

GEARY

ransome

The Bitter and the Sweet

April 20 - June 2, 2024

Opening Reception

April 20, 2024, 4-6p

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Ransome, *Square Quilt painting*, 60 x 48, acrylic and collage, 2022

Geary is pleased to present *The Bitter and the Sweet*, by Rhinebeck, NY based artist, ransome, from 4-6, April 20th, 2024.

In his first exhibit at Geary, ransome uses patterns, shapes, colors, marks and other elements to focus on African American communities who migrated from the south to northern cities from 1915 to the 1970's during the Great Migration. ransome focuses on his own family's migration of maternal aunts and uncle's, nine of whom settled in the urban centers of Baltimore, Brooklyn, Newark and Paterson, NJ. Patterns and colors evoke memories of past lives and a connection to shared rituals - Sunday's best attire and weddings, birthdays and work days; each pattern, color and texture telling the story of his family's legacy. Items such as curtains, sheets, and jackets, create a history that makes their own visual language. This language works similar to blues music and is the vernacular of people whose voices were muted and silenced in the Jim Crow south yet made their own.

The installation, *Shotgun House*, features the migration story of a community in Albany, New York known as Rapp Road which was established in the 1920s by Rev. Louis W. Parson. Rev. Parson moved to the north from rural Mississippi with his wife during the Great Migration, followed by other members of his congregation. The community eventually moved outside of the city and bought land along Rapp Road. Four folks from this community are featured in a video through the small windows in *Shotgun House*, while the other two windows display patterns that are a part of their lives.

ransome's abstract works utilize narratives that are personal, yet contain symbols that interplay with larger social, racial, ancestral, economic and political histories that speak to current issues. Each piece in *The Bitter and the Sweet* is imbued with lyrical yet authentic reverberations of resilience, limited resources, and frugality; exploring the struggle and hope, pain, joy, and soul of folks in the black community.

ransome received his MFA from Lesley University. In his practice he combines acrylic paint with an array of found, created, and purchased papers. He had a solo exhibit at Alpha Galley, Opalka Gallery, CAM Raleigh and The Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, South Carolina and group shows at Katonah Museum of Art, The Sigal Museum, The SECCA Museum, MASS MoCA, Weatherspoon Museum of Art, the Visual Art Center of New Jersey, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art.