

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.

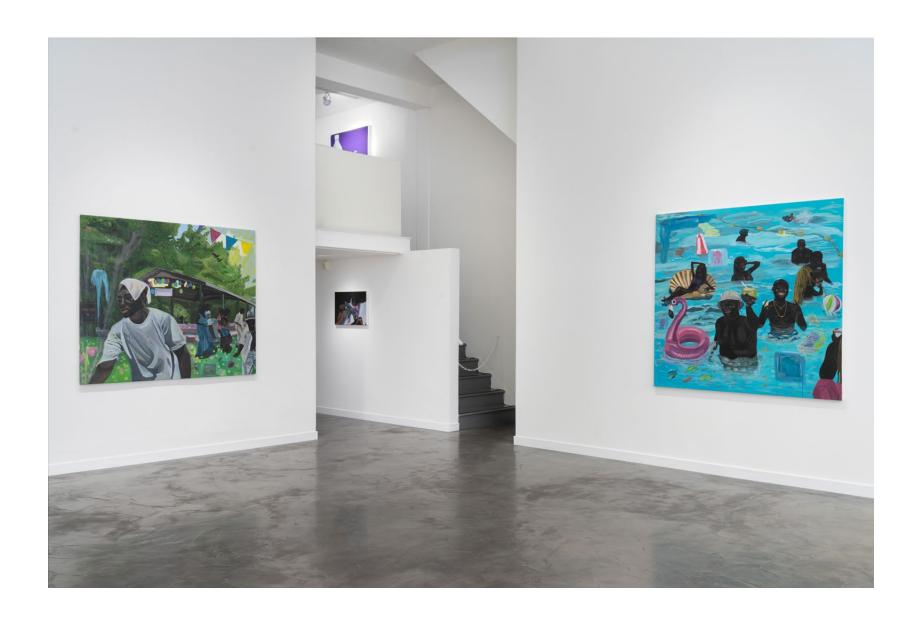
Glenn Hardy's artistic practice formed in response to the mass of negative visual language permeating the Black American experience: endless depictions of violence and suggestions of danger operating like a net around an entire community, limiting social movement and actively endangering lives. Hardy's 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.



WHO AM I IF I DON'T REPRESENT?

