

# FROELICK GALLERY

For immediate release:

**Willie Little**

## *The Shacks My Daddy Built*

August 5<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Live First Thursday Broadcast: August 6, 5pm on Froelick Gallery Facebook and YouTube

**\*\*Open by appointment- please contact the gallery for scheduling\*\***

714 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209

Tuesday – Saturday 11am to 5:30pm

503-222-1142 [info@froelickgallery.com](mailto:info@froelickgallery.com) [froelickgallery.com](http://froelickgallery.com)

---



Willie Little's series of ceramic shacks, created during a 2019 residency at Portland's Ash Street Project, is based on his parents' tobacco barns and grocery store (which doubled as an illegal after-hours liquor house) in North Carolina. The multimedia artist's first foray into this medium, his slab-built structures are glazed and textured to evoke the weathered facades of tar paper and corrugated tin buildings of his childhood, and they serve as a setting for rich stories of individual and communal lives in a Black rural

America of the past. Accompanying these sculptures is a series of two-dimensional works on wood panel that echo the stepped-gable storefront of Little's Grocery; surface patinas and treatments of rust, green oxide, graphite and dried, prickly cockleburrs are likewise suggestive of places that have withstood and borne witness to much.

According to the artist, the Jerry-rigged shacks his daddy built were put together Bazooka blow-gum bubble gum, spit in a prayer, yet held up through hurricanes and tornadoes. These shacks were also put together with a love for home and family, off Sticks Road, near Little Washington, North Carolina.

Willie Little received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has had solo exhibitions at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, and the Pounder Kone' Artspace in Los Angeles. Notable group exhibitions have been at the Corcoran in Washington D.C., the California Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles and the SFMOMA Artist's Gallery. Most recently, he was included in *America's Whispered Truths*, a two-person exhibition with Renee Billingslea at Archer Gallery, Clark College, Vancouver, WA. His installation *Juke Joint* is in the collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

Please contact the gallery for reproduction quality images.