FORT GANSEVOORT

Avenue Magazine

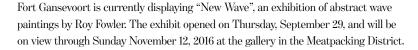
ART

Fort Gansevoort Presents Roy Fowler Exhibit

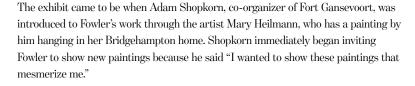
bv KRISTOPHER FRASER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016









Fowler came to New York in 1976, after studying at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has lived in the same studio on Walker Street in Chinatown ever since. He grew up fascinated by the ocean and art, the former plays a big part in themes of his work and the latter is literally his life and living.

"When I was a kid, I would get so excited getting surfing magazines in the mail," Fowler said. "I thought, maybe I could get some of that excitement in a painting as well. That was my starting point for this ongoing body of work."

For the exhibit at Gansevoort, Fowler has created a new series of small and large format oils and watercolors. Developing a process of transferring his initial watercolor drawings, Fowler allows paint to have a life of its own in the larger canvas format, letting "borrowed images from nature" take on new directions. He finds the color and structure of his paintings by breaking down the components of a wave: where the color of the sky reflects on the surface of the wave, and where the light goes through



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When asked about how working in his Chinatown studio relates to his interest in the ocean, the artist said, "The city is a barrier between myself and the ocean. It provides an insulating effect, and encourages me to spend more time in the studio," he explained.