



Shane Tolbert, *Fractured Cowboy*, 2022, acrylic, ink, collage on paper, 25 x 19 in.

## SHANE TOLBERT

McCLAIN GALLERY

Early January, McClain Gallery unveiled Shane Tolbert's third solo exhibition, "Memory Dilemma." This transformative showcase delves into the artist's process-based work, introducing figurative drawings alongside his established painting and collage pieces. Tolbert's layering technique takes center stage in the drawings, revealing a cyclic exploration of imagery, thought processes, and thematic refinement through playful and automatic responses.

Within the realm of the studio, Tolbert continues his experimental practice, harnessing the space as a conduit for translating memories and experiences stored in his body onto canvas or paper. The emotional accumulation of daily studio encounters manifests in the work, akin to sedimentary layers shaped by mudslides and volcanic ash.

Studio ephemera, like painter's tape, becomes a poignant element in the finished pieces, preserving the essence of the creative space's origin. Tolbert's trusted painting techniques, including masking and acrylic paint pours on plastic sheeting, serve as symbolic layers in the artistic process.

Juggling roles as a working artist, co-manager of Best Western in Santa Fe with James Sterling Pitt, and arts administrator at a local college, Tolbert understands the myriad daily demands. "Memory Dilemma" intricately weaves Tolbert's subconscious responses into a tapestry, unveiling his unique approach to art-making amidst the distractions of everyday life.