

Welancora Gallery
Art Basel Miami Beach 2023
Press Release
Contact: pr@welancoragallery.com

Adrienne Elise Tarver: *Manifesting Paradise*



Sage of Water (2023). Ink, colored pencil, oil pastel on paper. 11.25 x 7.5 inches.

Welancora Gallery is delighted to present *Manifesting Paradise* in the Nova Section at Art Basel Miami Beach 2023 (Booth N10). This is the final installment in an ongoing series created by Brooklyn-based artist Adrienne Elise Tarver.

Through sculpture, video, works on paper and embroidered textile tapestries, Adrienne Elise Tarver (b. 1985) tackles issues related to female identity and hope. Tarver began creating *Manifesting Paradise* in 2020 when there were calls for a return to a bygone era in American history. With her acuity on the power of communication, Tarver created this project to serve as a liaison between the larger community and the mystic realm which presumably foresees the unknown. According to Tarver, “This project explores the desire to know that there is progress and beauty in the future and is an exploration of the endurance, permanence, and resonance of symbols, imagery, ideas, and omens through generations.”

Displayed on a plinth is *Manifest*, a film which features the 22 Major Arcana tarot cards being drawn by an unidentified hand. Amid the video’s dark and ambiguous ambiance, the saturated and spirited tarot cards showing women entertainers offer a nuanced perspective on visibility and selfhood. Behind the plinth, the embroidered tapestries detail a lone subject woven into a lush yet secluded landscape. Mounted on either side of the tapestries is an array of Tarver’s oil pastel tarot collection, each representing an ethereal body or object.

Imagining a future for oneself and one’s community is crucial at a time when the search for foresight is rampant. Tarver’s generation epitomizes this search, as the adversities that came with the COVID-19 pandemic such as economic and institutional instability have created a collective yearning for clarity. In a journey to unveil and become comfortable with the future Tarver emphasizes, “If what you cannot see, you cannot be — then imagining the future can widen the scope of what is to come.”

About the artist:

Adrienne Elise Tarver (b. 1985) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY with a practice that spans painting, sculpture, installation, photography, textiles, and video. Her work addresses the complexity and invisibility of Black female identity including the history within domestic spaces, the fantasy of the tropical seductress, and the archetype of the all-knowing spiritual matriarch.

She has exhibited nationally and abroad, including solo shows at the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Connecticut; the Academy Art Museum in Maryland; Atlanta Contemporary in Atlanta, Georgia; Dinner Gallery (formerly Victori+Mo) in New York; Ochi Projects in Los Angeles; Wave Hill in the Bronx, NY; BRIC Project Room in Brooklyn; and A-M Gallery in Sydney, Australia and two-person exhibitions at Hollis Taggart in New York; Wedge Curatorial in Toronto, Canada. She has been commissioned for projects through the New York MTA, the Public Art Fund, Google, Art Aspen, and Pulse Art Fair and has been featured in online and print publications including the New York Times, Forbes, Brooklyn Magazine, ArtNews, ArtNet, Blouin ArtInfo, Whitewall Magazine, and Hyperallergic, among others. She received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and BFA from Boston University.