Brockett Collections** believes the future hinges on the stories we share and the platforms we create to express them. We embody this belief by fostering the sophistication and

intention behind storytelling. Theresa Brockett Collective prioritizes developing an inter-generational and cross-disciplinary program that brings together a diverse range of artists and thinkers.