

Boogey Men debuts a suite of new sculptures that reflect the significance, strength, and timeliness of artist Hugh Hayden's voice. In works that range in scale from the domestic to the monumental, Hayden explores how we project human vices and ambitions onto worlds natural and unnatural. For his evocative and visceral work in wood, Hayden selects trees whose species resonate with personal and cultural experience to mine deeply rooted histories and societal scars. He also works in copper and steel, forging apparitions that are unmistakably present in our space. *Boogey Men* explores the theme of camouflage as well, evincing Hayden's continued interest in how humans use materials to blend in, obscure, and imagine.

The exhibition has been divided into multiple spaces that collectively suggest a path through a suburban exterior scene and a fraught home interior. A white carpet connects the chambers, growing increasingly soiled over time as it aggregates our steps through this uncanny environment. Within this course, we are confronted with a haunting replica of a draped police vehicle—which is both hyperreal and cartoonish—to reflect upon symbols of institutional power and fear in the United States. The exhibition culminates with *Nude*, a non-gendered, non-racialized skeletal figure made of leafless branches that exudes life and death at once. Inside this surreal arena, Hayden employs what he terms “organs of identification” to describe signifiers of identity—skin, hair, bark, leaves—that, in his hands, are fluid, unstable, and emancipatory.

Hugh Hayden (b. 1983, Dallas) lives and works in New York. His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey (2020), and White Columns, New York (2018). Hayden's work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Princeton University Art Museum; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; and the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York.

Hugh Hayden: Boogey Men is organized by ICA Miami and curated by Alex Gartenfeld, Irma and Norman Braman Artistic Director. The presentation at Blaffer Art Museum is organized by Tyler Blackwell, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Associate Curator.

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