

RECORD OF HOME HEARTS



January 23rd - March 1st 2024

Alice R Rogers and Target Galleries, Saint John's Art Center

In a unique joining of works, Leslie brings together videos and paintings from her 2021 museum exhibition *Within, Between, and Beyond*, with *Tracing* (admiration, conversation, and seeing) a new series of paintings created from visits and conversations with five Twin Cities based artists in 2023. While two distinct bodies of work, there are throughlines between them of ancestral and familial bonds, identity creation and reformation, and the power of representation and reclamation of space through art and art making.



This show qualifies as an Artistic Engagement event! Scan the QR code for instructions on how to earn your credit.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS EXHIBITION ENGAGES WITH:

- Family
- Identity
- Painting
- Storytelling
- Portraiture
- Politics of Representation

ONLINE RESOURCES

lesliebarlowartist.com

csbsju.edu/fine-arts/visualarts/leslie-barlowinstagram.com

lesliebarlowartist

midwestmosiac.org/resources

ENGAGE

The collaborative work Barlow does with other artists and people in the community is integral to her studio practice. “With the mutual gaze that happens, when you are seeing someone and are painting them, and they are seeing you in the process of painting, especially as a woman of color, it’s very healing.”

- How can art help a community? How does understanding our identity help us achieve the common good?
- Barlow has described portrait painting as, “an energy exchange.” What do you think is given by the artist and subject of the work? What is gained?
- How can art help us preserve our own and our community’s identity?
- How does imagery and identity correlate? How do they help each other be understood?

Working with the tradition of portraiture and painting provides a platform to challenge the norms and hierarchy of who is painted, what stories are amplified, and by whom. Storytelling and giving space for disempowered and underrepresented people is a focus for Barlow.

- After walking through the gallery and watching the videos, what impacted you the most?
- Looking at the visual works how do you perceive the emotions of the subjects? Why do you think this is?
- Did anything in the exhibit make you want to investigate something more? Did it make you think about your own identity and how you see yourself?
- Who is Barlow telling this story for?
- Why is it important to see underrepresented communities in artwork?
- What conversation does this start?
- Barlow often explores relationships and what it means to be family in her work, why is it important to depict different forms of a family or community?

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In this exhibition, Barlow uses a few different materials and methods to communicate her stories - paintings that incorporate textiles and collage, canvas and wood panels, and video work.

- Comparing the interviews and the visual works, how was Barlow able to visually tell a story?
- How does the variety of storytelling platforms help with her narrative?
- Barlow's painting style is colorful and bold, how does color play into the story of identity?
- Do you think the paintings would give the same message or effect on people if painted in black and white or dull colors?
- Barlow intentionally leaves certain areas of the painting "unfinished" to highlight certain finished elements.
- How does this contribute to her artistic message?
- How do the different materials and approaches invite you into the composition or what questions do they make you ask?