

**JAMES
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PRESS RELEASE



“In Search of Lost Time”

January 9 to February 27, 2020

Gallery Hours are: By Appointment Only

Additional images are available upon request

Left: Fay Jones: “The Storytellers” 2019, acrylic and collage on paper 42” x 44 ½”

James Harris Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition titled “In Search of Lost Time” focusing on three artists, Viola Frey, Fay Jones, and Akio Takamori. Inspired by the Proust novel, the pandemic and our last exhibition at our Pioneer Square address, this show draws connections with the nature of time, the transportive quality of memory, and the immense pleasure in the details of looking at objects. The exhibition demonstrates how artists engage with their personal histories to present a reflection of humanity in their work. Each artist chosen often draws on their lived experience for the basis of the objects they create. Proust’s novel “In Search of Lost time” emphasizes the link between reading and self-knowledge. He believed that with each reading of a book, a different meaning emerged. This can be said to be true when looking at art. Seeing things again often will lead to new interpretations. The exhibition is organized into three chapters, Akio Takamori’s drawings and sculpture will be on view in first room when you enter the gallery, Viola Frey’s works on paper and ceramic sculpture will be displayed in the middle space and Fay Jones in our back gallery.

Akio Takamori was a seminal figure in ceramic art, whose work over the past thirty years has left an enduring impact on the Pacific Northwest arts scene and the medium itself. His sculpture has always been figurative, yet they transcend its worldly resemblance through his keen ability to embody deeper metaphorical meaning that explores socio-cultural identity, human relationships, and iconographical forms. The smaller than life size scale of his work suggests the distinct realm that his figures occupy, the immortal realm of myth, culture, and perennial archetypes. Fay Jones’ work usually centers on the world around her as she develops ideas and personal iconography based on family, friends and experiences. Her works on paper have always been rooted in a psychology of the mind. For over 45 years, Fay Jones has created a body of work that is explicitly representational and highly autobiographical. Her work explores our collective and individual responses to representation and memory, and creates a psychological dance that is both playful and thought provoking. Viola Frey was a cultural observer and her ceramic sculpture and works on paper reflected how she interpreted the world. One core theme explored throughout her career was the social commentary on the power structure between male and female and the roles they played during her lifetime. This investigation is prescient today with the continued struggle for equal rights. Through these works, we get a glimpse at a voice that combines visual poetry and social commentary. A vision that conjures up narratives and anecdotes rooted in Frey’s experience as a female artist.

This marks our last exhibition in Pioneer Square. The gallery will reopen in a new location in Seattle in the fall 2021. We are also looking to expand the gallery’s footprint to Dallas as we divide our time between the Texas and Washington.