

# BRENT HOLMES: BEHOLD A PALE HORSE

January 15, 2021 - April 2, 2021 | Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art | Main Gallery (South)

The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art is proud to present *Behold a Pale Horse*, a solo exhibition by Las Vegas artist Brent Holmes. Working through a variety of media, Holmes practices an active meditation on the challenges of manifesting the contemporary and historical presence of Black voices in the American West.



“Since the first machete cut a path through the wilderness, technology has reigned over the notion of human progression,” Holmes says. “Just as cowboys of all ethnicities drove a bloody path to the coasts, machines today are developing towards an overwhelming digital frontier. ... As we collectively continue to build and explore, we need to confront the question of what expansion means, and our complicity with technology’s role in it.”

Observing that “actions lead to objects,” the artist brings together sculpture, painting,

performance, video, and installation to cast a critical eye on the iconic forms of the cowboy, the railroad worker, and the tools that powered the westward movement of 19th-century settlers. “Technology and progress have always been intermingled. The cowboy serves as an avatar for this in the West,” Holmes says. “An intersection of northern European, Spanish, and African herding traditions, there is no more American representation of radical individualism and self-reliance.”

On three occasions, visitors to *Behold a Pale Horse* will have the opportunity to watch the artist create the individual parts of a triptych by self-knowingly performing the action of painting with the aid of handmade tools that combine paintbrushes with railroad spikes and machetes. Visitors who miss the performances will be able to trace the history of the static artworks in front of them by reliving the activity of the artist via recordings and motion-tracking technology.

On a fourth occasion, the artist will cook a meal in the gallery, using indigenous Nevadan ingredients to hint at ideas about place, belonging, and the hierarchy of importance we assign to different acts of creation.

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Brent Holmes is an artist, activist, and cultural animator whose work investigates contemporary social structures through a historical lens. Much of his work examines epistemological warfare, the body, food, play, and cultural discourse. He has exhibited at the Torrance Art Museum, the Nevada Museum of Art, and is part of the permanent collection of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art. He is the co-organizer of local performance art event RADAR, an arts writer, and curator.

*Behold a Pale Horse* runs from January 15 - April 2, 2021. The dates, times, and other details of the performances will be announced on the Barrick Museum's Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter accounts while the exhibition is taking place. Entry to the museum is free. Please see the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art website to read our safety guidelines and make a timed reservation before you visit.

The exhibition would not exist in its current form without the technical expertise of Michael Genova and Joshua Vermillion, the metal-working proficiency of John Stoelting, and the construction skills of Joel Spencer. The artist would also like to thank Ashanti McGee, his children, Patrick Sibily, Brandon Thompson, and Claire Vaye Watkins.

Support for this exhibition is provided by the WESTAF Regional Arts Resilience Fund, a relief grant developed in partnership with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support arts organizations in the 13-state western region during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **ABOUT THE MARJORIE BARRICK MUSEUM OF ART**

The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art believes everyone deserves access to art that challenges our understanding of the present and inspires us to create a future that holds space for us all. Located on the campus of the most racially diverse university in the United States, we strive to create a nourishing environment for those who continue to be neglected by contemporary art museums, including BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ groups. As the only art museum in the city of Las Vegas, we commit ourselves to leveling barriers that limit access to the arts, especially for first-time visitors. To facilitate access for low-income guests we provide free entry to all our exhibitions, workshops, lectures, and community activities. Our collection of artworks offers an opportunity for researchers and scholars to develop a more extensive knowledge of contemporary art in Southern Nevada. The Barrick Museum is part of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV).

## **ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**

Located on the main campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the UNLV College of Fine Arts offers graduate degrees in Art, Architecture, Film, Music, Dance, Theatre, and Entertainment Engineering and Design, a unique discipline that combines engineering with technical theatre training. The College's facilities include theaters and contemporary art galleries as well as the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art.

## **PRESS CONTACT**

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## **MAKE A RESERVATION**

To make an appointment visit Eventbrite (<https://bit.ly/2DsZ8Gv>). The Barrick Museum of Art is open to the public Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., by appointment. Please reserve your spot to see one of our current exhibitions. Please note that for the safety of our community, all visitors are required to wear a face-covering and maintain social distance from others.

## FIND US

The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art is located in the heart of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus. The museum is easily accessed from the west side of campus at the intersection of Harmon Avenue and University Center Drive. Drive east on East Harmon Ave until the road enters the campus and terminates in a parking lot. The Museum will be on your right, next to a desert landscape garden.

## PARKING

Visitors may park in metered, staff and student spots free of charge after 7 pm on weekdays, 1 pm on Fridays, and all day Saturday. Daily, weekly, or monthly permits can be purchased from Parking and Transportation Services. Metered parking spaces for visitors can be found in the parking lot outside the Barrick's entrance, along East Harmon Ave, and in the lot behind the Lied Library. Other metered green zones are available in the Cottage Grove Avenue Parking Garage and parking areas throughout campus.

## MUSEUM HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 10am–4pm. By appointment.

