



COREY PEMBERTON HOME / BODY

On View: September 18th - October 18th

Opening Reception: September 18th, 6-8pm

unrepd.com | @unrepd
619 N. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004





(Los Angeles, CA) — UNREPD is pleased to present *home/body*, Corey Pemberton’s debut West Coast solo exhibition. Featuring mixed media works on canvas, *home/body* considers “the ordinary” as an embodied experience. The exhibition begins from the premise that, in Pemberton’s words, “to feel ordinary is a luxury.” In this series of portraits, Pemberton extends that luxury to people in his life whose bodies and identities fall outside of the traditional raced, gendered, and sexualized boundaries of ordinariness.

Pemberton anchors his portraits within the domestic, as his subjects’ homes allow space to rest, to lounge, to contemplate, to be free. These seemingly quotidian tableaux are at once light and approachable, and yet suggest the high stakes involved in claiming space for oneself as a member of a historically oppressed group. In challenging prevailing notions about blackness, queerness, and womanhood, Pemberton’s works redefine the boundaries of the everyday. Using acrylic paint, photography, textile, and glass, Pemberton assembles domestic spaces in which accordingly diverse people are centered and enjoy safety, love, and wholeness.

Rendered in vibrant color, layered pattern, and rich texture, the scenes depicted give insight into the humanness of their subjects. Through exquisite attention to objects that provide a feeling of home, Pemberton invites viewers into intimate moments that reveal his subjects' private selves. Encountered on their own turf and terms, Pemberton's figures resist easy categorization according to bias or stereotype. Where one might expect strength, they find softness; where one assumes superficiality, they find depth. In bodily gesture or clothing thrown over a chair, books on a nightstand or art on the walls, the viewer is invited to know these subjects and, in so knowing, to see that their comfort, their solitude, their joy, their yearning, is not so different than one's own. In these moments lie the possibility of transformation that powers Pemberton's work—a hopefulness that, like the work itself, is anything but ordinary.

Corey Pemberton (b. Reston, VA 1990, lives Los Angeles) received his BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2012. He has completed residencies at The Pittsburgh Glass Center (PA), Bruket (Bodø, NO), as well as a Core Fellowship at the Penland School of Crafts (NC). He is the cofounder and director of Crafting the Future, a non-profit with a goal of increasing BIPOC access to the fields of art, craft, and design. His work has been shown across the United States, including solo exhibitions: *Creature, Comfort* at Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC, in 2020; and *Finding Home in Otherness* at Blue Spiral 1, Asheville, NC, in 2019. He was the recipient of the Excellence in Glass award from the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art in 2016.

UNREPD is a contemporary art gallery in Melrose Hill, Los Angeles. Featuring emerging and mid-career BIPOC, women, and non-binary artists, UNREPD removes barriers of entry for artists and collectors alike. Founded by two women of color, Dr. Sarah Mantilla Griffin and Tricia Benitez Beanum, UNREPD presents art in a designed environment. UNREPD is housed together with Beanum's Pop Up Home, a designer vintage furniture showroom.



MAURICE

*Acrylic, graphite, and
inkjet prints on canvas*

36" x 48"

2021

\$7,500



AND YET IT SEEMS LIKE NOBODY IS IMPRESSED

*Acrylic, found textiles, sheet glass,
and inkjet prints on canvas*

60" x 72"

2021

\$14,500



THE COLLECTOR

*Acrylic, pressed flowers,
and inkjet prints on canvas*

60" x 72"

2021

\$14,500



EVERYTHING CHANGES, EVERYTHING MOVES

Acrylic, pressed flowers, graphite, and inkjet print on canvas

48" x 36"

2021

\$7,500



THE MUSE

*Acrylic, graphite, and
inkjet prints on canvas*

36" x 48"

2021

\$7,500



OK, NOW LOOK FIERCE

*Acrylic, Japanese paper,
and inkjet prints on canvas*

36" x 48"

