

ADRIENNE ELISE TARVER***SHE WHO SITS*****SEPTEMBER 12 – OCTOBER 10, 2026****OCHI LA**

OCHI is pleased to present *She who sits*, an exhibition of paintings by Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary artist Adrienne Elise Tarver. The works on view originated as Tarver's debut solo commission with Public Art Fund, first presented across roughly 300 transit shelters and newsstands in New York, Boston, and Chicago in 2024. *She who sits* will be on view at OCHI, located at 605 N. Western Avenue in Los Angeles, CA, from September 12 through October 10, 2026. A public reception will be held at the gallery on Saturday, September 12 from 6–8pm.

The paintings in *She who sits* center on Vera Otis, an invented figure Tarver has spent the past ten years shaping, sparked originally by an anonymous woman glimpsed in a secondhand photograph. Each new painting expands Otis's story, giving Tarver a vehicle for working through her own family history and for considering how personal memory folds into larger historical narratives. Across this body of work, Otis becomes a study in stillness: drawing loosely on mid-century Black actresses including Dorothy Dandridge, Eartha Kitt, Hattie McDaniel, and Lena Horne, she never performs for an audience. Seated in interiors and outdoor scenes alike, she is unhurried and self-possessed, so that an ordinary pose of rest becomes a quiet claim on presence.

Tarver draws on an archive that mixes personal snapshots, found photographs, and clippings pulled from vintage magazines, layering material from different eras to root Otis's invented biography in real historical texture. The resulting paintings sit at the intersection of portraiture and myth-making, using color and interior space to hold both the specificity of a single imagined life and a broader meditation on rest as a form of agency.

Commissioned by Public Art Fund for Adrienne Elise Tarver: She who sits, an exhibition on 300 JCDecaux bus shelters and newsstands across New York City, Chicago, and Boston on view from August 14 – November 24, 2024.

Adrienne Elise Tarver (b. 1985, New Jersey, US) received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BFA from Boston University. Tarver's work has been exhibited internationally at venues including the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Ridgefield, CT;

Brattleboro Museum of Art in Brattleboro, VT; Atlanta Contemporary Art Center in Atlanta, GA; Wedge Curatorial in Toronto, Canada; A-M Gallery in Sydney, Australia; Academy Art Museum in Easton, MD; Hesse Flatow, Wave Hill, Hollis Taggart, Dinner Gallery, and BRIC Project Room in New York, NY; and OCHI in Los Angeles, CA and Sun Valley, ID. Tarver is the recipient of awards and residencies including a 2022-2023 Silver Art Projects Residency, 2023 Artshack Ceramics Residency, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston University, and a 2022 Nancy Graves Visual Art Grant. She has been awarded commissions for projects with New York Metro Transit Authority, Public Art Fund, Google, Art Aspen, and Pulse Art Fair. Tarver's work has been featured in various publications including The New York Times, Forbes, Brooklyn Magazine, ArtNews, ArtNet, Blouin ArtInfo, Whitewall Magazine, Hyperallergic, and the Woman's Art Journal. Tarver is an Assistant Professor in the department of Fine Arts at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. Tarver lives and works in Brooklyn, NY and is represented by OCHI.