

FROELICK GALLERY

For immediate release:

Welcoming:

Willie Little

For his first solo exhibition with us

January 16 – February 24, 2018

First Thursday Reception: February 1, 2018, 5pm – 8:00pm

714 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:30 to 5:30pm

Exhibition tour & discussion with the artist: Saturday, February 3, 2018



Froelick Gallery is pleased to welcome **Willie Little** for his first exhibition with us. An artist and storyteller originally from rural North Carolina, he draws upon his early experiences observing the comings and goings at his parent's tarpaper and tin roof store, which served as a hub for the local African-American community as both a grocery and as an after-hours juke joint, a place for dancing and social gathering. His sculptural assemblages include scaled-down versions of this structure, made of wood, metal and roofing shingles. Little paints brief sentences on these- a passage about the daytime business of selling candy and provisions on one plane juxtaposed with a mention of the nightlife with its dixie cup gin and romantic possibilities on the other. Some other works incorporate vintage racial stereotype objects such as pickaninny dolls that he embellishes, reclaims and redefines beyond their original harmful and hateful intent. With compelling craftsmanship and a humorous edge, Little fuses pointed critique of America's past and present dilemmas with affection for and inquiry in to his own personal history.

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.

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