2021

\$7,500



WARM AND FUZZY, LIKE THE FLY IN THIS HENNESSY

Acrylic, graphite, and inkjet prints on canvas

48" x 36"

2021

\$7,500



MEN AT THE BATHS

Acrylic, pen and ink, and inkjet prints on panel

30" x 40"

2019

\$6,500



TT, I'M SO DONE WITH YOU
*Acrylic, swap meet jewelry,
and inkjet print on canvas*

72" x 96"
2021
\$18,500



I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE THAT FEELS LIKE THIS

*Acrylic, graphite, and
inkjet prints on canvas*

72" x 96"

2021

\$18,500



ME AND A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

*Acrylic, graphite, hand cut paper,
and inkjet prints on canvas*

48" x 60"

2021

\$9,500



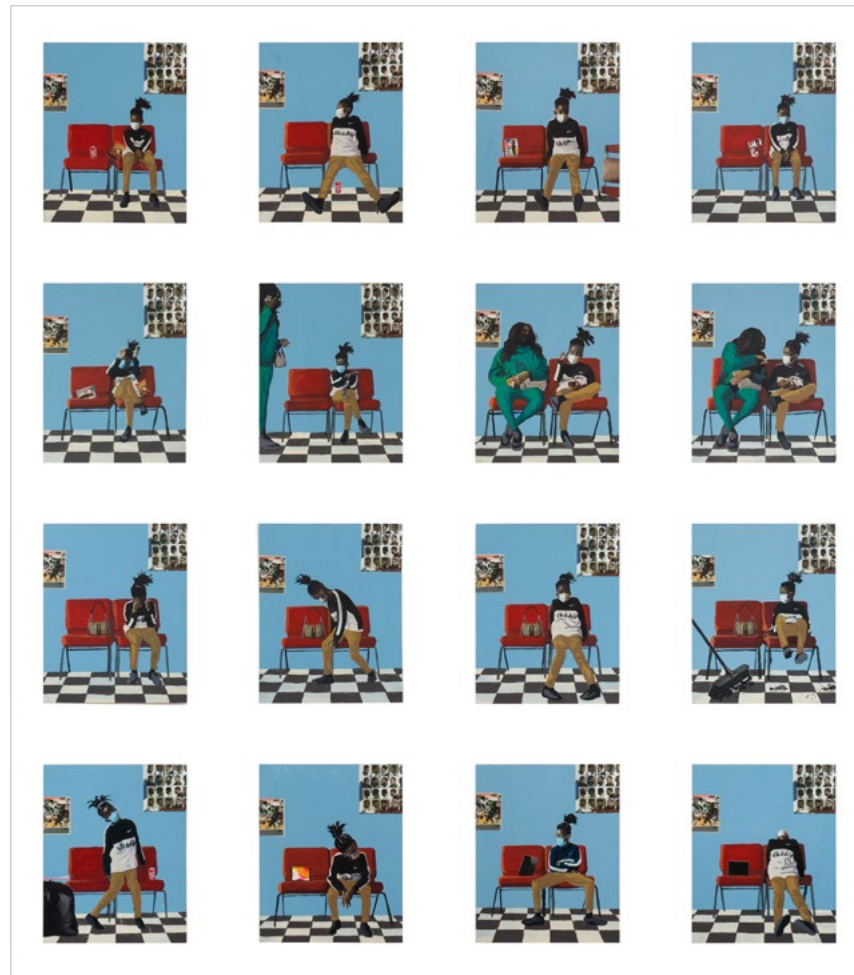
SEBASTIAN
*Acrylic, found textile, and
Japanese paper on canvas*

11" x 14"
2020
\$2,400



BOOKED AND BUSY
*Acrylic, pressed flowers,
and inkjet prints on canvas*

48" x 60"
2021
\$9,500



I LOVE IT HERE, I HATE IT HERE
Acrylic and inkjet prints on panel

16, 10" x 10"
2021
\$9,500



WHITNEY
*Acrylic, found textile, and
Japanese paper on canvas*

11" x 14"
2021
\$2,400



sarah@unrepd.com

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