

# Lake Worth Artist Shannon Torrence Celebrates the Beautiful and the Bizarre

When Shannon Torrence moved to Lake Worth in 1989, the Gulfstream Hotel was a lively part of downtown Lake Worth. When the hotel closed in 2005, no one could anticipate the episodic saga that would follow. Delays followed false starts followed lawsuits followed disappointments followed rumors and every time the hotel changed hands, hope sprang eternal and the whole process wound up and began anew.

Torrence states, "My town has had its only hotel sit vacant for decades. The squabble about development has taken its toll on my little town for years. I've been here since 1989. I saw it when it flourished. I saw big bands once a month at the band shell across the street, with a dance floor in front of it, party lights strung over it and people dancing. It had a beautiful hotel bar with the high ceilings from another era. It is surreal that for so long my city has limped along, as I

see it. I thought I would paint about it, as it's my Neighborhood. I have high hopes for the current attempt to resurrect this cornerstone."

As an artist, Shannon felt compelled to incorporate portraits into his next body of work already famous for sea and skyscapes. When Shannon decided to celebrate the Gulfstream in his next painting for a show called "Neighborhoods," the idea of highlighting the surreal absurdity of the Gulfstream frustrating narrative by bringing Dali himself into the picture was appealing. Shannon named the piece, "Perpetual Preposterousness vs. The Resurrection of a Corner"; an oblique homage to Dali and the sometimes bizarre titles he gave his work.

The "Neighborhoods" exhibit runs from January 14 through February 20 at the mtn space gallery downtown Lake Worth Beach.





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