

James Barron Art



Winfred Rembert: Memory is Alive

Opens September 10, 2022

VISIT US BY APPOINTMENT
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Winfred Rembert: *Memory is Alive*

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We are pleased to exhibit nine works by Winfred Rembert in the Lower Gallery. At age 51, Rembert began carving his memories—including his childhood in the Jim Crow South and his imprisonment following a Civil Rights protest—into both vibrant and painful paintings on leather. Rembert was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 2022 for his memoir *Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South*. Rembert's work has been subject to a wave of critical interest, and recent museum acquisitions include the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. and the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin.

We wish to express our gratitude to the anonymous lenders to this exhibition.

“Memory can take you for a ride. Sometimes it comes to you in pieces. It may surprise you. It may hurt. I know that well because my memory is alive.”

Winfred Rembert, *Chasing Me to My Grave*





WINFRED REMBERT

Hamilton Ave, 2006
dye on carved and tooled leather
21 x 27 3/4 inches (53.3 x 70.5 cm)

Loan / NFS





“I carried this all my life, all of these things that happened to me... I didn't realize that by keeping my story inside so long, it would change my life and make me sick.”

Winfred Rembert, *Chasing Me to My Grave*

HAMILTON

HAMILTON
Halmaton Ave

~~Halmaton~~ Ave was the buisiest street in Cuthbert Georgia It had all the eating place, pool rooms barber shop shoe shine parlors All the farmers took thier fruit and vegies there, the side walks were crouded, before you get started down the ave you could smell all the cooking No white people shoped or hang out in any of the places on the ave, the only white people you saw there were the two white police men parked in the middle of the street watching us

WINFRED REMBERT

White Wall Tires, 2005
dye on carved and tooled leather
21 1/2 x 29 1/4 inches (54.6 x 74.3 cm)

Loan / NFS





WINFRED REMBERT

On Mama's Cotton Sack, 2002
dye on carved and tooled leather
32 1/4 x 30 1/2 inches (79.4 x 77.5 cm)

Loan / NFS



WINFRED REMBERT

Watermelon, 2003
dye on carved and tooled leather
23 1/4 x 36 1/4 inches (59.1 x 92.1 cm)

Loan / NFS



WINFRED REMBERT

Wilson Bros. Rolling Store, 2009
dye on carved and tooled leather
23 x 30 inches (58.4 x 76.2 cm)

Loan / NFS



The WILSON BROTHERS

THE WILSON BROTHERS OWNED
A BUS THAT WAS LOADED WITH
THINGS FROM THEIR STORE AND
THEY CALLED IT THE ROLLING STORE,
THEY WOULD COME THROUGH THE
BLACK NEIGHBORHOOD AND SELL
THEIR GOODS, MAMA USE TO
BUY FLOUR, SUGAR FISH ECT,
MAMA USE TO SAVE THE BAGS
FROM THE FLOUR AND MAKE
PILLOW CASES AND SHEETS FOR
THE BED. LOTS OF TIME WE
COULDN'T MAKE IT OR GET A
RIDE TO COLORED FOLK CORNER
~~AS~~ (A SHOPPING PLACE) SO MAMA
WOULD WAIT ON THE ROLLING
STORE ON SATURDAY + WEDNESDAY.
MY FAVORITE FROM THE ROLLING
STORE WAS PENNY WHEEL COOKIES
ONE CENT A COOKIE

Wm. L. Smith

WINFRED REMBERT

Leaning on the Everlasting Arm, 2008
dye on carved and tooled leather
30 1/4 x 34 1/4 inches (76.8 x 87 cm)

Loan / NFS





WINFRED REMBERT

Showtime, 2006
dye on carved and tooled leather
31 x 25 inches (78.7 x 63.5 cm)

Loan / NFS



Showtime is related to one of the very first pieces Rembert ever created, titled *After Covarrubias*. Around age 51, Rembert spotted the drawing *On a Spree* (1927) in a book by Miguel Covarrubias. Struck by the artist's depictions of Black figures, Rembert used his skills in tooling leather to create a copy of the drawing, which he gave to New Haven book dealers Phil and Sharon McBlain as a Christmas gift. They hung it in their antiquarian bookshop, and after a client asked to purchase it, the McBlains and Rembert's wife Patsy encouraged him to make more works with leather.

The below images are reproduced in Rembert's memoir *Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South*.



Miguel Covarrubias
On a Spree, 1927



Winfred Rembert
After Covarrubias

WINFRED REMBERT

Untitled, n.d.
dye on carved and tooled leather
18 1/2 x 9 1/4 inches (47 x 23.5 cm)

Loan / NFS



WINFRED REMBERT

Black Playground, 2003
dye on carved and tooled leather
31 1/2 x 35 inches (80 x 88.9 cm)

Loan / NFS



“Winfred Rembert inherited more than pain, abandonment, and suffering when he came into this world. He clearly found love, kindness, strength, and a powerful dignity and compassion that shines through his work and inspires us.”

Bryan Stevenson, *Chasing Me to My Grave* foreword

