

FORT GANSEVOORT

ARTnews

Intimate Drawings of Nursing Home Residents Are More Poignant Than Ever

MAY 25, 2020

Against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has devastated nursing homes across the United States, the gallery Fort Gansevoort is staging an online exhibition focused on the residents of such communities. As part of Fort Gansevoort's web series "Seeing Through You," the presentation, titled "Nightshift" and organized in collaboration with artist John Ahearn, will feature 22 drawings created by Michelangelo Lovelace during his 30 years working as a nurse's aide in nursing homes throughout Cleveland, Ohio.

Opening May 28, the exhibition includes deeply personal and idiosyncratic portraits of nursing home residents as well as quiet gatherings in waiting and recreation rooms. Many of Lovelace's drawings depict individuals the artist knew personally, including Ms. D. James, who encouraged him in the early stages of his career. Some of his works show people resting in beds or navigating nursing home spaces in wheelchairs.

"Life is for the living. It's not just for the young, but it's for the old, too," Lovelace, who earlier this year was admitted to Cleveland's Metro Health Medical Center, where he has worked for nearly 20 years as a home healthcare aide, once said.

Lovelace centers the often overlooked stories of elderly people living in insular care facilities. The artist's intimate drawings of individuals and scenes in the confines of nursing homes can help viewers understand those spaces and their residents in new, compassionate ways. He has described his years working in nursing homes as "an honor."

View a selection of drawings from "Nightshift" in the following slideshow.

All images courtesy the artist and Fort Gansevoort.

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Michelangelo Lovelace, *Residents in the Day Room on the Fifth Floor*, 1993, marker on paper.



Michelangelo Lovelace, *Ms. D. James*, 1993, ink on paper.

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Michelangelo Lovelace, *Untitled*, 2008, ink on paper.



Michelangelo Lovelace, *Mr. William Angel*, 1993, marker on paper.

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Michelangelo Lovelace, *Untitled*, 1993, marker on paper.

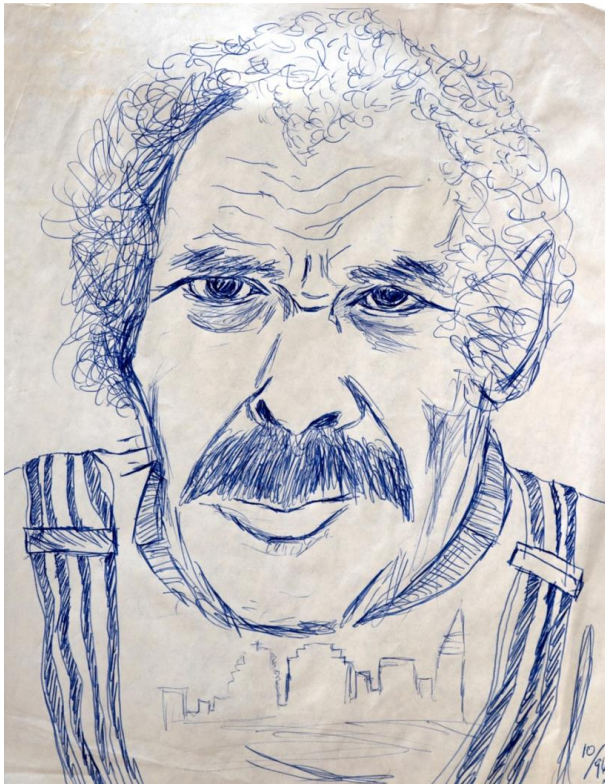


Michelangelo Lovelace, *Untitled*, 2008, ink and marker on paper.

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Michelangelo Lovelace, *Mrs. Hardwick*, 1993, marker on paper.



Michelangelo Lovelace, *Untitled*, 1996, ink on paper.

