

FORT GANSEVOORT

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The 22 Best Art Shows of 2022

"Chronicling Our Lives: 1987-2021" by Willie Birch: Fort Gansevoort New York
December 23, 2022



Willie Birch, *Johnny Makes the Nightly News*, 1988. Image courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort.

Willie Birch has always been a bit of a renegade. Over the course of his 50-plus-year career, the artist has remained committed to Realism, eschewing the commercial art world's trend towards abstraction and conceptualism. And though figuration itself generally favors painting on canvas, he works exclusively with paper. His solo New York exhibition at Fort Gansevoort earlier this year was a gesture in storytelling that covered more than three decades of his oeuvre with pieces that are animated by the presence of Birch's own world and the immediacy of his own experiences. As he told *CULTURED* ahead of its opening: "The best art is motivated by what's around you."