

FORT GANSEVOORT

Artlyst

Six New York Gallery Shows December 2023

Retinal Hysteria at Venus Over Manhattan 13 January – Robert Storr has curated the city’s most exciting and provocative group show with over eighty works by forty artists. On the same block, both Venus spaces present art meant to ponder, disturb, and examine “a world gone nuts.”

Ilka Scobie, Decmber 4. 2023



Rose Smith “Recollections of Rondo” Fort Gansevoort until January 2024

For decades, the artists Rose and Melvin Smith have been documenting their once-vibrant Rondo neighborhood in St Paul, Minnesota. A thriving black community, Rondo was a centre of civil rights, where families lived, worked, and sent their kids to good schools. Married in 1968, the couple have dedicated themselves to preserving and celebrating the memory and myth of a solid and beloved community.

Rose and Melvin Smith create artworks inspired by the Rondo community. For Rose, they often depict women who toiled as domestic workers, and men who were Pullman porters. The poignantly powerful “Journey to Minnesota” 2008 immortalises Rose’s family as they travelled by train from the South to their new Midwestern home. The small child is Rose, in the centre of a loving family. This beautifully curated show is collaboration and conversation, exemplifying the urban black experience. Melvin creates intricate sculptures in wood representing nostalgic storefronts and other neighborhood recreations.

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Melvin Smith "Recollections of Rondo" Fort Gansevoort until January 2024

The 1960s construction of an Interstate highway forever changed Rondo. The Smiths, witnesses to the neighborhood's final years, have lovingly preserved the images and energy of a lively black enclave destroyed by "urban renewal."