

FORT GANSEVOORT



Lives: A Look At Black Notable Artists and Designers Who Died In 2021, From Judson Powell to Winfred Rembert and Virgil Abloh

Victoria L. Valentine – January 7, 2022



Artist Winfred Rembert. Photo by Renan Oztruk

Winfred Rembert, 75, New Haven, Connecticut

Artist carved and painted on leather his memories of Jim Crow South

MARCH 31: Winfred Rembert (1945-2021) lived and worked in New Haven, Conn. He suffered from diabetes, kidney disease, and hypertension, according to the New York Times, and died at home after a long illness. He was 75. Rembert painted on carved and tooled leather. His vivid scenes of the Jim Crow South—cotton fields, chain gangs dressed in stripes, pool halls, and church services—reflect his memories of growing up in rural Cuthbert, Ga. His experiences took a consequential turn when he was arrested during a civil rights protest in 1967. After being thrown in jail, he escaped, was caught, nearly lynched, and ended up serving on a chain gang until 1974. While he was incarcerated, Rembert learned to carve wallets from leather, a craft that decades later he developed into an artistic practice. Two documentaries explore his story: “Surviving a Lynching: Ashes to Ashes,” an award-winning, short documentary from The New Yorker (2019), and “All Me: The Life and Times of Winfred Rembert” (2012). Fort Gansevoort announced its representation of the artist’s estate in May. “Winfred Remember: 1945-2021,” his first exhibition with the New York gallery is currently on view. | New York Times