

# Was It Ever Real?

Meikel Church

March 3 - June 4, 2022



# Exhibition statement: Meikel Church

The theme of this collection is the past as it happened, as we see it today, and how it will look in the future before it fades away completely. Collage, for me, is about change. Taking an image, removing it from its surroundings, placing it somewhere new, and reimagining its context, and meaning. This collection was inspired by the lyrics of a song, *Joey* by Samantha Crain.

## *Joey* Samantha Crain

Joey, why don't you come around and see me?  
Got plenty of room now that I live alone  
Last time I saw you, you were walking in the meadow,  
Your face was sweaty and your outfit was gone  
I don't mind if you spill your wine like you used to  
I know it's different but we'll figure it out  
Sometimes I feel like my memories never happened  
Could you remind me, take me back for a night?  
Was it ever real?  
I don't even feel like that girl anymore  
Was it heavenly?  
I don't even see through those eyes anymore  
A hundred small deaths, a hundred before  
I am a revolving door, I am a revolving door  
Joey, I'm working at a shop down on main street  
It pays the bills and keeps my head screwed on tight

But I feel astray cause we were never for staying so narrow, so  
Straight, and unwilling to tigh  
Was it ever real?  
I don't even feel like that girl anymore  
Was it heavenly?  
I don't even see through those eyes anymore  
A hundred smalls deaths, a hundred before  
I am a revolving door, I am a revolving door  
So what is time but a thief among men?  
Just a robber who moves on out of views?  
Forget the time, it's a watery friend  
It moves on and it streams as it wants to  
Joey, I need you more than ever before now  
You are the reminisce, remember my springtime  
I can rewind but I need you to playback



*To Live in Your Memories*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021

# Exhibited Works



*Beating Like a Heart*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021

- Cover: *The Boy Who Wasn't Afraid*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- The Dandelion Prince*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- American Rust*, Mixed media on paper, 18" x 24", 2021
- Before My Eyes, Before I Die*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Everything is Temporary*, Mixed media on paper, 18" x 24", 2021
- Dead Oceans*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- The Other Road*, Mixed media on paper, 18" x 24", 2021
- How to Disappear Completely*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- The Anatomy of a Past Life*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Beating Like a Heart*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Comes a Time*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- I Am*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Me and My Dog*, Mixed media on paper, 18" x 24", 2021
- Souvenir*, Mixed media on paper, 18" x 24", 2021
- Ain't Never Coming Back*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Lonely Anywhere*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Meanwhile...*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- An Unsettled Equilibrium*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Identity Amnesia*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Thinking of a Place*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Strangest Thing*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- The Absurdity of Forever*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- Borrowed Time*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- To Live in Your Memories*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021
- I Don't Live Here Anymore*, Mixed media on paper, 16" x 20", 2021

Meikel Church's collages feel like memories or dreams, set in an indeterminate time and place where characters often wander alone. Church repurposes images from vintage magazines to make his collages, recontextualizing them into imaginative scenes. The past as it exists within these surreal narratives is shaped by our interpretation, in the same way our version of the past is determined by our perception of it. The layered backgrounds bring to mind quilts assembled from scraps, the kind cobbled together and handed down in the same way histories are passed and shared.

Jessica Lenehan  
Curator



The Arts & Science Center has three aspects of collecting and exhibition: art of the Delta, art by Arkansas artists, and art by African American artists.

ASC is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction held by fewer than 4% of museums in the United States.

Sponsored by

