

MARVIN TATE

ARTWORKS 2007 – 2013

Presented by *The White Palette*
at the home and studio of the artist

Saturday, April 6, 2013

The artworks in this catalogue represent a selection of Marvin Tate's dioramas. By juxtaposing found and precious objects in boxes, wooden drawers and crates, Tate carefully sets a stage for his poems, where desolate landscapes and empty rooms are charged with memories and unspoken truths about life and the passage of time. His boxed assemblages capture the beauty of obscure settings while creating a sense of attraction to the unknown, as one might feel when they see the light.

My name is Marvin Tate. I was born in 1959 on Chicago's notorious West Side. There were no expectations in my family of six other than to grow up, raise your family and take care of those who took care of you. However, I was restless and imbued with an imagination and love for creating stories. My first performance was on a playground in the summer of 1970 where, despite my shyness, I was coerced into reciting poems given to me by my sister, which I'd memorized and shared for my stunned classmates. A few months later, I witnessed my mother get shot in a random act of violence. I share this tragedy with you not to gain your sympathy, but so that you can understand my journey and diligence in becoming an artist, parent and husband.

The impact of marriage and parenting altered my concept of the artist as renegade and agent for social change. I had to "grow up"; no longer could I do art for art's sake, like so many of my friends. Though several friends had made a living as an artist, 90% of them could not maintain a happy marriage or relationship. In some ways I understand their plight—parenting and paying a mortgage is time-consuming and can impose a kind of curfew on one's imagination and lifestyle. Truth be told, there are times when I, too, have felt that marriage and parenting had eclipsed my passion and individuality. On the other hand, that commitment has provided me a sense of stability, structure and accountability.

In May 2013, my daughter will be graduating and heading off to college. Although nourishing a child is endless, I feel I've at least regained a sense of purpose. I have given my daughter the necessary tools to compete and etch out her own beliefs and goals in a diverse and complicated world. After all, what is life but the pursuit of happiness, attaining peace within one's self, pursuing lifelong relationships and creating and sharing (if you are an artist) a dialogue, a smile or a simple nod of recognition.

Marvin Tate is a performance poet and songwriter. His poems and performances have been experienced in a number of local, national and international venues, including NPR's This American Life, Three Walls Gallery, the Nuyorican Poets Café, Def Poetry Jam, Lollapalooza, the Book Fort at the Pitchfork Music Festival, the Chicago Blues Festival and the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, Netherlands. His diverse talents have given him the opportunity to share the stage with such artists as Annie Sprinkle, Leroy Bach (Wilco, Beth Orton, Liz Phair,) Andrew Bird, Ken Nordine, Amiri Baraka, Bernie Worrell of Funkadelic, Kelly Hogan, Patterson Hood (Drive-By Truckers), the late Oscar Brown Jr. and the bands Antibalas and Tortoise. Tate has taught poetry and art in the Chicago Public Schools for over 17 years and will have his second book of poetry, The Amazing Mister Orange, published in 2014. Also in the works is a collaborative project with singer-songwriters Tim Kinsella and Angel Olsen. Tate has received various accolades, including the 2004 Gwendolyn Brooks Hands on Stanza Award and the 2007 Illinois Art Council Award.



Marvin Tate

"Once Upon a Mind", 2012

11,5 in. high x 9,5 in. wide x 3 in. deep

Darkroom box, acrylic, found objects, miniatures, twigs and wood

\$250



Marvin Tate

"Gussie", 2012

11,5 in. high x 10,5 in. wide x 1 in. deep

Hay, twigs, doll dress, wood and acrylic

\$250



Marvin Tate

"Waiting for the train with James Coburn", 2012

5,5 in. high x 7,5 in. wide x 5,5 in. deep

Wood, old postcard, twigs, acrylic, glass, figurine, LED light

SOLD



Marvin Tate

"Nova", 2011

10,5 in. high x 8,5 in. wide x 2,5 in. deep

Shoe lid box, lightbulb, figurine, glitter, wood and encapso

\$350



Marvin Tate

"The Muellers", 2013

7 in. high x 8,5 in. wide x 6,5 deep

Wood, miniatures, found objects and acrylic

\$300



Marvin Tate

"Ghost Leg", 2011

9,5 in. high x 12 in. wide

Remnants of retread truck tires, wood, acrylic, encapso, canvas and broken tree branch

