

Frederick Hayes
LOCAL HEADS

February 29 – April 5, 2020

Opening reception, Saturday, February 29th, 6 – 8 pm

Cindy Rucker Gallery is pleased to present new works by Brooklyn-based artist Frederick Hayes. In this exhibition, Hayes continues to explore the representation of the self and the urban landscape through abstraction, likeness, and difference.

Using different media, Hayes intends to shed light on the human condition as it relates to the working-class African Americans, as well as larger communities of men and women. Raised in the South as part of a family that watched the 6-o'clock news, read *Ebony* and *Jet*, as well as the local newspapers, Hayes developed a strong interest in picture-making—the basic ideas of looking, recording, and interpreting—and portraiture early on.

Through painting and drawing, Hayes creates ad hoc communities where the good and the bad, the heroes and the villains coexist; much like in reality, his characters possess diverse personalities, habits, and ways of seeing the world. His sculptural practice, on the other hand, is steered by a more open exploration of abstraction, where the verticality and geometry of the landscape marries the detritus of the city, the direct result of his wanderings through different neighborhoods.

“Because no one really knows thyself,” the artist writes, images of the self “constantly morph from one image to the next, providing a glimpse before reshaping into something else.” “As a child we learn to present ourselves the way we want people to see us, but not always how we really are,” he states, suggesting that self-representation is bound to be an ongoing, life-long process. Due to their ever-changing nature, then, it comes to no surprise that Hayes’s human subjects and urban settings reside in the limit between the recognizable and the fictionalized.

Frederick Hayes (b. 1955, Atlanta) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He has exhibited at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center in Buffalo, the Kingston Sculpture Biennial in Kingston, NY., Patricia Sweetow Gallery, and Number 35, among other venues. Hayes’s work is held by SFMoMA, The Addison Gallery of American Art, The New Museum, and The Studio Museum in Harlem. Frederick Hayes has received the Richard R. Diebenkorn Teaching Fellowship at the San Francisco Art Institute, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, and the Eureka Fellowship.

The gallery is located at 141 Attorney Street between Stanton and Rivington in New York City. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am - 6 pm and by appointment. For more information about this and other exhibitions, please visit us online at www.cindyruckergallery.com or contact us at 212.388.9311 or info@cindyruckergallery.com.