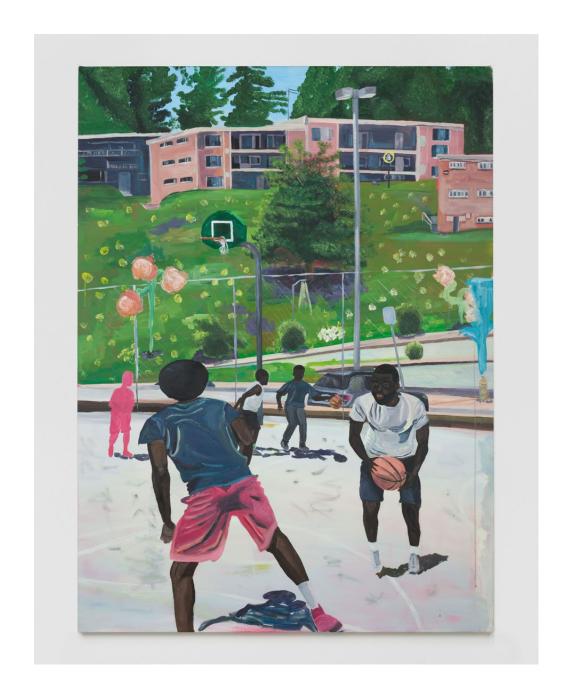


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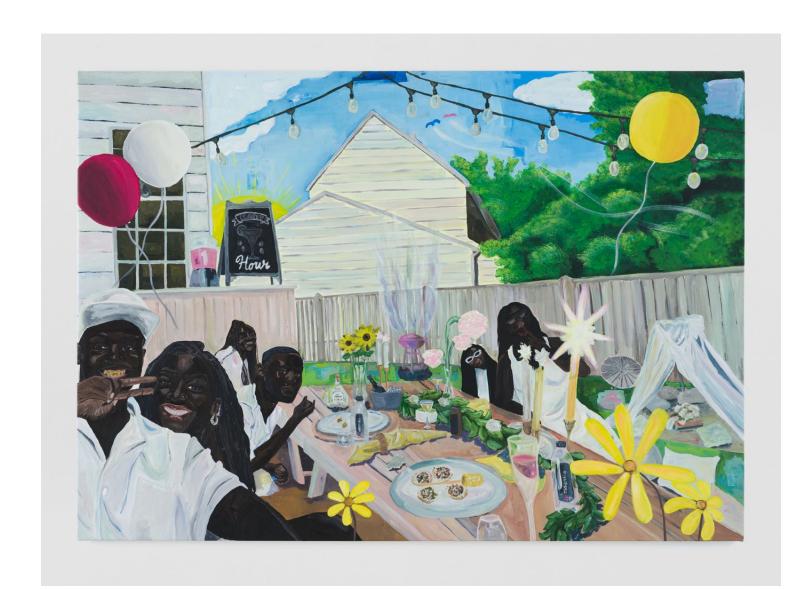




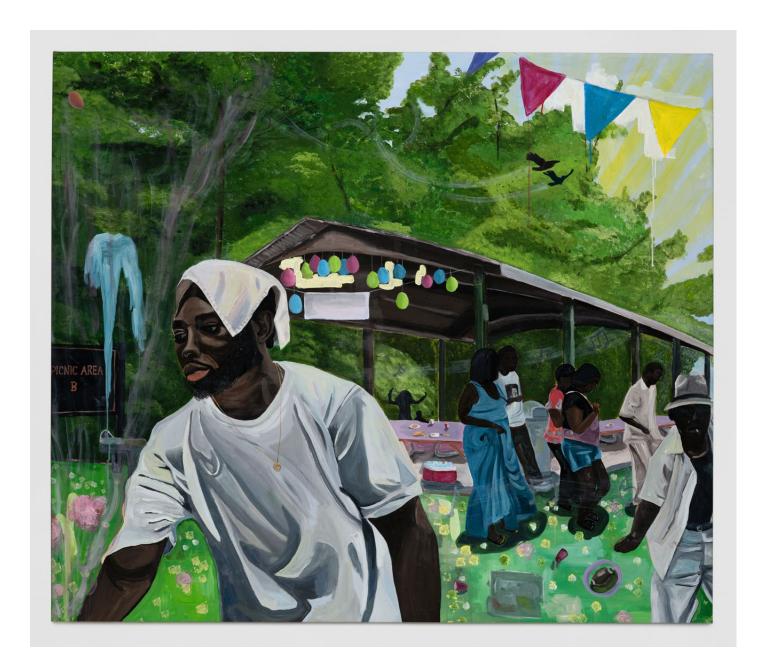
Rocking Chairs on the Porch Acrylic on canvas 63 x 62 inches 2022



Check Ball Acrylic on canvas 64 x 47 inches 2022



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



Family Reunion
Acrylic on canvas
59 x 69 inches
2022



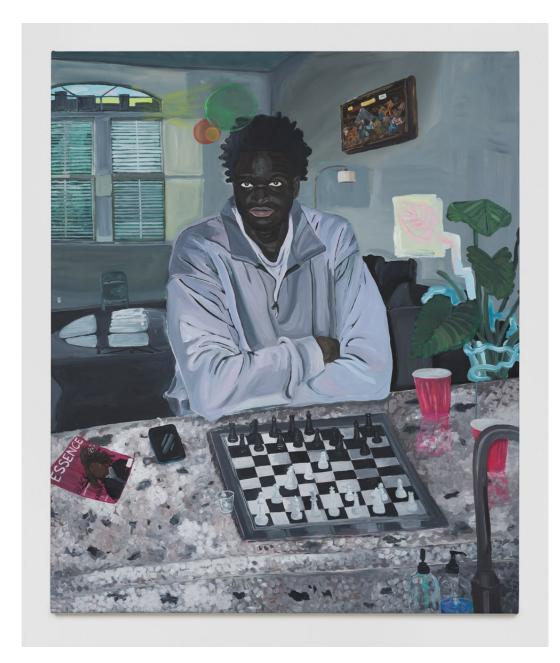
Untitled Acrylic on canvas 62 x 63.5 inches 2022







