



Genesis Tramine, *The Lord is My Shepard*, 2020. Photo: Craig Smith

Genesis Tramine's painting process is that of a spiritual practice, and the pictorial plane is where she locates her sanctuary. Tramine's relationship to God, her mother, and grandmother has formed the foundation for her painterly investigations, which commence with convenings with God. A combination of processes and rituals are at the core of Tramine's desire to highlight how integral her Christian upbringing is to her technique, and painting is to her understanding of religion. At a young age, Tramine began drawing during church, doodling sketches in the hymn books and Bibles to distract her from being disruptive. What started as a way to focus her attention became the thoroughfare into her current artmaking strategy. Often culling iconography from theological teachings, her distorted portraits are on the verge of figuration and precipice of abstraction. It's this tension that allows for these seemingly disparate influences to converge into large, vividly-colored canvases that blend Tramine's distinctive visual vocabulary with allegorical references to the Bible.

Created with oil slick, oil pastel, and Holy Spirit—a material referenced in all of the paintings the artist exhibited in her 2021 exhibition *Evidence of Grace* at Almine Rech's Brussels location—*The Lord is my Shepard* (2020) continues along the path of Tramine's oeuvre. Here, we see at least eight eyes painted across the figure's face, one at the center of the forehead, perhaps representing the third eye chakra. An "all seeing" God is the cornerstone of Christianity, and Tramine's frequent usage of repeated eyes as a gesture also "implicate[s] the viewer." Created during the height of the global Coronavirus pandemic amidst the ongoing movement for racial justice in the United States, *Evidence of Grace* was Tramine's "visual 'sermon'...articulat[ing] her faith, amplif[ying] her relationship with God, and provid[ing] a sanctuary for a world in need of healing."

It is this perfect combination of dissimilarity that draws the viewer into Tramine's work, and the brilliantly skilled balance of color and composition that keeps us engaged. The unique combination of religious and secular influences point to Tramine's spirituality and desire to create points of access across ideas, groups, and people.

-Allison Glenn, Senior Curator  
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