

James Benning, “Quilts, Cigarettes & Dirt (Portraits of America),” at the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara. The Milwaukee-born independent filmmaker, now a professor at CalArts, became known for his ruminative films about MidWest landscapes in the 1970s, and since then has produced work that engages the cultural, political and historical implications of what certain landscapes represent. Part of the “Made in L.A.” biennial at the Hammer Museum in 2018, “Quilts, Cigarettes & Dirt” represents his first solo museum show on the West Coast. *Through July 14. 653 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara, mcsantabarbara.org.*



"After Missouri Pettway," 2019, by James Benning, on view at the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara. (James Benning)