\$300



Marvin Tate

"Primary Colors", 2011

5,5 in. high x 10,5 in. wide x 2,5 in. deep

Found objects, encapso, wood, acrylic and miniature

\$250



"Aunt Mushi", 2010

9,5 in. high x 10 in. wide x 1 in. deep

Wood, acrylic, miniature, figurine and encapso

\$250



Marvin Tate

"Explosion", 2011

10,5 in. high x 12 in. wide

Red dirt, acrylic, canvas, wood and encapso

\$200



Marvin Tate

"Insomnia in NYC", 2013

11 in. high x 6 in. wide x 6 in. deep

Old box, mosaic, tile, acrylic, miniature and found objects

\$250



Marvin Tate

"Devil Night", 2007

7 in. high x 7 in. wide x 4,5 in. deep

Cigar box, found objects, branches, twigs, acrylic and LED light

\$300



Marvin Tate

"Going Nowhere Fast", 2012

7 in. high x 10,5 in. wide x 1 in. deep

Cardboard, miniature, broken glass, acrylic and wood

\$200



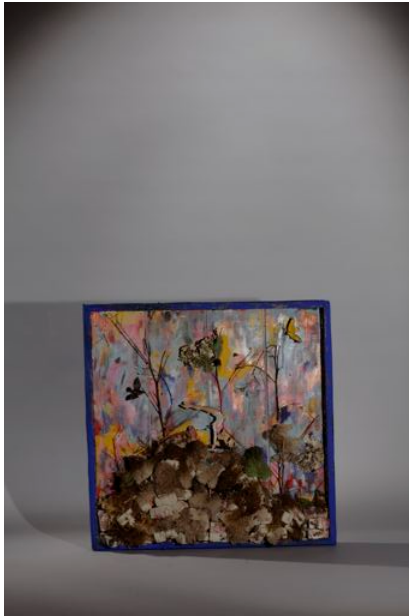
Marvin Tate

"Highway Jesus", 2010

13,5 in. high x 19,5 in. wide x 4 in. deep

Drawer, fabric, sticks, miniature and found objects

\$300



Marvin Tate

"My Technicolor Garden", 2009

17 in. high x 17 in. wide x 1 in. deep

Crate, shrub, styrofoam, found objects, figurines and twigs

\$250



Marvin Tate

"The Curtain", 2005

6,5 in. high x 5 in. wide x 4,5 in. deep

Cigar box, antique miniatures, LED light, decorative paper and mesh

\$200



Marvin Tate

"Tree Sitter", 2013

14 in. high x 11 in. wide x 1 in. deep

Shoe box, figurine, miniature, twigs, encapso and acrylic

\$250



Marvin Tate

"Self Portrait 1", 2008

17,5 in. high x 16,5 in. wide x 3,5 in. deep

LED lights, bark, twigs, found objects, acrylic and canvas

\$500



Marvin Tate

"Self Portrait 2", 2010

17,5 in. high x 18 in. wide x 2 in. deep

Broken glass, tree branch, metal, canvas and found objects

\$500



Marvin Tate

"Bubblegum Barbie", 2008

21 in. high x 9 in. wide x 8,5 in. deep

Crate, balloons, Barbie, miniatures, glue and found objects

SOLD



"Head", 2013

14 in. high x 4,5 in. wide x 3,5 in. deep

Wooden drawer, bark, acrylic, plastic, shells, glue and figurines

\$250



Marvin Tate

"Still drums", 2012

23 in. high x 23 in. wide x 1.5 in. deep

Found objects, leaves, encapso and acrylic

\$250



Marvin Tate

"Alfred", 2013

22 in. high x 19 in. wide x 1,5 in. deep

Cardboard box framed with wooden sticks, twigs, found objects and encapso

\$450



Marvin Tate

"50% Sold", 2009

27 in. high x 13 in. wide x 4,5 in. deep

Wood, shoe boxes, found objects and figurine

\$400



Marvin Tate

"Night Visitor", 2013

21 in. high x 19,5 in. wide x 1 in. deep

Cardboard box, cardboard, twigs, acrylic, wood and found objects

\$400



Marvin Tate

"219 N Keystone", 2013

16 in. high x 15,5 in. wide x 8 in. deep

Drawer, cardboard, LED lights, broken glass, found objects and acrylic

\$400



Marvin Tate

"Missing Person", 2007

11 in. high x 12 in. wide x 4 in. deep

