

albertz benda

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE
FEBRUARY 19 - APRIL 4, 2025
ALBERTZ BENDA, NEW YORK, NY

Scott Carrillo Azevedo, Kevin Brisco, Mark Ryan Chariker, Tommy Coleman, Rachel Libeskind, Amy Lincoln, Yves Scherer, Gamaliel Rodríguez, Kevin Umaña and Monsieur Zohore.



Yves Scherer, *Madame Cezanne*, White onyx, quarter sawn oak, 51 1/8 x 13 x 7 1/2 inches.



Rachel Libeskind, *Black horse / Black Dawn*, Found scrap aluminum with CNC cuts, digital UV print, velvet, upholstery and batting, glass, 40 1/2 x 31 x 2 1/4 inches

New York, NY | albertz benda is pleased to present *You Should've Been There*, a group exhibition curated by Aaron Levi Garvey that examines how memory both illuminates and obscures our understanding of lived experience. The exhibition brings together a diverse group of artists whose works explore the fluid, unreliable, and often poetic nature of recollection.

Just as trompe-l'œil in painting can fool the viewer to trust illusion as reality, memory performs its own sleight of hand. The mind regularly gathers, stores, and reshapes personal moments, embedding them deep within the subconscious. From family milestones and professional achievements to everyday routines, our memories are recited, revised, and reimaged through conversation and storytelling. Small gaps or inconsistencies in recall are often filled with convincing invention, transforming what we believe to be true into reconstructed narratives. These memorial adjustments can manifest as embellished anecdotes, blurred details, or subtle distortions that shift the tenor of the original moment.

This phenomenon parallels what psychologists describe as time slice errors. In these moments the emotional truth of an event remains “accurate,” yet the sequencing or location becomes misaligned. While the memory itself is real, the temporal or spatial frame has slipped. Without time-stamped precision, the brain rebuilds experiences using emotional cues, contextual clues, and associative links, creating recollections that are vivid and sincere even when partially out of order.

You Should've Been There reflects on this delicate balance between truth and invention. The works on view examine how memories evolve and how personal recollections intersect with shared cultural histories. Each artist offers a perspective on how emotions shape what we remember and how time alters the scale and significance of events. The exhibition considers memory not as a fixed archive but as

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an active and creative force, one that bends, reshapes, and reinterprets lived experience.

Rather than presenting inaccuracies as failures, the exhibition embraces the generative potential of distorted memory. These shifts reveal the ways we place ourselves within our own histories and illuminate how desire, imagination, and introspection influence what remains and what fades. Through painting, sculpture, and mixed media works, *You Should've Been There* invites viewers to reflect on the blurred border between fact and feeling, and to consider where the essence of truth resides: in the moment itself or in the act of remembering.

ABOUT AARON LEVI GARVEY

Aaron Levi Garvey is a Jewish-American Curator and Historian specializing in Modern and Contemporary Arts and Culture and currently serves as Director of the Art Museum of West Virginia University and Curator-at-Large for the Hilliard Art Museum. His career includes senior curatorial roles at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University, The Andy Warhol Museum, and as Founding Chief Curator of The Hudson Eye and Long Road Projects Foundation. Throughout his career, Garvey has organized projects and curated nearly 100 solo and group exhibitions across the United States, including projects at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, Atlanta Contemporary, SCAD Museum of Art, the Contemporary Arts Center of New Orleans, Alabama Contemporary, and STABLE in Washington, DC.

In addition to his institutional work, he has served as a juror for the Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize, Creative Capital and United States Artists and is collaborating curator with Independent Curators International. In 2016 he co-founded Long Road Projects Foundation, a multi-city nonprofit residency and publishing platform for supporting experimental and community-based artistic practices. He currently serves on several non-profit boards within the art world and beyond and actively lectures and conducts seminars at universities internationally.

ABOUT ALBERTZ BENDA

Founded in 2015, albertz benda is a contemporary art gallery with an international program exploring material and textility as well as cultural and social dialogues. Our Chelsea space is host to rotating exhibitions with an emphasis on solo presentations of emerging artists, new research into historic figures, and thematic group exhibitions. In 2021, the gallery expanded to a second location in Los Angeles. Featuring an evolving identity separate from our New York program, the LA space is realized within the context of a domestic setting, advancing new connections between visual arts, craft, and design.

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