

Biddy's Garden
JUNE EDMONDS



June Edmonds
Ahead, Behind, Beneath, 2021
Acrylic on canvas
72 x 122 in

MERCEDES DORAME



Homage to our Tongva Elders, 2022
Site-specific mixed media installation

Biddy's Garden
FRANCESCA LALANNE



Load V, 2022

Engraved oxidized steel, redwood, screen print on file folder, aluminum rods, plexiglass, stainless steel cable
40 x 30 x 3 1/2 in

Load IV, 2022

Engraved oxidized steel, redwood, screen print on file folder, aluminum rods, plexiglass, stainless steel cable
40 x 30 x 3 1/2 in

Load III, 2022

Engraved oxidized steel, redwood, screen print on file folder, aluminum rods, plexiglass, stainless steel cable
40 x 30 x 3 1/2 in

ADRIENNE DEVINE



Choreography of Triumph, 2022

Quadtych: Canvas, acrylic, colored pencils, steel, brass, and aluminum wire, raffia, cowrie shell, brass hinges.

Freedom Staff: Resist and Defend, 2022

Biddy's Garden

Palm leaf sheath, bamboo, steel, brass and aluminum wire, raffia, enamel paint marker, fishing weights, cast iron gear.

Biddy Mason, 2022

Canvas, acrylic, photo transfer on watercolor paper, cowrie shells, bottled aventurine crystal

Village Dance, 2021

A mixed media retablo

Throne, 2019

Antique Chippendale Chair embellished with woodburning, burlap, raffia, wire, beads, acrylic, jewelry findings, metal finial.

Jessie Mae, 2014

Acrylic on canvas panel

Painting by Erin DeVine

Other Objects: Baobab fruit hull and seeds, seashells, chinaware, brooch, plastic flowers, sage, palo santo, incense, candle, stone egg with baobab tree design.

About the installation

Biddy Mason's story is one of triumph. I call this installation *Choreography of Triumph* as the wire figures affixed to the canvas pages dance in celebration of her life, her legacy, and her victory. My current series of wire works evolved from a piece called *Choreography of Thought*, a work inspired by Dogon ways of knowing. *Choreography* is a persistent theme in these works as dancing figures imbue spirit, animating and bringing vitality to my process of making. The figures are affixed to four hinged canvases with a textured ground and palm tree silhouettes; iconic references to Southern California, where Biddy made her mark. I see these silhouettes against a pinkish glow in the early morning skies as I gaze southeast from my dining room window. A palm leaf sheath serves as a shield for the freedom staff, made of bamboo, that bears a simple message written in Adinkra alphabet: *Resist - Defend*. These are words from Ghana's national anthem: "Bold to defend ... resist oppressors' rule with all our will and might for evermore."

Biddy Mason's portrait is flanked by cowrie shells and bottled aventurine crystals. Cowrie shells represent currency and green aventurine is a stone of prosperity. It is said to provide strength, confidence, courage, and happiness. It is also a comforter and has healing properties. These qualities were demonstrated throughout Biddy Mason's life.

The Throne is to honor her place within the activation of the Transformative Arts creative space and is placed next to the freedom staff. They emanate the power, majesty, and respect of her presence. Seashells along with remnants of a baobab fruit that I brought back from a journey to the African continent, are reminders of our connection to Africa. The chinaware and other small objects relate to personal rituals that honor the generations of women before me as well as those who follow.

The painting of a rose, called *Jessie Mae*, was done by my youngest daughter Erin who was inspired by her grandmother Jessie Mae (my mother), whose flourishing gardens, abundant with fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers, helped to cultivate her love of nature. I was motivated to honor her memory in the space of Biddy's Garden.

Adrienne DeVine, February 14, 2022

Biddy's Garden

SILVI NAÇI



Qilime, 2021

Digital paintings translated to traditional Albanian woven tapestry created in collaboration with women in northern Albania

5 x 7 ft

Biddy's Garden



Hard (Fort), 2020–ongoing
hundreds of 1x2cm white and brown ceramic fasule



After Rozafa, 2021
High fire ceramic
10 1/2 x 17 x 4 in



Untitled (Tabaka), 2021
mid fire ceramic
7.5 x 11 in

Biddy's Garden



Untitled (Tabaka), 2021
mid fire ceramic
8.5 x 10.5 in



Untitled (Tabaka), 2021
mid fire ceramic
15 x 15 in