

Fort Gansevoort



CES | *That's My Name Talking*
5 Ninth Avenue, New York, NY 10014

On View: July 16 – August 15, 2015
Opening Reception: July 16, 7-10PM

Opening **July 16**, **Fort Gansevoort** is a new cultural hub for art, design, and food, founded by curator **Adam Shopkorn**. Located on the top two stories of the building, **Fort Gansevoort Gallery** will present its inaugural exhibition ***That's My Name Talking***, drawings by celebrated Bronx-based graffiti artist **CES**.

On view through August 15, *That's My Name Talking* is the first show to present the artist's small-scale ink drawings, providing a window into the blend of classicism, surrealism and street culture that characterizes the work of the legendary graffiti artist. Citing early inspiration from artists like Salvador Dali and James Rosenquist, the 40 intimate drawings on view offer a counterpoint to CES' well-known large-format spray paint works. Made over the course of the past three years, they were inspired by the deceptively ordinary objects CES encountered in the world around him. CES has engaged a visual language dominated by everyday items imbued with symbolic power – fruits, vegetables, junk food and liquor. The artist's signature is concealed within each image in a nod to his graffiti origins. In the realm of graffiti, a signature, a tag, is in itself a work of art.

"By 2012, I had done so much graffiti and wanted to know that I could still draw," said CES. The more time you spend with a can and a cap, the more you're inclined to ask yourself, "Can I get back to having a pen in my hand with a piece of paper?"

Fort Gansevoort founder, Adam Shopkorn has followed the work of CES for over 20 years, having first discovered it on the walls of the Major Deegan Expressway as he traveled to school. "I was fascinated by the proliferation of his work and began to notice it everywhere," said Shopkorn. "I recently saw this series of drawings and I fell in love with a body of work I had not known CES was making. The small works achieve a level of delicacy that stands in complete contrast to the hard-edged quality of his graffiti. I am delighted to inaugurate our gallery with the work of a New York legend and to expand the public's understanding of his art."

About CES

Born Robert Michael Provenzano in 1970, CES is a New York City leader of the streamlined and aerodynamic "Wildstyle," alphabetic reconfiguration in contemporary graffiti. His innovations have influenced an entire generation of graffiti writers in the United States and abroad. Besides New York, he has done work in cities as varied as Athens, Boston, Basel, Tokyo, Amsterdam and Berlin.

About Fort Gansevoort Gallery

Organized by founder Adam Shopkorn, Fort Gansevoort Gallery is a platform for experimentation and collaboration that exhibits emerging and established artists whose practices bridge relationships between old, new, high, and low culture.

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Located in the heart of the Meatpacking District, Fort Gansevoort is a cultural hub for art, design, and food, founded by curator Adam Shopkorn. Set in a Greek Revival row house built in 1849, Fort Gansevoort is located on Gansevoort Plaza, between the intersection of Gansevoort and Little West 12th Street. The three-story building contains a gallery, take-out BBQ window, and dynamic spaces for curated retail experiences.

About Adam Shopkorn

Adam Shopkorn is a New York-based curator and art advisor. He has collaborated on projects with Richard Prince, John Baldessari, Lawrence Weiner, Ed Ruscha, Marilyn Minter and the estate of Sol LeWitt and has co-organized art shows at Salon 94 featuring the work of Howard Kanovitz, Lorna Simpson, Lucien Smith, Richard Avedon and the sports posters of John and Tock Costacos. He is the producer of the acclaimed 2013 basketball documentary “Lenny Cooke.”

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