



Selected works
William Saah Tapero

1999 in Paris, France
Lives and works in Paris



Legacy



Legacy I 81 x 100 cm, acrylic on canvas

While revisiting his own family photo albums and exploring anonymous snapshots found in flea markets, William became aware of how personal memories can become decontextualized, and ultimately anonymized, over time. Once-cherished images, stripped of their stories, can turn into mere objects. Fascinated by the shifting meaning and value of photographs depending on their viewer, William advanced the process by adding a new step, which became the basis of this series. After researching and gathering dozens of anonymous photographs - from the 1920s to the present- he began a meticulous process of selection and collage. Through this, he assembled fictional families, weaving together strangers into imagined kinships. This act of reconstruction gave him the narrative control that allowed for historical reconstruction.

Legacy is not only inherited, it's also constructed. Through this series, William gives form on what is carried, reshaped or invented across generations. These works reveal how legacy can emerge not just from bloodlines, but from aesthetic intuition, deliberate compositional choices and imaginative reconstruction.



Legacy II 81 x 100 cm, acrylic on canvas



Legacy III 81 x 100 cm, acrylic on canvas



Legacy IV 81 x 100 cm, acrylic on canvas



Legacy V 81 x 100 cm, acrylic on canvas



Modernism



Modernism VII 33 x 46 cm, acrylic on canvas



Modernism II 27 x 46 cm, acrylic on canvas

African artworks have long occupied a complex and contested place within Western cultural institutions. Their presence in Europe expanded during the colonial era, accompanied by systems of extraction, categorization, and display. Over time, these objects became fixtures of museums and galleries—having been removed from their original contexts and reframed as aesthetic artifacts.

In the 21st century, growing debates around restitution and cultural ownership have reignited topics of legitimacy and institutional authority. Yet, beyond political discourse, the enduring display of these works within modern Western architecture have allowed for new aesthetics to emerge. The minimal settings invite for contemplation, in contrast to the active roles these objects once held in the spiritual and social life.

It is precisely this tension that these paintings explore. Layering flatness and depth, sculpture and contemporary architectures, these works are a case study of the evolving shapes in which beauty takes place.



Shipment 80 x 130 cm, acrylic on canvas



Modernism III 35 x 24 cm, acrylic on canvas



The Highest Standard 50 x 40 cm, tempera & acrylic on canvas



Modernism IV 30 x 30 cm, acrylic on canvas



Modernism VI 30 x 30 cm, acrylic on canvas



Modernism V 30 x 30 cm, acrylic on canvas

