

## SHINIQUE SMITH

### *a bull, a rose, a tempest*

This piece began the collection of items for a larger sculptural “requiem” of sorts. I had been contemplating the memorabilia surrounding celebrities who passed away since I’ve been alive. I began with Tupac, a prince to the music industry, a renegade and, in a more personal context, an artist whom I knew as a teenager when we attended high school together. The title comes from a line in Borges’ short story “The Circular Ruins” – a tale of birth, death, love and loneliness that bends perceptions of reality and dream.

### *Crone-huntress*

*Crone-huntress* is a Goddess. This piece conjures references to mythologies of magical women. “Cast-offs” were used to build an idol of sorts: my homage to warrior women, to the wise “crone.” It references mythological figures like Diana (the huntress), Artemis (the “collector of souls”) and Kali (goddess of time and change). As the Crone, in pagan circles, represents the third phase of a woman’s life filled with wisdom and experience, she is a protector, a giver and taker of life. For me, this form is the perfect vehicle for expressing the consumption and transformation of used materials and of my own attraction to these myths.

### *Menagerie*

*Menagerie* is the first within a new series of mixed media paintings that allow me to indulge in my desire to fill an entire space – a menagerie of marks, fabrics ... a combination of chaos and restraint.