

HYPEBEAST

May 24, 2024

Ortuzar Projects Spotlights Legendary Artist Ernie Barnes in New Exhibition

On view in New York until June 15, 2024.



Courtesy Of The Artist And The Estate Of Ernie Barnes

[Ortuzar Projects](#) in New York is currently exhibiting a solo exhibition of works by the late American artist [Ernie Barnes](#). *In Rapture* is presented in collaboration with [Andrew Kreps Gallery](#) and comprises of paintings covering Barnes' five decade career blending the worlds of art and sports.

The title of the show is inspired by B.B. King's 2000 album, *Making Love is Good for You* and follows a number of recent exhibitions on Barnes' career, including a [PLAYLAB](#)-designed [show](#) at the UTA Artist Space in Los Angeles and the sale of *The Sugar Shack* (1976) painting at Christies, which [shattered](#) expectations fetching \$15.3m USD in 2022.

The intersection between sports and art offered Barnes an escape from the racist underbelly of the Jim Crow south that he grew up in. While usually dismissed as just a ragtag sport, even to this day, Barnes saw the creative parallels and work ethic involved in both American football and the act of art-making. Having played for the Denver Broncos, San Diego Chargers and New York Titans in the AFL days, Barnes was often [referred](#) to as "Big Rembrandt" by his teammates, because he'd be sketching on the sidelines between scrimmages. Between both diametric professions, Barnes recognized that "Both required rhythm. Both required technique," said biographer Don Tate.

On view are a number of Barnes' seminal works, including *Full Boogie* (1978) and *Fumble in the Line* (1990), as well as lesser known portraits and landscape paintings, from *In Rapture* (2000) to *Homecoming* (1994). The [exhibition](#) is currently on view in New York until June 15, 2024.

Ortuzar Projects

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