

## “Pieces of Home” by Colby Deal

### About the Artwork



Under-resourced communities and people of color have, throughout history, experienced explicit cultural erasure. Through photography and a family of mediums, artist Colby Deal preserves these cultural characteristics through multilayered works. The process of preservation serves as a vehicle connecting the present to the past through an exploration of experiences. As many travelers experience the work, the intention of the artist is to both spark imagination and historical curiosity of the community and culture within his hometown. For example, the texture of an elegant dress may inspire a mother to reflect on her childhood, now she's prompted to pass the dress on to her daughter. A father may be compelled to discuss land ownership with his son after viewing a photograph of an abandoned house, an architectural detail reminds a grandchild of how their grandmother took care of the entire family in her tiny home.

The placement of these works made available to the community and passersby alike hopes to encourage self-appreciation while honoring the legacy of marginalized Houston communities. They offer the opportunity to explore the preexisting cultural and aesthetic equity within the city while seemingly transcending time, fusing classic black and white photography and architectural aestheticism with contemporary subjects.

In the age of imagery and information leading the forefront of altering humanity, the psychological effect of perpetuating practical narratives of a culture fuels Colby Deal's curiosity to search for and present the most accurate one. A communal repertoire and visual bond are executed through lens-based work, while the root concept of preservation is carried out with each presentation of the lens-based work.

The qualities of imagery and presentation are crucial when conducting interactive studies in a community to observe the psychosis of society based on imagery and placement.

### About the Artist



Colby Deal is a photographic artist born and raised in Houston, Texas, and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in the practice of photography from The University of Houston. Within his practice, he explores the culmination of elements of the psychological environment as well as the physical. He shows the dynamic range of family, community, and the individual by combining street photography and portraiture to capture vibrant communities. In recent years he has incorporated the medium of sculpture and public art as a means of preserving cultural characteristics that are being erased.

Colby is directly inspired by his upbringing by getting to see his family's photographs that were mostly taken by his father. This appreciation for slowing down and concentrating on photographing what's right in front of him, "The Now" has led him to be more in touch with using analog photography. Deal is an alumnus of Project Row Houses summer

residency, and Red Line Contemporary Art Center residency in Denver, Colorado, and has recently been awarded an exhibition at the Houston Museum of African American Culture.