

# COIL & CORD

S T U D I O

*For Immediate Release*

## **Bennett Bailey: *Divine Drippings***

**Exhibition Dates:** September 11 - October 31, 2026

**Opening Reception:** Friday, September 11, 2026, 6PM-9PM

**Artist Talk:** Saturday, October 3, 2026, 4PM

**Gallery Hours:** Saturdays 3pm-6pm and by appointment

Coil & Cord Studio is pleased to present *Divine Drippings*, the first solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Bennett Bailey, on view from September 11 through October 31, 2026.

Born in Bedford-Stuyvesant, where he still works, Bailey is a Black trans artist whose practice involves what he calls “spiritual and mental foraging”, drawing upon his Christian upbringing, Caribbean heritage, Black and queer communities, trans embodiment, and punk culture, as well as the interior terrain of dreams and the imaginative worlds of fantasy and myth.

Across the works in *Divine Drippings*, Bailey renders provocative, unwieldy beings and spaces. His visceral figurative language is grounded in corporeal transformation, spiritual ambivalence, and the uncertainty of dreamscapes. Bailey’s creaturely subjects evoke the grotesque, often playfully. His figures evade taxonomy, as human forms sprout wings and tails and morph into apparitions, animals, or angels. Bodies intermingle with their environments, exceed their prescribed boundaries, and remain susceptible to transformation.

The monumental *Family Dinner* presents a feverish congregation of bodies against a field of luminous pink. A recumbent figure at the center of the composition wears a smile as a mask and is surrounded and consumed by other grinning creatures. The conviviality of a shared family meal slides into cannibalistic predation. Bailey conceived *Family Dinner* as an allegorical commentary on people-pleasing, as the people-pleaser sacrifices the self for the sake of others.

Bailey’s painting *Have a Little Faith!* reflects upon the power of prayer and Bailey’s own experience of Christian faith, where he has found spiritual consolation alongside pain and strife. The painting depicts a preacher, raising his hands in prayer, rendered in a saturated red palate. The figure’s exaggerated grin is disquieting, as his expression appears strained, even menacing. Such ambiguities produce the uncanny register that pervades Bailey’s work and invites multiple and sustained reflections on these paintings.

Presented at a moment when trans lives remain the subject of sustained political and cultural attacks, Bailey's work offers expansive visions of survival, intimacy, imagination and transformation. These works imagine hope to create new worlds from inherited histories and impossible dreams.

*Divine Drippings* is Bennett Bailey's first solo exhibition in New York City. Bailey has previously shown work at *Metamorphosis* at Trans Art Fest and *Pride in Community* with Arts Gowanus. Bailey has an MFA from Brooklyn College.

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