That Boy Sharp Acrylic on canvas 17 x 29 inches 2022



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

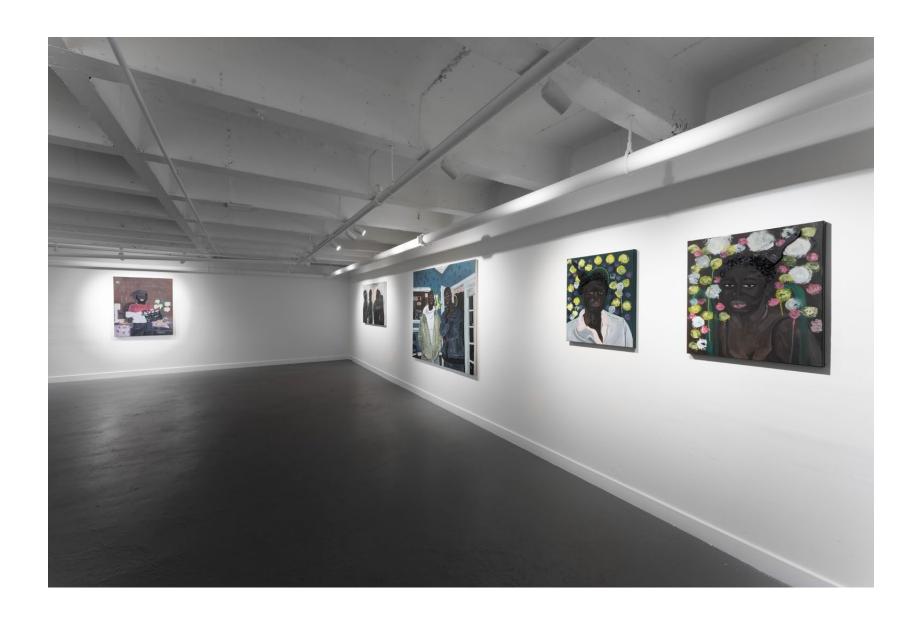


Conversations with myself Acrylic on canvas 17 x 29 inches 2022

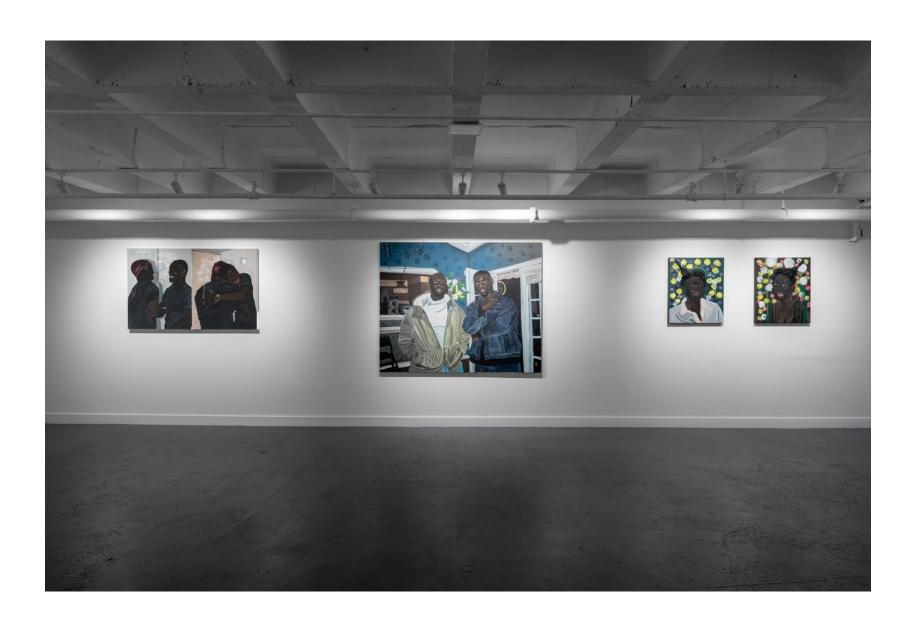


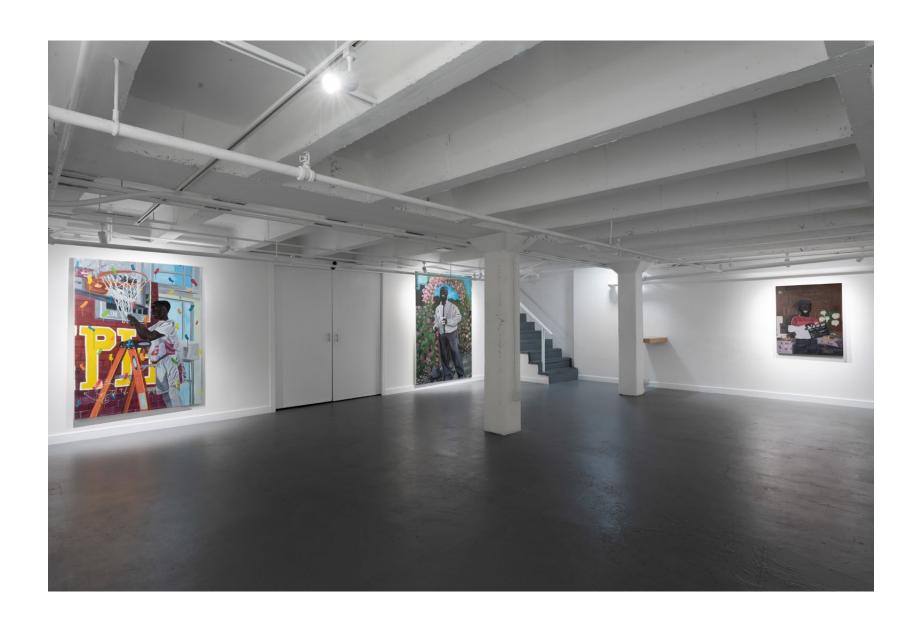
The Way Out
Acrylic on canvas
62 x 56 inches
2022

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Untitled
Acrylic on canvas
40 x 30 inches
2022





