

**The Birdcage**  
**816 Sutter Street, San Francisco**  
**Opening Reception**  
**Feb 5 | 6–9pm**  
**Second Reception**  
**Mar 5 | 6–9pm**  
**On view through March 30**



# PORTALS OF THE PAST

A Solo Exhibition by Brent Hayden

San Francisco based artist Brent Hayden presents *Portals of the Past*, a new body of work inspired by the historic monument of the same name in Golden Gate Park. The surviving façade, rescued from a building destroyed in the 1906 earthquake serves as both a symbol of resilience and a conceptual anchor for the exhibition. Hayden draws a parallel between the monument's preservation and the enduring spirit of artists navigating the current cultural climate.

Through abstract and representational imagery doors, windows, and architectural thresholds Hayden invites viewers into imagined portals that offer moments of escape from the familiar. The works evoke a romantic, ethereal, and dreamlike atmosphere, encouraging personal interpretation and introspection. These portals act as metaphors for memory, transition, and the subconscious, allowing each viewer to enter a space that feels both intimate and unknown.

Hayden's process embraces experimentation and unpredictability. Working with gel medium image transfers layered with paint, each piece evolves through controlled chaos, revealing unexpected textures and forms. Once complete, every artwork is housed in a custom hand cut frame designed by the artist, extending the sense of world building beyond the canvas. In conjunction with the exhibition, Hayden will also release a limited collection of custom jewelry for the first time in five years, echoing the sculptural language of the paintings. Select sculptural works will also be on view.

Brent Hayden is a multidisciplinary artist based in San Francisco, working out of Mini Mart Studios, a studio and gallery space opened in 2022 near the Tenderloin district. His practice spans painting, sculpture, jewelry, and curatorial work, with an emphasis on immersive visual narratives, imagined realms, and the poetry of place.