

# FORT GANSEVOORT

**ELEPHANT**

## In New York This November? Make Sure You See These Shows Before the Month Ends

Sam Falb - November 20, 2024



Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson, *The Brownskin Man*, 1997. Courtesy of Fort Gansevoort Gallery.

Fort Gansevoort: Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson: Character Studies (November 14, 2024-January 25, 2025)

At Fort Gansevoort, ask a staffer on-site to twist the dial behind the sculpture of the artist's family (located on the ground floor of the three-level space). As soft, lilting music plays from the work, absorb the expansive range of Robinson's decades-long practice – towering sculptures which reference neighborhood characters of her youth, vivid narrative watercolors, an array of penworks displayed on paper envelopes, and more unexpected pleasures. Closely collaborating with the Columbus Museum of Art (CMA), where the Ohio-native artist bequeathed not only her work but her home and studio, the exhibition also highlights the Aminah Robinson Legacy Project, a museum initiative to keep the work in ongoing cultural conversation. "She was, for many, many years a visionary artist and storyteller who left us not only with a remarkable body of work, but a powerful commitment to the preservation of community, culture, and history," CMA Executive Director Brooke A. Minto said in opening remarks. Much of Robinson's work and materials derive from a combination of factors: scrappiness grounded in a sparse upbringing, inspirations from her carpenter father who taught her to make a clay called hogmawg, and oral traditions of her childhood that communicated her family history and background – including enslavement, intergenerational trauma, and the craftsmanship of her great aunt. Throughout the exhibition period, select sales of the work will benefit the ongoing initiatives of the Legacy Project.

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