

**JANUARY 3, 2023**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**GLENN HARDY, JR.**

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

**JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> THRU FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>,  
2023**

**ARTIST'S RECEPTION: SATURDAY,**

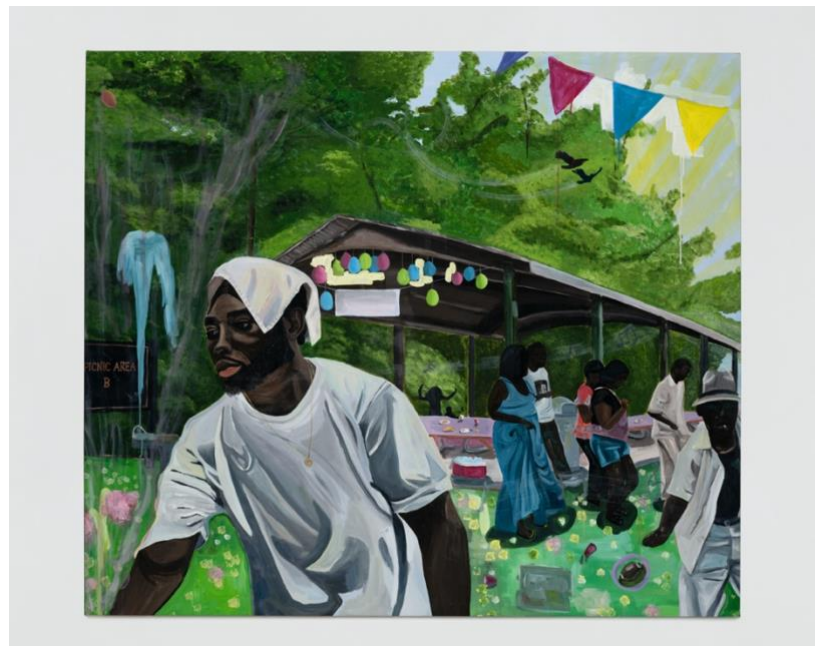
**JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6-9PM**

**DJ SET BY BROWN STARSHIP**

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Glenn Hardy Jr., Family Reunion, Acrylic on canvas, 59 x 69 inches, 2022

**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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

Artist Instagram: @glennhardyjr

Gallery website: [www.cjamesgallery.com](http://www.cjamesgallery.com)

Gallery Instagram: @charliejamesgallery