

FORT GANSEVOORT

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Your Guide to the Must-See Shows in Lower Manhattan

The One-Stop Option

By Jacoba Urist – April 28, 2023



Zoya Cherkassky, *Working immigrants are illegally crossing the Israeli-Egyptian Border*, 2023. Image courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort.

If you only have time for one stop downtown before summer, make it Zoya Cherkassky's expansive solo exhibition at the preternaturally on-the-pulse gallery Fort Gansevoort in Meatpacking. "I usually start with some graphic gibberish that only I can understand," says Cherkassky of her process, translating personal experience—whether her memories or her perspective as wife of a Nigerian emigrant and mother of a mixed-race child in Israel—into sophisticated drawings, which become remarkable figurative compositions. "I call it tuning, removing everything that does not belong there to find the puzzle of body and objects," she adds.

Her subject matter is a prickly, layered terrain, touching on the Ukrainian-born artist's childhood in the USSR, her husband's illegal immigration across the Israeli-Egyptian border, and the poignant space shared by both Holocaust survivors and citizens of colonized African nations. "I was a little bit thrilled to see how these works would be accepted in the United States because I know these are sensitive issues," Cherkassky told me. "But I'm not representing Americans in this show. I'm not American. My husband isn't American. I bring the story that belongs to my region, where I live now in Israel, and there are so many African immigrants and refugees here. I always tell stories about something that I know personally."

"The Arrival of Foreign Professionals" is on view through June 3, 2023 at Fort Gansevoort.