



EVITA  
TEZENO

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*The Moments We Share Are the  
Memories We Keep*



Evita Tezeno  
*The Rhythm of Street Life*, 2023  
Mixed media collage and acrylic on canvas  
48 x 72 x 1.5 in (121.9 x 182.9 x 3.8 cm)

As a continuation of *My Life, My Story*, Tezeno's 2022 solo exhibition, the series builds on visual narratives depicting soulful everyday scenes of Black life—introducing us to new friends, family, and endearing moments from the artist's life. Tezeno uses a combination of richly patterned hand-painted papers, acrylic paint, vintage buttons inherited from her grandmother, and other media to portray the intimacies and joys of growing up in South Texas. She incorporates her love for seeing people dressed elegantly into figures adorned in stylish clothing to capture a sense of dignity.

In "Beyond the Path There is a New Birth," Tezeno entrusts us with vulnerable life changes and embraces the process of personal discovery and growth. Themes of healing through nature are evinced in "Reflections on Times Past," which shows Tezeno in a reflective state with a bouquet of colorful tulips as a healing reminder of the need to be open to the presence of God and birds as symbols of the artist's guardians and keepers of her cherished memories.

Culturally rich moments from the artist's childhood are depicted in "When Family Gathers," in which a young Tezeno is portrayed sitting at a dinner table engaged in conversation with multigenerational family members. The artist highlights

meaningful exchanges and the significance of shared meals and conversation in Black American households. In "The Rhythm of Street Life," Tezeno recalls days spent out on the town with her family and the dynamism of Port Arthur's bustling street life and its vibrant Black community in the 1960s.

The artist introduces us to her great-uncle, Wilson, and his wife, Irene. Belying his serious demeanor, she recalls Wilson as an exuberant presence in her life whose beautiful energy stuck with her after his passing. And Auntie Ida, a family friend who is also part of the artist's community, represents the progression of friends into family. Likewise, in "When I Grow Up..." we become acquainted with her brother's best friend, whom she remembers as a hustler and storyteller with great aspirations. To Tezeno, the young boy exemplifies the positive impact of storytelling on human connection.

*The Moments We Share Are the Memories We Keep* is a fictional extension of Tezeno's fondest memories, the stories of family members across generations, and her own personal dreams. Most of all, these visual anecdotes are a testament to the artist's ability to create indisputable beauty out of the simpler moments in life.



Evita Tezeno  
*Childhood Friends*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
36 x 48 in (91.4 x 121.9 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*Deep Conversation*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
60 x 48 x 1.5 in (152.4 x 121.9 x 3.8 cm)

Evita Tezeno  
*Choose This Day to Whom You Serve*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
50 x 40 in (127 x 101.6 cm)





Evita Tezeno  
*When Family Gathers*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
60 x 48 in (152.4 x 121.9 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*A Simple Life*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
50 x 40 in (127 x 101.6 cm)





Evita Tezeno  
*"Auntie" Ida*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
48 x 30 in (121.9 x 76.2 cm)

Evita Tezeno  
*Beyond the Path There is a New Birth*, 2023  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
60 x 48 in (152.4 x 121.9 cm)





Evita Tezeno  
*Don't Be Shy, You're a Handsome Boy*, 2023  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
60 x 48 x 1.5 in (152.4 x 121.9 x 3.8 cm)

Evita Tezeno  
*Reflections of Times Past*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
60 x 48 in (152.4 x 121.9 cm)





Evita Tezeno  
*Irene and Wilson, 2023*  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
60 x 48 x 1.5 in (152.4 x 121.9 x 3.8 cm)

Evita Tezeno  
*You Don't Bring Me Flowers So I Plant Them Myself!*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
60 x 48 x 1.5 in (152.4 x 121.9 x 3.8 cm)





Evita Tezeno  
*When I Grow Up...*, 2023  
Acrylic, mixed media collage, and buttons on canvas  
48 x 36 x 1.5 in (121.9 x 91.4 x 3.8 cm)





Evita Tezeno  
*Think and wonder, wonder and think, 2023*  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)

Evita Tezeno  
*Be Grateful, 2023*  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all, 2023*  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)

Evita Tezeno  
*Don't you meddle with me, and I won't meddle with you, 2023*  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)





Evita Tezeno  
*Express Yourself*, 2023  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*I look good. I fee good*, 2023  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*Keep your opinions to yourself*, 2023  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*When things change inside you, things change around you*, 2023  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*Give me strength to accept what I can't change, 2023*  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*Can I Trust You With My Heart?, 2023*  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*Accept who you are; and walk in it, 2023*  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno  
*Leave a little sparkle wherever you go, 2023*  
Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas  
24 x 18 x 1.5 in (61 x 45.7 x 3.8 cm)



Evita Tezeno (b. 1960, Port Arthur, Texas) is a graduate of Lamar University and lives and works in Dallas. She is the recipient of the 2023 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in Fine Arts from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in New York.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Out of Many* (2023) at the Houston Museum of African American Culture, Houston, TX; *My Life, My Story* (2022) and *Better Days* (2021), at Luis De Jesus Los Angeles; *Memories and Montages* (2021) at Just Lookin' Gallery, Hagerstown, MD; *Memories Create Our Yesterdays and Tomorrows* (2019) at the Thelma Harris Garris Gallery, Oakland, CA; *#Us Too: Phenomenal Women* (2019) at the African American Museum, Dallas, TX; *Memories That Speak to My Soul* (2018), Stella Jones Gallery, New Orleans, LA; *Thoughts of Time Gone By* (2017) and *Memories From Yesterday* (2014), at the Peg Alston Gallery in New York, NY. Selected two-person exhibitions include *Sharing Memories* (2021), featuring Tezeno and Jas Mardis, at the ArtCentre of Plano, Plano, TX; and *Piece by Piece* (2020), including the artistry of Carolyn Crump, at Just Lookin' Gallery, Hagerstown, MD.

Her work is included in the permanent collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, African American Museum of Dallas, Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA; Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar; Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH; Bill and Christy Gautreaux Collection, Kansas City; Arthur M. Lewis, Los Angeles; Rodney M. Miller collection, New York, NY; and The Bunker: The Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Palm Beach, FL, among others.

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