Drawer, miniatures, newspaper, print, wooden sticks, mosaic, fabric and shrub

\$200



Marvin Tate

"Road Trip", 2012

11,5 in. high x 23 in. wide x 6 in. deep

Drawer, sponge, twigs, acrylic, cardboard, encapso and found objects

\$300



Marvin Tate

"Wired", 2011

17 in. high x 16,5 in. wide x 0,5 inch deep

Wooden crate, wire, plaster, mask mold, acrylic

\$400



Marvin Tate

"Star Child", 2010

16,5 in. high x 12,5 in. wide x 1,5 in. deep

Crate, plaster, mask mold, found objects, beads, fabric and glass

\$400



Marvin Tate

"The Amazing Mister Orange", 2010

17,5 in. high x 17 in. wide x 1,5 in. deep

Crate, wood, plaster, mask mold and shrub

\$400



Marvin Tate

"Self Portrait 3", 2011

17 in. high x 16,5 in. wide x 0,5 in. deep

Wooden crate, wine corks, plaster, found objects and acrylic

\$400



Marvin Tate

"A great day in the neighborhood", 2008

10 in. high x 21,5 in. wide x 6 in. deep

Cardboard box, bark, fabric, wood, found objects, LED lights and miniatures

\$500



Marvin Tate,

"Dinner with James", 2010

5,5 in. high x 7,5 in. wide x 4 in. deep

Cigar box, LED light, miniatures, brick and acrylic

\$250



Marvin Tate

"Moving Day", 2013

16,5 in. high x 15,5 in. wide x 4 in. deep

Drawer, piano keys, found objects, acrylic and figurines

\$350



Marvin Tate

"Ancestors", 2009

12,5 in. high x 8,5 in. wide x 4,5 in. deep

Jewelry box, plastic, toy skulls, shells, acrylic and found objects

\$300



Marvin Tate

"The Fanatic", 2009

11,5 in. high x 12,5 in. wide x 6,5 in. deep

Drawer, LED light, acrylic, cardboard and figurines

\$350



Marvin Tate

"Ivy", 2010

6,5 in. high x 14 in. wide

Acrylic, marker, glass, bicycle chain, wood and encapso

\$200



Marvin Tate

"Campfire", 2013

19,5 in. high x 14,5 in. wide x 7,5 in. deep

Drawer, firewood, string, shells, sawdust, acrylic and LED lights

\$400



Marvin Tate

"Jail House", 2010

8,5 in. high x 10,5 in. wide x 10,5 in. deep

Cardboard box, styrofoam, wood, miniatures, found objects and LED light

\$300



Marvin Tate

"Me Day", 2011

13 in. high x 16,5 in. wide x 1,5 in. deep

Small wooden crate, thread, found objects, tacks, acrylic and miniatures

\$400



Marvin Tate

"Fire! Fire! Fire!", 2011

11,5 in. high x 12,5 in. wide x 6,5 in. deep

Drawer, acrylic, wood, shrub, LED light, glitter, miniatures and cardboard

\$300



Marvin Tate

"Utah", 2011

12,5 in. high x 12,5 in. wide x 2 in. deep

Sponge, bark, styrofoam and acrylic

\$200



Marvin Tate

"Big Sur", 2011

13,5 in. high x 12,5 in. wide x 6,5 in. deep

Drawer, branch, twigs, toy car, acrylic, LED light and found objects

\$300



Marvin Tate

"Fence", 2012

15 in. high x 12 in. wide x 6,5 in. deep

Drawer, dried pea pods, antique doll, wood, acrylic, found objects and LED light

\$350



Marvin Tate

"River run deep", 2011

20 in. high x 29,5 in. wide

Wood stick frame, resin, string and acrylic

\$400