

FORT GANSEVOORT



Patrick Martinez: That Which We Do Not See

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“Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see.” – Martin Luther King, *The Measure of a Man*, 1958 Fort Gansevoort presents *That Which We Do Not See*, the first solo exhibition in New York City featuring new work by Los Angeles-based artist Patrick Martinez. The exhibition, opening on March 7th, is comprised of three bodies of work; cake paintings, Los Angeles “landscape paintings” and neon text pieces.

Martinez approaches his painting practice through a close observation of shadow and light, both literally and figuratively. Through formally painted portraits, Martinez sheds light on past

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and current civil rights leaders who would historically be left in the shadows. These portraits are found atop realistically depicted three-dimensional cakes, embodying the celebratory tone that Martinez wishes to portray. Through a study of the lack of diverse representation in historical portrait painting, a medium traditionally used to celebrate ones successes and wealth, Martinez was led to the portrait cake paintings. The cake acts as a globally and socio-economically understood medium of celebration, now featuring the faces of not only white historical figures but the faces of freedom fighters of all races. This series was first inspired by a video of Tupac's last birthday, which included a cake frosted with his portrait that did not resemble him in the slightest. The cake paintings feature the likes of Angela Davis, James Baldwin, and Malcolm X, and include even lesser known freedom fighters such as Larry Itliong of the Philippines paying respect to Martinez's mother's birthplace. Martinez also works with the insignias of civil rights activist groups, such as the Black Panther Party in his piece titled Chocolate Cake for the Black Panther Party.