

FORT GANSEVOORT

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Goings on About Town

Andrea K. Scott - June 18, 2018

Michelangelo Lovelace

Almost forty years after he started painting, in Cleveland, at the age of nineteen, Lovelace makes his impressive New York *début* with sixteen trenchant depictions of local life, from a P-Funk party and a political rally to an allegory of gun violence. Most of the images integrate text (on billboards, church signs, and T-shirts) into teeming street scenes, suggesting an unexpected alliance of two other Ohio-bred greats, Jenny Holzer and George Bellows. Lovelace attended art school for a time, in the nineteen-eighties, but had to sideline his studies for financial reasons, not the least of them fatherhood. He now supports his family as a nurse's aide, but he has never stopped making art. The vibrant and prismatically structured acrylic-on-canvas works in "The Land" (the show's title and Cleveland's nickname) bring to mind Charles Baudelaire's classic description of a painter of modern life: "a kaleidoscope gifted with consciousness."

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