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



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



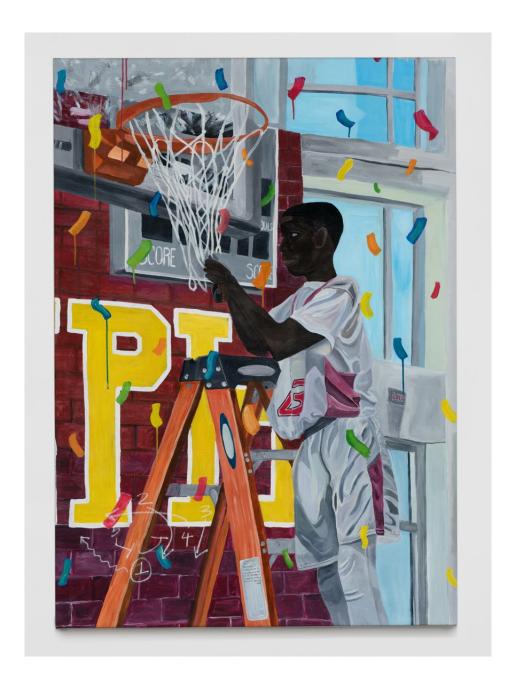
Combs, Fros and Flowers 7 Acrylic and mixed media on canvas 24 x 20 inches 2022



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



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



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



Untitled
Acrylic on canvas
80 x 56.5 inches
2022