

**GENESIS TRAMAINE: EVIDENCE OF GRACE**

By Mark Westall • 15 January 2021



Genesis Tramine Evidence Of Grace David and Goliath, 2020 Diptych – Acrylic, Gouache, oil Sticks, oil pastels, Yahweh! 182.9 x 182.9 cm (each canvas) 72 x 72 in (each canvas) inches

Almine Rech is exhibiting Evidence of Grace by American visual artist Genesis Tramine. This exhibition is the artist's first solo presentation in Brussels and the second with the gallery.



Genesis Tramine, Evidence of Grace, Almine Rech Brussels January 7 – February 28, 2021  
Courtesy of the Artist and Almine Rech ©Genesis Tramine Photos by: Hugard and Vanoverschelde Photography

## ALMINE RECH

The flash of the spirit has set the foundation for the artworks that Tramaine creates, filled with chromaticity and energetic linework that has come to define her oeuvre. The linework evokes the urban landscape and spaces that have shaped Tramaine's identity growing up in Brooklyn. Often oscillating between hard and soft marks, her drawings within the portraits that she constructs is crucial in her painting. These marks necessitate the viewer to look closer with a keen eye at the layers upon layers that encompass each work in the exhibition as they have something new to reveal to those who actively engage the work. This exhibition is evidence of Tramaine's growth, artistic conviction, and understanding of the transformative power of contemporary art to guide us from the "darkness to the light." Evidence of Grace delivers the power, majesty, and spiritual intensity needed for our society to comprehend art's ability to reframe how we see ourselves, each other, and the world around us.



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Genesis Tramaine's practice is steeped in an inquiry that demands the need to trust one's intuition, faith, and creative capacity to materialize paintings that will generate a transcendental encounter for the viewer. By creating this sanctuary space with Evidence of Grace for the visitors of the show, Tramaine also asks them to ponder some important questions that she asks herself: What does it mean to be a servant of God? How does one use their faculties to enable them to be a vessel to communicate, educate, and elucidate the many difficulties that impact our day-to-day lives as human beings on this earth? Moreover, during a pandemic era, when many traditional houses of faith are closed, can the "white cube" of the gallery serve as a sanctuary for people to find spiritual enlightenment and joy? Many would deem these questions as existential queries, but these questions are part of a more profound quest for self-discovery to the keen observer. Her actions are a quest to get closer to God and the sublime with the hopes of yielding a clearer understanding of self. This crusade is a critical component that undergirds Genesis Tramaine's practice and informs the visual vernacular she has cultivated over the last several years.

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For Evidence of Grace, Tramaine's paintings or 'Gospels,' as she refers to them are, more colorful, and the most challenging work she has made to date, enmeshed in the goal of developing an expanded visual syntax. Tramaine "was called by God to study the story of David" as a catalyst to inspire the newest body of work presented in the show. Biblical reading teaches us to engage with David as King David or via David and Goliath's allegory. Still, we rarely look at David the man, the human being, the little shepherd boy. How is a shepherd selected to lead men into battle and become a King of Nation? This point began Tramaine's journey to understand David's story and how the teachings of that story would be manifested into a series of breathtaking 'portraits' that are highlighted in Evidence of Grace. Moreover, David's story was a catalyst that encouraged Tramaine to grapple with the question of: What does it mean to be chosen by God? Tramaine's adroit ability to dissect our daily lives' peculiarities and create multiple entry points into her work via her portraits is an extraordinary talent enabling the viewer to engage with her work on an aesthetic or spiritual level.

When one views a Genesis Tramaine painting, there is a demand for the full commitment of mind, body, and soul. She isn't taking a traditional approach to contemporary art-making in 2020. Tramaine is cultivating an artistic practice that operates at the intersection of religion and the cultural zeitgeist to shape up a new canonical discourse. Expressed via the eyes, mind, and hands of a Black woman, Tramaine creates visual 'sermons' that invites the viewer to pause, reflect profoundly, reassess themselves, and the world around them. The large-scale canvas works Tramaine constructs envelop the viewer facilitating the intimacy of experience that provides an insight into some of Tramaine's conversations with God through her prayers.

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Evidence of Grace will transform Almine Reich's Brussel's gallery into a place of refuge from the ills of the world. Through her work in the exhibition, the sermon she offers is a call-to-action for viewers to open-up their awareness and feel what it means to be in the presence of divine energy through visual art. The paintings in this exhibition encompass a visual skill that only comes with experience cultivating your craft. The layering of the "portrait within a portrait" featuring visual signifiers like fish, birds, and other animals indicates a closer alignment to spirit and faith. The repetitious mark-making on pictorial planes coupled with the sensuous forms that serve as the outline to the portraits are a seductive combination that appeals to the soul.

– Larry Ossei-Mensah (Curator and Co-Founder of Artnoir)

**Genesis Tramaine Evidence of Grace at Almine Rech Brussels — February 28th, 2021 [alminerech.com](http://alminerech.com)**