



I think of Book of Mark as an open book where the ‘artwork’ in the exhibition are notations and annotations of new information I’m learning and making sense of as a kind of syncretism of various modes of divination and cosmologies. The work is inspired by the call. In this life I think we’re all searching for meaning or trying to make sense of our place in the world at large. At least I am. I think the ideas presented can provide potential alternative ways of thinking and knowing in a time where we’re often being told what to think and what to think.

Artist
Mark Anthony Brown Jr.







About the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum

The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center is dedicated to the enrichment of visual culture on campus and in the community. The Brown Gallery supports the Stone Center’s commitment to the critical examination of all dimensions of African-American and African diaspora cultures through formal exhibition of works of art, artifacts and material culture.

History and Overview of the Stone Center

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center is part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an academic and community engagement unit with the Provost’s Office, we play a central role in supporting the academic mission of the University. We have a commitment to broaden the range of intellectual discourse about African Americans and to encourage a better understanding of the peoples of Africa and the African diaspora and their perspectives on important social and cultural issues.

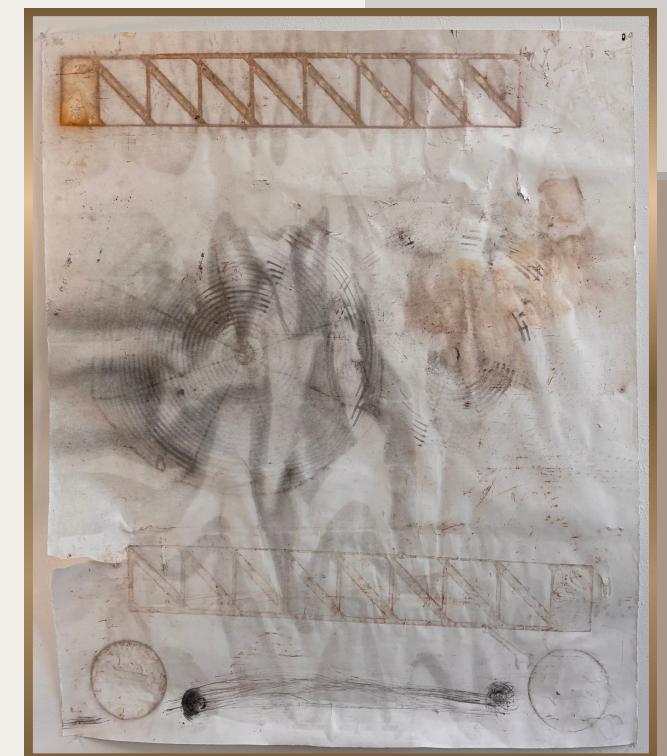
The Sonja Haynes Stone Center For Research In Black Culture And History

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This Exhibit is Supported by the Generous Contributions of The Friends of the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Book of Mark

by artist
Mark Anthony Brown Jr.,
curated by Ming Joi



Exhibition Opening Reception

Thursday, September 25th, 2025 | 6:30 PM

The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery
Sonja Haynes Stone Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This event is free and open to the public.

Exhibit On View

September 25th - December 5th, 2025

About the Exhibition

God forgives; man may not. *The Book of Mark* traverses identity, semiotics, religion, and spirituality. Contending with morality, Mark Anthony Brown Jr. employs photography, drawing, printmaking, and installation to further infer markers of manhood, syncretize modes of divination and grapple with the ball and chain games of social progress. A Midwesterner rooted in the American South; Brown considers how our landscape connects one to spirit and ancestry. The solo exhibition, *The Book of Mark*, curated by Ming Joi at the Stone Center presents a unique collection of contemplative works, expanding Brown's photo-based practice multidimensionally into sculpture and time-based media.



Mark Anthony Brown Jr. is an interdisciplinary artist whose work spans photography, sculpture, drawing, and printmaking. His practice critically engages vernacular aesthetics, landscapes, and the persistence of Afrikan cultural retentions in the diaspora.

Brown holds a Bachelor of Science Technology from Bowling Green State University and an MFA in Studio Art from UNC–Chapel Hill, where he was a Museum Practice Fellow at the Ackland Art Museum. His work has been exhibited at the Cincinnati Art Museum and CAM Raleigh, among others. He is the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the Emerging Lens Fellowship from ArtWORKS Projects (Chicago) and The Nexus Grant from Atlanta Contemporary. His recent residencies include Shandaken: Storm King (2024) and the prestigious Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture (2025).

Currently, Brown lives and works in Cincinnati, Durham, Atlanta, and Ithaca, NY, where he is a Visiting Lecturer and Strauch Early Career Fellow in Art at Cornell University.



Ming Joi Washington is a Chicago-born poet, curator, and critic committed to Black cultural traditions. She is a graduate of Spelman College, where she was active in the AUC Art Collective and completed internships with institutions including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and The Getty Foundation.

In 2024, Ming Joi served as Curator-in-Residence at Artpace, San Antonio and is currently a Lichtenstein Fellow with the Pérez Art Museum Miami and the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art. Her writing has appeared in *Callaloo*, *Burnaway*, *Scalawag*, *Pigment Intl.*, and more. Through her curatorial and literary practice, she explores Black feminist futures, weaving poetics, performance, and visual art into deeply interdisciplinary work.