

PageNews

## Genesis Tramine creates paintings to regain "Access to God"

By Maria Passa, April 13, 2022.



Photo Source: Almine Rech Gallery

PAGENEWS.GR / CULTURE / GENESIS TRAMINE CREATES PAINTINGS TO REGAIN "ACCESS TO GOD"

### Genesis Tramine: Her first big hit came from an exhibition held nearby in 2018, at the Richard Beavers Gallery

Genesis Tramine and Brooklyn have been inseparable for years. The artist maintains another studio in her grandmother's apartment in the Bed-Stuy neighborhood of the municipality, where she grew up. Her first big success came from an exhibition held nearby in 2018, at the Richard Beavers Gallery, where she uploaded "God Is Trans", in which her sacred themes defy the boundaries of gender. It was in that performance that Tramine began to form its own universe of saints and biblical prophets rendered in gestures reminiscent of neo-expressionist painting of the 1980s.

In an interview with ARTnews, Tramine attributed her becoming a "cult" artist to two "giants" at home - her mother and grandmother - and attending a Black church on Gates Avenue. This spiritual sensitivity is evident in her latest appearance, a solo outing at the Almine Rech Gallery in New York.

Tramine created these paintings after reading the Bible. At the Feast of the Holy Wives (2022), a stand-in for Mary wears a blue veil and has six sets of eyes. There is a religious significance to all of this - according to Christian theology, high-ranking angels are sometimes depicted with their bodies covered in eyes, some have said that it represents the God who sees everything. For Tramine, the eyes also engage the viewer, encouraging him not to take his eyes off the figures he paints.

"In painting, I think we often try to get the attention of those who stare at us," he said. "I also want to capture the story behind those eyes. I want to include the whole narrative in the gospel. "

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### The faces of Tramaine figures sometimes appear as monsters

"A lot of what I still do is things that I was taught when I was very young," she said, although she has now devised her own methods of seeking God. "It's not always the silent whisper you sit on your knees. "I grew up different and I asked different questions to God than I know my grandmother did."

A painting "asking God to be present" begins. While most painters plan their work in advance, in many cases with difficulty, Tramaine lets the visions guide it. She does not worry about the small details and does not get in the way of drawing every inch of the canvas.

"It's not important to see the end," Tramaine said. "If I put a lot in front of the enjoyment of devotion, I feel that I have missed it. I do not allow any pressure in this area. It's just important to keep these sanctuaries.

"Some people may see it as arrogance," he continued. "No, I'm just waiting to win here."