

Verge

2023

Acrylic on wood; two double-sided
paintings on a five-sided, wood shelf

Collection of the artist; courtesy
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco

Repose

2022

Acrylic on wood

Collection of Becca Prowda and Daniel Lurie;
promised gift to San Francisco Museum of
Modern Art

Gathering

2022

Acrylic on wood

Collection of Diana Nelson and John Atwater

Aftermath

2021

Acrylic on wood

Collection of Bruce and Sharyn Charnas

Strike

2021

Acrylic on wood

Private collection

Instant
2021

Acrylic on wood

Collection of Mary and Harold Zlot; promised gift to the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

Biernoff is often drawn to pictures that have failed in some way. In this painting, Biernoff captures emulsion defects of a Polaroid photo taken of the sea. The brown, v-shaped section in the image, however, obscures any ability to identify the subject and location depicted in the snapshot. Similarly, rings of the chemicals beneath the surface appear at the base of the image. These effects are, of course, unintentional, but rather exist as vestiges of the life of the photograph. In effect, the incidental imperfections of one discarded image becomes an intentional subject of Biernoff's painting.

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Starting from Wrong

2021

Fifty postcards

Collection of the artist; courtesy
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco

In contrast to Biernoff's paintings, which are all based on found images taken by anonymous people, Biernoff has created a set of fifty postcards based on photographs she has taken. In each picture an error appears—some occur naturally in the photograph, while others were intentionally altered to look misprinted. She leaves the location where the image was taken off the card so that the subject becomes another anonymous trace for the viewer. Visitors are invited to select one card to take home.

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por favor marque 775.546.1464 y presione 2198#

Signal

2021

Acrylic on wood

Private collection

Bourne

2018

Acrylic on wood

Collection of Joachim and
Nancy Hellman Bechtle

An emulsion defect along the lower jagged edge and along the sides encroaches on the image that appears in this painting. In describing the significance of the damage, Biernoff states, “The picture is degraded by its emulsion problem, getting less distinct, smaller, more faded, like a remembrance.”

She determines the titles after she completes the composition. In this case, the title was inspired both by the image and a quote from Shakespeare’s play *Hamlet*: “death, the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns.” In the Shakespearean context, bourne (with the archaic spelling) refers to a boundary or destination. Moreover, the title creates

a kind of visual pun, with the more common definition of “born” referring to the beginning of life—the opposite of what a graveyard suggests.

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Conversation

2014–15

Acrylic on wood

Collection of Joachim and
Nancy Hellman Bechtle

House of Cards

2012–13

Acrylic on wood; sixteen
double-sided paintings

Collection of Joachim and
Nancy Hellman Bechtle

The sculptural nature of Biernoff's paintings is heightened in this singular composition, which contains fifteen paintings all stacked together to resemble a house of cards. Each card depicts an image that the artist is particularly enamoured with and that signifies a certain aspect of culture, whether an old master painting by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, a picture of John Muir, a Japanese print by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, a line from the Declaration of Independence, or a photo of Marlene Dietrich. On the opposite side, Biernoff paints in trompe l'oeil a specific playing card. Their balanced arrangement accentuates an air of risk, balance, and the fragility of civilization. Biernoff added a sixteenth card for the owner of the work

after it was acquired, whose favorite artist is Philip Guston; it is shown adjacent to the stack on an easel.

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Aperture 2023

Acrylic on wood

Collection of the artist; courtesy
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco

Beyond Our
2023

Acrylic on wood

Collection of the artist; courtesy
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH

Still Life

2023

Acrylic on wood

Collection of the artist; courtesy
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco

