

FORT GANSEVOORT



Jason Harvey | *Fantasy Composites*
5 Ninth Avenue, New York, NY, 10014

On View: Wed. November 11, 2015 – January 10, 2016
Opening Reception: November 11, 7-10PM

Fort Gansevoort is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by **Jason Harvey**, on view beginning November 11, 2015. This show is co-organized by Adam Shopkorn and Josh Safdie.

With a ten-year history as a professional forensic artist in the New York City Police Department's Forensic Investigation Division, Jason Harvey's hand-drawn composite sketches are used as evidence in criminal cases. Beginning with a description of a suspect's face provided by the victim, he then constructs a forensic image based on various facial attributes,

"It's not a creative process, it's a skill that I have", notes Harvey.

For his exhibition at Fort Gansevoort, Harvey will present a new body of work inspired by his vocation. Primarily used to develop suspects' faces in the hopes of identifying them, the composite drawings on view at Fort Gansevoort are fictional, or what the artist refers to as "fantasy composites". Harvey spends a great deal of time developing these characters. He organically and intuitively evolves the profile, incorporating both real and imaginary facial features. He begins with a specific feature then quickly builds on it, adding a distinct jawbone or hairstyle. The resulting crosshatch graphite drawings are hyper real, caricature-like representations of humanity.

"You have to be a good listener, and have a certain candor when working with an eyewitness", says Harvey, "the process itself is therapeutic; it's a step in the right direction." Sensitive to the racial profiling and prejudices in his line of work, Harvey humanizes the person he is drawing, real or fictional, creating a narrative for them. The resulting images are intimate and personal hybrids based on the memory, the subconscious and the imaginary.

Born in 1973, Jason Harvey received his Bachelors in Fine Arts from Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida in 1996, and has worked as a detective for the NYPD for the past ten years and completed the Facial Imaging Course at the FBI Academy in 2010. This presentation with Fort Gansevoort is Harvey's first exhibition of his drawings and is a culmination of his life's work and passion.

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Created by founder Adam Shopkorn, Fort Gansevoort Gallery is a platform for experimentation and collaboration that exhibits emerging and established artists whose practices bridge relationships between old and new and high and low culture.

S, M, L.

Beginning November 11, 2015 Fort Gansevoort will also be debuting S, M, L., a creative platform that merges art, artisanship and commerce. S, M, L. will feature a rotation of unique creative talents who will be making and selling their products. Organized by Kat Typaldos and Carolyn Angel, the first group includes custom perfumer Julia Zangrilli, candy maker Maayan Zilberman and natural dyer Cara Marie Piazza for an eight-week long artist residency.

Press Contact

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