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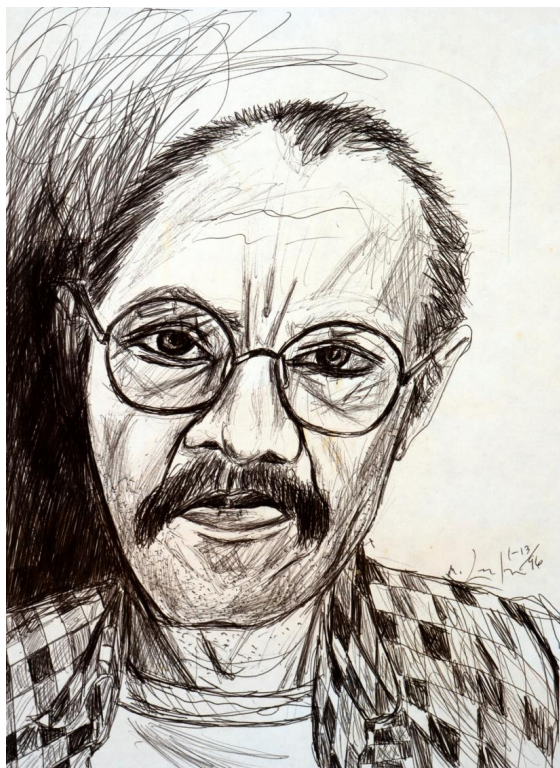


Michelangelo Lovelace, *4th Floor*, 1993, marker on paper.



Michelangelo Lovelace, *Ms. I. Clark*, 1993, marker on paper.

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Michelangelo Lovelace, *Untitled*, 1996, ink on paper.



Michelangelo Lovelace, *Gladys Smith*, 1993, ink and color pencil on paper.

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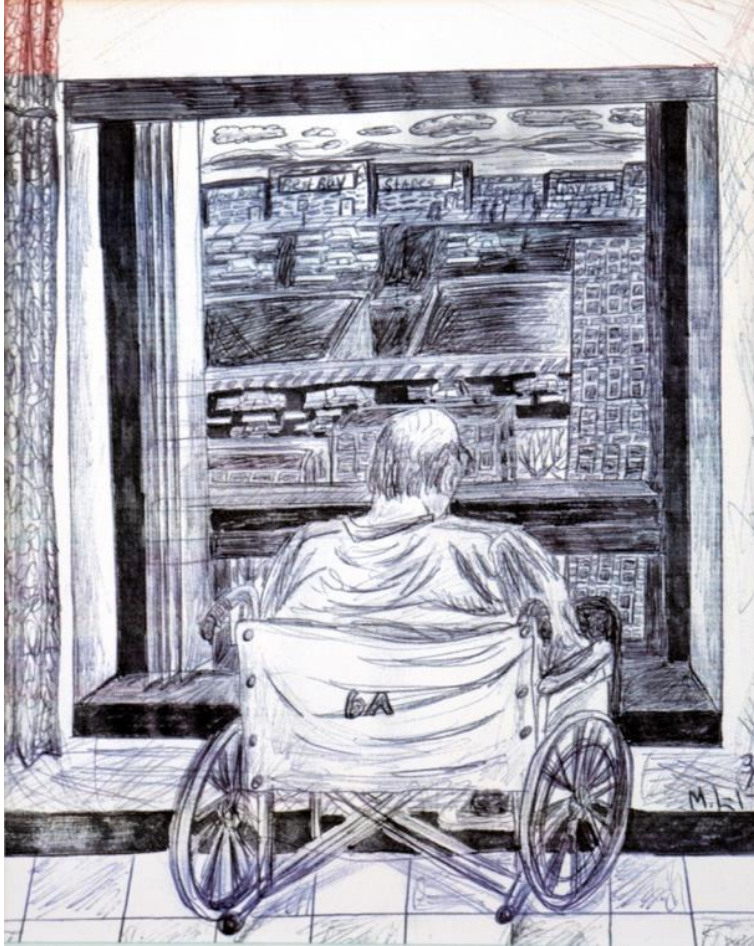


Michelangelo Lovelace, *Untitled*, 2008, ink on paper.



Michelangelo Lovelace, *L. Curtis*, 1998, ink and marker on paper.

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Michelangelo Lovelace, *Untitled*, 2008, ink on paper.