

TOWN & COUNTRY

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Plus, Akea Brionne's show at Lyles & King Gallery.

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Akea Brionne at Lyles & King Gallery

For art to see this month, there is artist Akea Brionne at Lyles & King Gallery in New York City. The exhibition features a series of works that trace her investigation into her grandfather's journey between Mississippi and New Mexico in the 1970s at the end of The Great Migration. It marks the Detroit and Kansas City-based textile artist and sculptor's first solo presentation.



LYLES AND KING GALLERY

Home Grown, 2023, Digital woven image on jacquard, rhinestones, poly-fil, and thread, 60 x 48 inches.



LYLES AND KING GALLERY
Oh Dear, 2023 Digital woven image on jacquard, rhinestones, poly-fil, and thread 48 x 48 inches, 121.9 x 121.9 cm.

The series of works depict portraits of subjects nestled within nature-filled settings. There is a man donning an orange, polka-dotted shirt sitting in between an opened gate filled with gardenia. A butterfly in the same color as their shirt flies above him. There's a group portrait of three, two standing one sitting, on a seaside porch.

What is most noteworthy, however, is the expert combination of materials. Is that border... made of rhinestone? Are these.. cotton? or Wool? Are the shirts... jacquard? I couldn't help but be reminded of caviar when taking a closer look at the orange wings of the butterfly. They sit at a crossroads of appearing painted, woven, and digitally made (some of her work is, indeed, digitally woven). Somehow, you can almost even hear the surroundings the subjects are placed in. You can hear the waves crashing, and feel the sun beating down. Familial explorations can be emotionally tumultuous. Brionne's exhibition proves that it can also be the opposite.