

REYES | FINN

HYPEBEAST

How Emerging Initiatives Are Highlighting Detroit's Evolving Arts Scene

Five exhibitions across the city illustrate its varying landscape.

James Benjamin Franklin, Marcellus Armstrong at Reyes | Finn

July 20 – August 30, 2019



JAMES BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Contemporary art gallery Reyes | Finn opened in 2017, and is currently showcasing Detroit-based artists James Benjamin Franklin and Marcellus Armstrong. Franklin's large-scale Whole in the Dust paintings, such as LUGO and SCARS IN ARMOR (shown respectively above), are imperfectly shaped and layered inconspicuously with towels and thrift store rugs, yet full of bright color, texture and detail. Items that may inherently be seen as commodity transform into one-of-a-kind pieces through Franklin's use of bold hues and abstract strokes.

Armstrong took inspiration from the 1988 film Coming to America for his installation, Smoke Garments, which utilizes resin, bubblewrap, wax and deco mesh. Pieces such as a suitcase left open to reveal patriotic white stars on a tattered blue lining speak to the elusive nature of the American dream.

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