

ARIEL "ARYEL" RENÉ JACKSON  
Porch Throne, 2020  
Courtesy of the artist and  
Ivester Contemporary



## Ariel "Aryel" René Jackson

In Ariel, "Aryel" René Jackson's two video works *Doubt & Imagination* (2021) and *The future is a constant wake* (2019), soil becomes a grounding element for exploring histories of colonialism, erasure and lineage. Inspired by a conversation between two archaeologists who discuss the possible uses of colonovare—Black pottery made in the American south dating from the colonial era—*Doubt & Imagination* uncovers, digs and speculates on this research. Likewise, *The future is a constant wake* grounds itself in the somatic experience of Black expression. Ancestry is traced in the soil as the graceful and ritualistic motion of a foot dragging across the earth, making and remaking patterns of its presence. Made in collaboration with dance choreographer Michael J. Love, Jackson reminds us that engaging with one's past can be a communal effort.

Transforming construction materials into pigmented landscapes, memory is translated and material is made abstract in *Unfold* (2019) and *Porch Throne* (2020). Two works from Jackson's *Grid Works* series, *Porch Throne* contains a printed image of "Grandpa's porch chair" that is partially embedded and rearranged. In an irregular grid, parts of this image and memory are reworked, while large swaths of textured color overtake the rest. In *Unfold*, a photo of "Grandpa & Uncle in Field" is printed and similarly embedded. In both works, memories of place and

landscape are invoked and reconstructed, asking the viewer to consider how malleability shows up in representation.

Raised in New Orleans, LA, Jackson lives and works in Austin, TX. Their work has been shown nationally and internationally at galleries and institutions, including the Digital Arts Resource Centre, Ottawa, Canada; the Dallas Contemporary, TX; Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Seattle, WA; Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, LA; Depaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL; Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI; and Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY. Jackson was a Van Lier Fellow/Winner/Workspace artist-in-residence at Wave Hill in 2016. They are an alum of The University of Texas at Austin; Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine; Royal College of Art Exchange Program, London; and The Cooper Union, New York.

—Cecilia Lu