

GLENN HARDY JR.  
WHO AM I IF I DON'T REPRESENT?



**CJG** CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY  
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# GLENN HARDY JR.

## WHO AM I IF I DON'T REPRESENT?

Charlie James Gallery is delighted to present our second solo show with Maryland-based self-taught artist Glenn Hardy Jr. titled *Who Am I If I Don't Represent?* opening to the public on January 14th, 2023 from 6-9pm at 969 Chung King Road in Los Angeles, CA.

Glenn Hardy's artistic practice formed in response to the mass of negative visual language permeating the Black American experience: endless depictions of violence and suggestions of danger operating like a net around an entire community, limiting social movement and actively endangering lives. Hardy's paintings are essentially performative acts of self-preservation achieved through the cultivation of empathy in their viewers. More than mere survival though, Hardy's works declare a personal and collective determination to rise and to live unapologetically and without fear. In interviews Hardy has consistently expressed an affinity with the work of Kerry James Marshall and Ernie Barnes, the influence of both men being clearly visible in the work. Hardy's work should also be examined alongside that of 20th century American artist and illustrator Norman Rockwell. Rockwell encoded an index of post-war American narratives through his magazine covers and paintings. Hardy's work seeks to similarly encode positive narratives of the contemporary Black American experience, and in so doing combat existing bias.

The scenes presented in *Who Am I If I Don't Represent?* are centered in gatherings and reunions, supported by portraits of work, play, and different forms of achievement. Hardy sees the paintings as almost a linear narrative from privation to progress, supported throughout by friends and family, culminating in success and celebration. Words from the artist: "This show will take you on a journey, from the times of having nothing, following your dreams and hoping it'll be the way out, to taking advice from the OG's that sat in rocking chairs on the porch, from rekindling relationships that were absent for so long it made you say, 'long time, no see,' to celebrating that moment when you can finally say, look momma, I made it."

Glenn Hardy Jr. (b. 1995, Washington, DC) was raised in Waldorf, Maryland. He is a graduate of Towson University in Baltimore, MD. Hardy's work was first identified by Arthur Lewis of the United Talent Agency in Los Angeles, CA in 2020. Hardy was the subject of a UTA solo show in 2021 which reached many important private collections. Hardy was next exhibited at the Felix Art Fair in 2021 again to significant response. Hardy's first solo exhibition at Charlie James Gallery in 2022 was titled *I Remember When \_\_\_\_\_* and the works focused on the idylls of American childhood. Glenn Hardy Jr. lives and works in Waldorf, MD and is represented by Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles.

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Rocking Chairs on  
the Porch  
Acrylic on canvas  
63 x 62 inches  
2022

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Check Ball  
Acrylic on canvas  
64 x 47 inches  
2022



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Happiest Hours  
Acrylic, graphite and  
oil pastel on canvas  
42 x 60 inches  
2022



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Family Reunion  
Acrylic on canvas  
59 x 69 inches  
2022

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Untitled  
Acrylic on canvas  
62 x 63.5 inches  
2022



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That Boy Sharp  
Acrylic on canvas  
17 x 29 inches  
2022

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Make Your Next Move  
Your Best Move  
Acrylic on canvas  
63 x 52.5 inches  
2022



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Conversations with myself  
Acrylic on canvas  
17 x 29 inches  
2022

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The Way Out  
Acrylic on canvas  
62 x 56 inches  
2022

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Untitled  
Acrylic on canvas  
40 x 30 inches  
2022



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Long Time, No See  
Diptych  
Acrylic on canvas  
30 x 24 inches each  
2022

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My Brothers' Brother  
is my Brother  
Acrylic on canvas  
48 x 59.5 inches  
2022



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Combs, Fros and  
Flowers 7  
Acrylic and mixed  
media on canvas  
24 x 20 inches  
2022



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Combs, Fros and  
Flowers 8  
Acrylic and mixed  
media on canvas  
24 x 20 inches  
2022

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Look Momma I Made It  
Acrylic on canvas  
61 x 51 inches  
2022



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Untitled | Cutting the Net  
Acrylic on canvas  
67 x 47 inches  
2022



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Untitled  
Acrylic on canvas  
80 x 56.5 inches  
2022